

2018 Annual Report of the Parking Task Force Committee

In September, 2018 the Selectboard appointed eight members of the public to the Parking Task Force Committee (PTF) and charged the PTF with "the study of and recommendations for parking throughout town, including beaches and outlying areas". The Committee members are Dennis O'Connell (Chair), Dale Donovan (Vice Chair), Wayne Clough (Clerk), Joe Aberdale, Sheila Lyons, Daniel Murray, Ginny Parker, and C. Wilson Sullivan. Janet Reinhart is the Selectboard liaison and staff support is provided by the Town Administrator, Dan Hoort, and the Community Services Director, Suzanne Thomas. The committee met six times in the remainder of 2018. The PTF generally meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Senior Center.

To date, we have focused on identifying the parking problems inherent in an area with increased usage and shrinking available land and how to make parking in town work better for residents, visitors, and businesses. In addition to its own observations, the PTF has taken testimony from several officials, including two members of the Selectboard, the Town Administrator, the Director of Community Services, three members of the Police Department, and the Harbormaster. We have had other members of the public make presentations and one vendor of parking control services. We have reviewed several existing reports.

Through 18 locations, the Town has approximately 1,150 municipal parking spaces that service all parking. It has been noted that the Town has lost over 250 parking spaces at the ocean side beaches and there have been several days when parking space is not adequate at the beaches, in town, and at the pier. We are considering ways to expand parking by new locations, shuttle busses and increasing turnover. However, we find that we need better and more data during the summer season and are preparing surveys and will be seeking new procedures to obtain more detailed data on daily parking area use.

We will continue to work with members of the Town staff to create specific recommendations. We appreciate the staff support to date.

Respectfully submitted,
The Parking Task Force II

January 16, 2019