

**Wellfleet Board of Selectmen
Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2013
Council On Aging Building, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Berta Bruinooge, Jerry Houk, John Morrissey, Dennis Murphy, Paul Pilcher; Town Administrator Harry Sarkis Terkanian.

Chair Berta Bruinooge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements

- Houk announced that the FlexBus has restored the 7:00 a.m. pick up at Wellfleet Town center.
- Fire Chief Rich Pauley said that Fire Prevention Week was October 6-12, 2013 and the Fire Department had various activities planned including an open house on Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with lessons on how to prevent kitchen fires.
- Police Chief Ron Fisette reminded the audience that the Wounded Warriors bike ride would be ending around 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at LeCount Hollow and encouraged residents to come out and cheer for the soldiers.

Business

Review of summer parking issues for non beach parking lots

Bruinooge opened the discussion by saying that the parking situation this summer seemed particularly 'egregious' so she had requested a special meeting to discuss solutions to the problem. Terkanian, who drafted a memo¹ addressing concerns raised on the meeting agenda, said that the problem was seasonal. The parking lot behind Town Hall is manageable before 8:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. and parking at the Marina is only a problem on weekend. Terkanian suggested enforcing the two hour parking limit in the lot behind Town Hall and working with the Congregational and Methodist churches to utilize their parking lots for employee parking to free up more space for visitors, noting that Hatch's Market was already successfully leasing space at the Methodist Church for employee parking. Frederico Carbona, United First Methodist pastor, said he would be open to such an arrangement with the Town and other businesses. Many business owners, including Robb McClellan from Hatch's and Joe Wanco from the Lighthouse agreed that a two hour parking limit would be fair in the Town Hall lot and along Main Street. Houk suggested taking an inventory of spaces provided by businesses to their employees, and from the audience John Cumbler said that the Town must look into providing some space for long-term parking so visitors have time to "spend the day" to explore, shop and eat downtown.

Parking in South Wellfleet is also an issue, with Bruinooge remarking that she could not find a parking space to pick up her mail at the South Wellfleet Post Office on many occasions this summer. There was a general consensus between the Selectmen and business owners that the lot needs to be repaved and restriped. From the audience, Don Thimas suggested putting in grooved payment down the off-ramp from Rt. 6 for safety reasons, as it is not usual for cars to come into the lot at 40+ mph. Steve Curley suggested working with South Wellfleet General Store owner Todd LeBart for employees to utilize the 20 new parking spaces created behind the store for employee parking. Another suggestion by the Selectmen was to contact the state to provide more parking for visitors utilizing the bike trail, which is adjacent to the parking lot.

Pilcher thinks parking at the Marina poses different challenges. He has heard that condominium owners encourage renters to park extra vehicles at the pier. Harbormaster Mike Flanagan would like to charge for parking at the Marina, saying that anyone without a beach, transfer station or Marina sticker pay a \$10 daily fee. Fred Young from the Holden Inn read a statement that, in summary, said that charging for parking at the Marina would hurt local business owners. Jan Plaue, chair of the school committee, suggested that the Town could use the Wellfleet Elementary School parking lot as a long-term parking solution.

Pilcher suggested that moving forward, the Town needs to enforce regulations, clarify parking rules and regulations, look to reconfigure and modestly expand the lots and explore the possibility of employee parking at the local churches on Main Street.

Discussion of signs on Town Hall lawn

Terkanian said that the front lawn of Town Hall became the ‘wild west’ in terms of signage. Opinions of the signs were split, with some of the Selectmen and audience members calling them “clutter” while others like John Cumbler and Moe Barocas, saying that the signs give the sense that we have a “vibrant” town with many recreational and cultural options for visitors and residents alike. Terkanian said that the rules only permit signage in front of businesses and Morrissey added that we need to follow our own rules. “We can have different opinions on this but if it’s against the law, then change the law or enforce it,” Morrissey said. Pilcher thinks signs that advertise community events serve a useful purpose and Houk proposed limiting the number of approved signs on the lawn to two or three a week.

Discussion of pedestrian and bicyclist safety

Police Chief Ron Fisette said that he was working with Barnstable County to find funding for a Cape wide educational campaign on bike safety. Terkanian has spoke with the Wellfleet Chamber of Commerce about increasing bike educational efforts through businesses, especially those who have employees who bike to work. John Cumbler from the Bike and Walkways Committee said that the committee is working on a bike and pedestrian safety report that they will present to the Selectmen at a future meeting. Moe Barocas suggested putting an extra crosswalk in front of Wellfleet Marketplace and grooved pavement on Main Street as you enter Town to slow traffic. Assistant Town Administrator Tim King gave an update on the Main Street/Rt. 6 intersection improvements through the state. King and the Selectmen encouraged Gary Joseph, who asked what citizens could do to encourage progress in speeding up safety improvements, to gather signatures and letters and send them to local and state representatives.

Review of operations during 2013 Summer

Terkanian said this topic was a “catch all” for lessons learned and not learned during the summer. The Selectmen agreed that parking was the main issue. For future concern is beach parking, which Terkanian said would be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Beach Parking Task Force.

Adjournment

Motion 14-0056: Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting. Pilcher seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

¹ 2013-09-10 Terkanian memo: ‘Some thoughts about parking issues’