

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER



OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

APPROVED - 02/27/20 (3-0 Vote)

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 08/27/19

Committee Members Present:

Matthew Rushton, Chair, Councilor-At-Large

Tim Fitzgibbons, Member, District 2 Councilor

Fred Chase, Member, District 4 Councilor

Committee Members Absent – Councilor Fred Chase participating remotely

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Other Meeting Participants: Mellissa Sullivan, Finance – Michael Dutton, town manager – Christopher Delmonte, Police Chief - Tom Levy, Fire Chief – Paul DeCosta, Roadways, Fred Chase, member.

- No minutes presented for approval.

Public Comment

Frank Sousa: He informed the committee of traffic concerns on the rotary in the center of town. He explained he would like it to be safer for residents to access businesses downtown.

The committee discussed possibly replacement of stop sign at South and Bedford to LED signage. Chief discussed there is dedicated enforcement, however, it is shift/activity dependent. Discussion turned to Town Manager/Traffic Committee – however that committee was mostly made up by the representation in the room.

Action Item: Roll Call Vote, passed 3-0: Paul Decosta to get a quote for digital LED/Solar stop sign, provide quote to Town Manager - cost to be discussed upon receipt. Refer to the Transportation Committee through the town manager.

Discussion Items:

- Intersection Safety
 - Park Ave – BSU Loading Dock
Delivery trucks are traveling onto Park Ave from the BSU loading dock at the RCC into residential streets. After a discussion, Paul Decosta and other officials in the room have no problem with widening the curb cut at the loading dock at the universities expense.
Action Item: Roll Call Vote, passed 3-0: The town manager will work with Karen Jason to widen the loading dock at the university expense, enabling delivery trucks to exit back onto Summer Street at Park Ave.
 - Grove Street @ Bedford Street
Several ideas of low-cost improvements were discussed by the group. In addition to reverse direction (one way) from Bedford to Cedar Street – as well as restricting to one lane in this area.
Action Item: Roll Call Vote, passed 3-0: Refer to the Transportation Committee through the town manager.
- Fire Station - Building Committee
The Town Manager and Fire Chief are working to identify a diverse group to serve on his committee. Desire to make sure the building meets the needs of a 21st century fire station and EMS needs.
Action Item: Roll Call Vote, passed 3-0: Town manager to appoint committee by December 2019.

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- Park Safety
Discussion about park safety and visibility from the street. Discussion around Marathon Park, not visible from the street and a discussion to reduce the ground foliage from the street - between the two entrances. Paul Decosta informed the committee; in the past that residents don't want it visible. However, after discussion with the police chief, the committee concur that the growth and the review of parks should be completed. Further, the new park steward will provide a safety report once on board.
Action Item: Roll Call Vote, passed 3-0: The town manager with speak with Parks and Recreation about working with the forestry department to clear the undergrowth at Marathon park.
- EEE Update
Discussion about park closures, the EEE threat and protocol to close parks should the town deem is necessary to ensure the safety of its citizens. The committee was informed that the Health Agent is informed by the state daily and has the authority to close parks and recreational facilities if deemed necessary and would work with the Town Manger to accomplish this.

Councilor Fitzgibbons motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(4); To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.
A roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

The open meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.