

**Falmouth Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022 7 PM**

Discussion topic:

Downtown Access and Parking Panel Discussion

Transportation Committee present:

Ed DeWitt, Alison Leschen, Rhona Carlton-Foss, Ralph Herbst, Chris McGuire and Paul Dreyer

Invited guests from the business community:

Dan Maxwell – Maxwell & Co.

Scott Ghelfi – Ghelfi’s Candies

Deb Maguire – Liam Maguires Irish Pub

Karen Rinaldo – Main Street Gallery

Linda Collins – Falmouth Public Library

Michael Kasparian – Falmouth Chamber of Commerce

Additional Guest:

Doug Brown, Select Board Chair

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Public access to the meeting was provided as follows: via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/93636685631>

2. Panel Discussion with the Business Community

Introductions and brief statement.

Dan Maxwell – He has been in business on Main Street for almost 40 years considers two-way driving and parallel parking important on Main Street and slow drive-by traffic is significant to the business community.

Scott Ghelfi - He has a privately-owned business on Main Street since 2007 and loves the traffic problems and suggests signage for using other areas for parking, opposes one-hour parking and adding parking for employees.

Deb Maguire – Has a privately-owned business since 1994 and is an advocate for three-hour parking since customers are usually are in the restaurant for 90 minutes.

Karen Rinaldo – Has a privately-owned business at Falmouth Harbor for 30 years and now for six years on Main Street that represent 25 local artists and not in favor of limitations on parking, also expressed concerns of bicycles on sidewalk and large trucks on Main Street.

Linda Collins – Noted that the library has 15 full-time and part-time employees who park in Town and is open 51 hours over six days, park at the school and opposed to a one-hour limit and is concerned about ticketing that is unwelcome.

Michael Kasparian – He raised concern that the business community should have been consulted before the final report was issued and offered constructive criticism.

Overview of Committee’s 2021 report:

E.DeWitt – the intent is to make downtown welcoming and introduced the downtown report

A.Leschen – discussed the Downtown Parking Report including a survey of over 1,100 responses raising four issues: 1) most people arrive in cars, 2) paved areas are adequate, 3) lack of signage, and 4) many people avoid downtown to avoid parking issues. Suggests alternatives for vehicle access and manageable available parking with partnerships. Noted 250,000 trips on the Bike Path and provide access to KLB Road and suggested parking time zones and signage.

M.Kasparian – He endorses the plan and suggests implementation by next summer and appoint a sign committee.

D.Maguire – Town needs more signage for parking as her business is open 16 hr/day until 2 am with service from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and only has three spaces out back.

Wayfinding discussion

K.Rinaldo – Suggested providing an app on the Town website with an interactive map for parking

D.Maxwell – It is important to provide exposure and people in cars outweigh pedestrians for business and regulations and signage are important.

D.Maguire – Noted that the sign at the Hospital lights entering Falmouth directs people to bypass Main Street and is not helpful for business.

A.Leschen – It is interesting that I had the opposite perspective.

D.Maxwell – We are entrepreneurs and use the window display to attract customers.

M.Kasparian – Tourists do not complain about parking and are happy at the Chamber office.

Parking zones discussion

E.DeWitt -There appeared to be little interest in parking zones, but need to use signage as a first step.

A.Leschen – Businesses may be missing customers due to parking issues.

3. Joint Letter on Davis Straits

P.Dreyer – Davis Straits is a Planning Board project using a consultant is preparing the draft for the Working Group or the Planning Board, and recommended tabling the issue, Voted 6:0 to table.

4. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

C.McGuire – Summarized the Cape Cod Commission report for fifty Falmouth projects and noted that it is not a priority and projects can be added.

P.Dreyer – asked about prioritization criteria used in the report as many projects appear to be from the Falmouth Bike Report by the Cape Cod Commission.

C.McGuire – Bike and Pedestrian Committee suggested a joint meeting with the Transportation Committee on Wednesday February 2 at 7 pm on Zoom. Voted 6-0.

5. Town Manager Discussion

A.Leschen - Requested the process of the Town for using the Steamship Authority Embarkation Fund and asked how is the fund is used.

C.McGuire – Tisbury on the Vineyard have a committee to recommend the use of these funds.

D.Brown – The Select Board should have a discussion on policy issues.

R.Herbst - Suggested a discussion with Tisbury on this issue and noted that a committee be set for wayfinding and signage

6. Committee role in grants

C.McGuire – The Bike and Ped Committee will discuss grant opportunities with DPW.

A.Leschen – The Town may be missing out on grant opportunities as money is available.

D.Brown – The grant implementation process is a limiting factor due to staff shortages in Town.

E.DeWitt – Discussed the role of a grant administrator or consultant for grant writing opportunities.

7. Review of Minutes

The minutes of January 13 were approved . Voted 6-0

8. Other Items

a. Cape Cod Bridge Replacement

No report at this time.

b. Route 28 development

The committee has not been reformed to date.

c. Falmouth Station

E.DeWitt - The EDIC consultant has provided a draft of three options: 1) open space, 2) one-building work force housing, and 3) three-building work force housing and recommended a future meeting to discuss transportation issues.

d. Stormwater Management

E.DeWitt – a Primer on stormwater was provided as it is an important item.

D.Brown – The Select Board will be reviewing storm water management in Town.

9. Correspondence

None

10. Public comment

Jayne Perry – Raised concerns for an audio crossing at the KLB Road connection, suggested that a Rt. 28 roundabout will not work for handicap accessibility or pedestrians. Also suggested trolley use from remote parking for solving parking issues.

N.Trumball – noted appreciation for the Committee’s efforts in Town.

C.McGuire – noted the lack of effort by Eversource in relocating power poles from sidewalks and DPW has sent a letter on pole removal.

Next meeting:

February 10, 2022

Meeting adjourned:

9:45 pm

Recording Secretary:

Paul Dreyer