

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT

Bonnet Shores Community Center

130 Bonnet Shores Rd

Narragansett, RI 02882

MEETING MINUTES DEC 15, 2018 ROADS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The meeting began at approximately 9:01 am EST on December 15, 2018 at the Community Center. The meeting had been posted at the community center and e-blasted and the agenda was shared with the committee members during the week prior to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM A: REVIEW FROM LAST MEETING

Chair Chris Mannix indicated that the committee had not been able to meet since August of 2018. After a quick summary of the committee members, Mannix reviewed the items that had been identified and discussed at the August 2018 meeting. These include, but are not strictly limited to, the following:

1. Internal policing systems
2. Idea of a PT constable
3. Illegal parking on roads
4. Speeding and speeding tickets
5. Overgrown brush on corners
6. Stop signs
7. Road size and conditions
8. Radar signs

Mannix asked Janice McClanaghan to share status of the email that was blasted to Bonnet neighbors regarding specific areas in the fire district where the brush needs to be cut back. She indicated that many people complied and it was helpful.

McClanaghan also indicated that there was a town wide "moratorium" on stop signs.

AGENDA ITEM B: DISCUSS REPORT FROM TOWN

Mannix stated that the Town of Narragansett had furnished a report to the committee. While a copy is available for review, Mannix discussed the extremely low volume of accidents, traffic citations, parking screens, and noise complaints. However, the committee voiced concern regarding the ten arrests in Bonnet from January of 2018 to August 2018. The committee does not know what these arrests were for.

AGENDA ITEM C: DISCUSS EXISTING ISSUES AND CONCERNS

As the nature of the meeting was not overly formal, Mannix welcomed neighbors to contribute. Mike Tortolani discussed the vines at the intersection of Aroostook Trail and Bonnet Point Road

and that during the warmer months, there are vines that obstruct the view and create a difficult situation for cars to pull out. Elaine Casey mentioned a blue house in the same area, at Old Towne, where there are problems to see around the corner if one is walking.

Mannix shared his concerns with the parking in the summer on the roads near the Point although the problem is not limited to that specific area of Bonnet. Later in the meeting, the committee found the definition of proper parking in the ordinances. In that document, legal parking means that all four wheels are off the road. Several persons stated that a constable could help with the parking problem. Bonnet has the authority to enforce the parking ordinance and there was a constable, Mr. Gleason, several years ago.

Mr. Chenevert of Bonnet Shores Road discussed six accidents at his property including cars that went into his house and wall. Accidents seem linked to speeding vehicles. There was discussion of speed bumps, which led to a discussion of bumps vs. tables. Discussion went on to include problems that the Town of Narragansett has with bumps and tables as they can reduce response time (in the case of emergency) and would redirect traffic flows to Treasure and Camden.

Group discussion followed regarding the students that live in Bonnet during the winter school months and their tendency to speed. The corner near the Community Center was identified by many as a very bad corner that is underestimated by drivers hoping to speed through the bend.

AGENDA D: SET TASKS AND GOALS OF COMMITTEE

Mannix stated that most of the meeting's discussion had focused on four areas. These are:

1. Build up, brush, encroachments at intersections that block visibility
2. Speeding
3. Illegal Parking
4. Constable

AGENDA ITEM E: ASSIGNMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mannix and McClanaghan discussed a prominent newsletter article to address the first three of these four areas. They also agreed to research a constable. To bring back a constable, Bonnet must find a qualified person and determine what happens with money collected from tickets and how tickets will be enforced. The Charter indicates that the Fire District must engage Washington County Court and not Narragansett Municipal Court. Even if the constable is only hired for July and August, it brings control of illegal parking back to Bonnet. At the current time, the neighborhood relies on the Narragansett Police Department to tickets cars that speed or illegally park.

AGENDA ITEM F: PUBLIC COMMENT

George Monaghan discussed roads that have design problems. That conversation turned to signs, including chevrons and "narrow road" warnings, which would encourage cars to slow down at the problematic curve in front of the Community Center. He was going to look at Bonnet map to try and identify sites.

There was also brief discussion of the pricing that was used for the Providence School Department to put up cameras in school zones. Mr. Chenevert stated that the cameras paid for themselves with tickets.

The committee once again visited the subject of speed humps, bumps, tables, and cushions. Lenny Mercier went through their differences.

AGENDA ITEM G: ADJOURNMENT

Mannix polled the committee regarding a next meeting. There was a committee preference for the middle of February of 2019, although the week that schools will be out could be a problem since many people take vacation away at that time. Mannix promised to find a date in February that would not be the week of school vacation.

Mannix adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:40 am and wished all present a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.