

## **Safety Committee – Meeting Summary July 20, 2021**

Committee members present: Chair Michael Tirrell, Beanie Einstein, Jim Coughlin, Lisa Fryer, Harry Rosenblum, Jessica Cohen, Jim Huning, Mary Hanrahan, Jeffrey Wilt, Gina Cressey

Community members included: Dan Webster, Sid Block, Liz Lee, Alma Homola, Barry Starkman

Also present: Police Officer Danny Ryosa

Agenda:

1. Parking Ordinance Update
2. Configuring Digital Speed Signs
3. Children Safety Signs
4. Speeding Concerns & Hotspots
5. Lifeguards update
6. Safety Guide

### **Parking Ordinance Update**

Michael T updated the committee about the Parking Ordinance – mostly to say that the Overseers need to decide what committee will tackle implementation issues, including signage, enforcement, etc. Michael said the Safety Committee has no role with the parking ordinance at this time – and may not have direct oversight of it in the future, depending on what the Overseers decide.

Other comments about the parking ordinance:

Sid Block addressed the committee and said he was unhappy with the new parking ordinance and felt he should have been personally notified. Michael explained that he was addressing his complaint to the wrong committee and the ordinance has been passed by the Overseers 6-1.

Jim Coughlin felt we needed signs telling where and how parking is permitted.

Dan Webster mentioned that a one-page distillation of the new ordinance was being produced, indicating where parking is and isn't allowed.

### **Speeding Concerns & Hotspots**

The committee discussed the speeding problem at length and Officer Ryosa was invited to present his thoughts on enforcement issues. He has made thirteen stops and given twelve warnings. Ryosa explained that tickets are issued to drivers going ten or more miles above the speed limit, and it's the usual practice to give a warning first.

Some committee members and residents spoke to their concerns that there should be more stops – and more tickets written to send a strong message, especially in certain hotspot areas of regular speeding. Officer Ryosa stressed the importance of good community relations between police and residents. He mentioned that going a few miles over the limit is something most people do from time to time and stopping everyone is impractical.

Ryosa said that he also is concerned about speeding and people walking in the road. He moves his car and radar checks around, and monitors traffic in several areas known as speeding hotspots.

One resident suggested lowering the speed limit on all roads, but the village does not own them

all – some roads in Bayside are town roads. Another asked about subjectivity when deciding when to ticket. Danny says he does not make distinctions and treats residents and the driver of the Fed Ex truck the same.

### **Speed Humps**

The option of installing speed humps was discussed and several people cited their use in other Maine locations – including Bangor and Portland. One advantage of speed humps over speed bumps: They can be removed out of season when there's less traffic. Safety Committee member Mary Hanrahan felt they would be useful year-round. She lives on George St. where she says speeding is a problem even in winter. Officer Ryosa said that to a pedestrian, cars passing by appear to be going faster than they are.

A long-time Bluff Road resident said that he would be willing to buy a speed hump himself, place it in front of his home, and try to solve the speeding problem from an engineering perspective. He was told that the Town of Northport owns that road and many others. Could we reach an agreement with them? Mary Hanrahan, Lisa Fryer, and Jessica Cohen will gather information on speed humps and report their findings.

### **Digital Speed Signs**

Michael mentioned that we need volunteers to help reconfigure the lighted traffic signs. Wendy Huntoon and her husband, Amro El-Jaroudi, have some knowledge on this topic. Harry, Jim Coughlin, and Jeffrey agreed to work on this.

### **Child Safety Signs**

Michael mentioned that child safety signs cautioning drivers to slow down etc. are hazardous when placed along the side of roads, especially the signs with wavy graphics that can impede drivers' sight lines etc. Police Officer Ryosa said that smaller signs are more advisable and should not be placed in the road. Dan Webster indicated that he would put out a message on this to his email subscribers.

### **Lifeguards Update**

Michael T thanks Beanie for working fast to get the lifeguards into an ocean certification class, which Beanie arranged to have done on short notice. The instructor who was kind enough to oversee this class told Beanie that our two lifeguards are terrific and did a great job.

One other note: Thomas Parker and Beanie worked together efficiently as part of a rescue team when a medical emergency occurred on a Bayside porch. Beanie said Thomas knew just what to do and was very professional in administering CPR to the stricken person. He was commended by the Overseers for his swift professional response.

### **Safety Guide**

Michael T thanked Jessica Cohen. She and her son Nate for producing a draft of the new Safety Guide, which is still in development with some new safety guidelines and will likely now be produced for next season.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Cressey