

Ad Hoc Harwich Port Parking Committee
Work Session
Griffin Meeting Room – 732 Main Street, Harwich
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019 – 10:30am

Members Present: Alexander Donoghue (Resident Member), John Mahan (Resident Member), Cyndi Williams (HCC Executive Director), Charleen Greenhalgh (Town Planner) and Mike Ulrich (Business Member), Frances Rich

Others Present: Ralph Porter

Call to Order at 10:34 with the understanding that this is a Work Session. He notified the audience that as required by law, the Town may audio or video record this meeting. Any person intending to either audio or video record this open session is required to inform the chair.

No Old Business

Mr. Donoghue invited and introduced the newest member Frances Rich.

New Business: Future Potential Parking Locations, including but not limited to, Town Hall, Cultural Center, Post Office Plaza.

Mr. Mahan looked at property immediately east of BB Automotive. A general discussion with the owner was had, this could be a possibility for satellite parking. Property across from Georges Fish Market may also be a possibility. Need to speak with the owner. No other properties were identified.

Ms. Rich asked if they are looking for parking for specific times of the day. Chair – all hours, due to beach parking, business community, etc. The Town Lot in Harwich Port is used by many of the businesses in Harwich Port Center through the Site Plan Review process. Also, the Harwich Port Commons is a private property and signs will be up shortly. How much more parking is needed for Bank Street Beach? The idea is to reduce the number of parking being used for the beach parking.

Signage is being put up in and around the School House Parking lot noting “No Beach Parking”. Currently there will not be any penalties associated with the beach parking at this lot. The marking of wheels as a way of determining the time a car has been there cannot be done by police. A kiosk may also be in the future. Sesuit Harbor has a trial going on now using a kiosk at the Dennis Harbor.

The Town of Harwich does not have a lot of properties near Harwich Port available for parking. TD Bank and Cape Cod 5 have agreed to allow public parking after 5pm. It is an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Rich – CVS is on the list, yet this is a private property. Per Ms. Williams they have been putting up No Parking signs. She will be reaching out to the property owner. Saquatucket Harbor, per Chair, is also going to be tied to Harwich Port. There currently is no sidewalk. Route 28 is a dangerous road. There is a movement to obtain state funding.

There are some locations that could be used for valet service, such as the Post Office Plaza. The plaza is allowing vendors to park during art shows.

Mr. Mahan explained, the committee is not looking for specific beach parking. There has been some discussion about letting people know where the other beaches are that may be available. There is also an RFP process that could be available for parking in other areas, on-site parking, valet services, etc.

Mr. Ulrich – don't want to have a negative for people when they see the "No Beach Parking" signs, want to be sure to have a positive atmosphere. Mr. Donoghue suggested that Harwich has a lot to offer as far as tours of the town by bus or trolley. History and beauty of homes, cranberry bogs, Brooks Library, Brooks Museum etc. Mr. Ulrich, suggested the possibility of transportation serve to other beaches.

Ms. Rich – asked about what will really will happen with some of the new taxes, sharks etc. This was a rhetorical question. We don't know what is down the road. Per Mr. Ulrich requests are down 25%.

Mr. Donoghue brought the discussion back to parking that is the charge of this committee. We need to stay focused on this charge. Plymouth, Provincetown and Hyannis all have kiosks for parking. There may be other solutions.

Mr. Donoghue – Asked how the Committee felt about a parking sign to get folks to go down to Earle Road, which does allow for daily parking. Mrs. Greenhalgh expressed that there are examples from other towns (and CCNS) as to signage to let people know what beaches are closed to parking and what beaches are open. There are 21 beaches in Harwich (salt and fresh). The maps available from Beach and Recreation show all these locations.

A discussion ensued about salt vs. fresh water beaches; whether to charge for some and not other. Ms. Williams lets people know what area beaches are available for alternatives. Would posters and maps help showing where locations are for the various beaches? These would be helpful and useful. These can be distributed to area restaurants, businesses, etc.

The Bank Street property (former Harbormaster's Office) for all purposes is off the table. The Committee made its recommendation to the Board of Selectmen; however they chose not to move forward with that recommendation.

Mr. Ulrich suggested a priority list of how/when to move forward. In season, Memorial Day to Labor Day there will be locations that will be full (Saquatucket, Town Hall). Perhaps look to the Elementary School and the High School. The Cultural Center should not be considered at this time.

The Board of Selectmen are expecting recommendations and/or information in September as to costs, ideas, etc.

Two areas to focus on are:

1. RFPs for parking and transportation. Mrs. Greenhalgh will reach out to other communities to see what is out there.
2. Information on kiosk – costs, etc. – Ms. Williams will gather this information, trial run (Sesuit Harbor) and long term.

Ms. Rich asked if there is an idea on how many Uber/Lift drivers there are. They are not licensed or permitted by the Town as a taxi would be. Mr. Donoghue will try to gather some information. Ms. Williams expressed where the liability falls when uses such services.

There will be people in place to take a count at the School House Parking Lot at various times of the day.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – 10:30 am
Tentative, July 16, 2019 – 5:30 pm

Adjourned at 12:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Greenhalgh
Adopted: June 25, 2019