



Town of Scarborough, Maine

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Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 28, 2017 Council Chambers B Scarborough Town Hall

1. Call to Order & Attendance

With the absence of the Committee Chair, Carol Rancourt, the Vice Chair, Judy Roy called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Judy Roy, Steve Berg, Jenn Ladd, Roger Chabot, Roger Beeley, Chris Caiazzo (conference called in),

Not present: Carol Rancourt

Staff in attendance: Angela Blanchette, Town Engineer, Jay Chace, Planning Director, Sargent John O'Malley, Police Department

Members of the Public in attendance: Tim Boardman, Michael Schuler, and Jay Gambo

2. Acceptance of October 26, 2017 meeting minutes

Motion for approval by: Roger Beeley

Seconded by: Roger Chabot

Unanimously approved

3. Gorham Road Parking Restrictions

Angela introduced the item by asking Sargent John O'Malley of the Scarborough Police Department to give a history of the issues and complaints surrounding the on-street parking that is occurring along Gorham Road near the Nonesuch River Brewery, which opened earlier this fall. Sargent O'Malley summarized the complaints that included: lack of sight-distance for traffic exiting the new business, as well as abutting residential properties, with vehicles parked on the street. There were also complaints by residents about the lack of width of the roadway surface to accommodate parking along this stretch of roadway. Safety was the key concern in the majority of complaints.

The Committee then reviewed the Town Council's proposed amendment to Section 25 of the Scarborough Ordinance, Parking Restrictions, which would restrict parking on the east side of Gorham Road from 183 Gorham Road to the intersection of Gorham Road and Spring Street at number 209.

Nonesuch River Brewery owner, Tim Boardman spoke about the need for a reduction in speed along this corridor and that this area of Town had been rezoned to allow for uses such as his business, which has potential to bring with it the need for on-street parking. Angela explained that speed limits are set by the State of Maine and that they are based on the existing traffic speeds not the anticipated or desired speed for the roadway. Sargent O'Malley discussed the speed study performed by the Scarborough Police Department where the 85th percentile was shown as 41 mph along this section of Gorham Road. Based on this recently collected data, it is most likely that a request to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to lower the speed limit on this State collector road would have the opposite desired effect and result in an increase to the speed limit from 35 mph (currently posted) to 40 mph due to the rigid Federal Highway standard, which MDOT uses to evaluate speed limit change requests. The Committee was in agreement that the best course of action in this regard is to include traffic calming measures in the Gorham Road Complete Streets project. The Committee will be part of the review process for all phases of this Capital Improvement Project and has the opportunity to shape this area of town into a walkable, bikeable, mixed-use neighborhood, which the Town Village Center (TVC) zones are intended to create.

The Committee also discussed the safety concerns with installing a formal crosswalk or designated location for pedestrians, as this would provide a false sense of security for pedestrians that would not likely follow along the busy travelway from their parked car to a crosswalk before crossing Gorham Road. Further it would cause drivers to be looking for pedestrians only in the crosswalk and not for likely "J-walkers" in the roadway.

Steve Berg commented that he had concerns asking for any parking restrictions along this roadway that would negatively impact the business.

Roger Chabot commented that he had concerns with allowing any parking along this major commuting corridor. He pointed out that there are only Gorham Road and Haigis Parkway that provide a connection between Route One and Payne Road, and we need to preserve the mobility of these corridors.

The majority of the Committee viewed the proposed parking restriction as a temporary measure until Gorham Road can be fully improved, at which time on-street parking design, traffic calming measures, sidewalks, bike lanes, and other amenities can be explored in conjunction with a holistic look at the parking along the entire corridor so that the Committee can reassess the parking restrictions and determine where there is adequate room for parking and it is deemed safe.

After a lengthy discussion the Committee voted on the Council Ordinance amendment with the following recommendations:

- The installation of street lighting along this section of Gorham Road. Committee recommends Staff review appropriate location of additional light fixture(s) to be added to existing utility pole(s)
- Signage alerting drivers to “Watch for Pedestrians” be installed in the area

Motion for approval by: Roger Beeley

Seconded by: Steve Berg

Vote was 4-2 (against Chabot and Berg) for approval.

4. Gorham Road Roadway Improvement Project

a. Phase 1 Traffic Analysis Update

- i. Angela updated the Committee on the status of the Gorham Road, Phase 1 Final Design Plans. We are starting the environmental permitting and discussing right-of-way with MDOT. Unitil Gas Company will be upgrading their transition line along the full length of the project. Their work will begin in April 2018 and is scheduled for completion in July of 2018. Once Unitil has completed their work the Town will begin the roadway reconstruction project.
- ii. Unitil, Scarborough Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, and Engineering have met and are coordinating the detour routes and traffic impacts for the project.

b. Public Meeting Scheduled:

- i. Angela let the Committee know that in place of the December Transportation Committee meeting, members are encouraged to attend a public meeting on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm at Scarborough Public Library to review the Phase 1 plans for Gorham Road Improvements.

Due to the late hour, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn, and would meet again at a formal meeting on January 16, 2018 at Town Hall Conference room.