



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

ROADS & BYWAYS

P.O. BOX 1526

OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557

Phone: 508-693-0343 Fax: 508-696-6035

Committee Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2021

Call to order:

A quarterly meeting of the Roads and Byways Committee was called to order at 4:32 PM, on April 26, 2021 by Richard Combra.

Committee Members & Town of Oak Bluffs Employees Present:

Erik Blake, Police Chief

Richard Combra, Highway Department, Superintendent

Bridget Palmieri, Administrative Assistant

Guests in attendance/Interested Parties:

Tara Moore

Kevin Peters

Maura McGroarty

Business:

Agenda Item #1:

Approval of Minutes

Discussion:

Richard Combra began by requesting an approval of the meeting minutes from 2.25.21.

Motion:

The motion to approve the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Erik Blake. The motion was seconded by Richard Combra.

Roll Call Vote:

Both committee members voted to approve the motion.

Erik Blake - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Agenda Item #2:

57 Kennebec Ave. - Curb Cut Out

Discussion:

Richard Combra began by asking Erik Blake if there were any comments to be made on this request. Erik Blake remarked that he did do a site visit, however he asked if this request had been presented to the Board of Selectmen. Richard Combra responded that he would have a hard time supporting this request, as it would set a precedence for the town for curb cuts that aren't historically standard (motorcycle, small vehicles, etc.). Erik Blake added, he does not think the Board of Selectmen will be willing to take (2) two parking spaces away from the business district, at least until they figure out what the parking will be on Circuit Ave. and with the Streetscape Plan. Both Richard Combra and Erik Blake commented that they do not support this request.

Kevin Peters responded that it had historically been a parking spot prior to the wastewater electrical box being placed there. He continued that he and Tara Moore had been asked to park at Ocean Park at the start of the pandemic and both their vehicles had been vandalized. Kevin Peters continued that his understanding is the minimum curb cut is 36" and they have 50" and he would like to move the wastewater electrical box to fit a full-size vehicle in that spot, however he does not have the funds to move it right now, so perhaps in the future. He continued that the abutting neighbor has built out to their property line and could not cut their curb and that anyone else on Kennebec Ave. who could cut their curb already has. Richard Combra responded that he not just concerned with Kennebec Ave., but other areas of town, such as on Ocean Park, Main Street, etc. He continued that the best course of action is to let the Board of Selectmen hear the request and decide. The next meeting will be on May 11, 2021. Richard Combra said he would ask that this request be added to the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 11, 2021.

Motion:

The motion to refer this request to the Board of Selectmen was made by Richard Combra. The motion was seconded by Erik Blake.

Additional Discussion:

Kevin Peters wanted to call to attention the crossing area by Kennebec Ave and the Union Chapel. He said that cars drive around that corner very fast, at about 30mph. Also, the bus comes about 6 times a day to drop off children and he feels it is quite dangerous. Richard Combra remarked they can take a look at it. Kevin Peters said he would take some videos to present to the committee. Erik Blake said that would be helpful.

Maura McGroarty asked who the members of the Roads and Byways Committee are. Richard Combra and Erik Blake both responded. Maura McGroarty continued that the board has employees or elected officials and it seems to be missing a perspective of someone from not within the town's governing structure and how could one get on the board. Erik Blake responded that it is a Board of Selectmen's decision on the make up of the board. Also, in years past there were civilians who came on the board and quit after their neighborhood's agenda was met. Richard Combra suggested it might be a good idea for Maura McGroarty to bring it up at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Maura McGroarty questioned the sign on Wing Road which says 30MPH and she was wondering when the 25MPH requirement that was voted in was to be applied. She continued, there is a sign after little bridge coming into Oak Bluffs from Edgartown that says "25MPH Thickly Settled Area". Erik Blake responded that the law was changed a few years ago, and the Board of Selectmen have the right to change a "Thickly Settled" district from 30 to 25MPH unless the speed limit has already been set by the state. He continued, Wing Road is one of those roads that was set by the state, so it wouldn't apply.

Motion:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Erik Blake. The motion was seconded by Richard Combra.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.