

MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED with Amendments
PLUM ISLAND STUDY COMMITTEE - PUBLIC MEETING

February 11, 2016

Committee Members:

C.Peter Erickson, Chairman
Jennifer Wright, Secretary
Robert Currier
Pat Keating
Stephen Mangion,

Town of Newbury members :

Geoff Walker,Selectman(ABSENT)
John Lucey, Deputy Police Chief
Tracy Blais,Town Administrator
Martha Taylor, Town Planner(ABSENT)

AGENDA

Call to Order

Review and accept minutes from 1/21/2016

Bob Currier move to approve

Jen Wright -second

VOTE to accept minutes as amended: Bob Currier, Jen Wright, Peter Erickson

Steve Mangion no vote

Ongoing Business

- Announced by Chairman Erickson that the further discussion of Olga Way Parking lot will be continued to 3/3 at Town Hall by engineer and Tracy Blais (March 3 Public Presentation @ Town Hall)

- Preliminary Draft Report was reviewed. Areas being deliberated for subsequent draft have been incorporated into the discussion as follows:

5.1 – Trash:

- **Follow -up with Steve Fram BOH:** BOH wants to be part of some solution and has provided a list of possible suggestions. This was reviewed by the committee for inclusion of many of these ideas among the PISC recommendations. Any request for BOH funding needs to go through annual Town meeting (April) and this will determine whether certain of these initiatives can be implemented.

- **RC** has researched having bagged dog waste removed by a contracted service such as Doody Calls. A local company that presently has a contract with City of NBPT . Pricing:\$2652 3X a week pick up.

- Summary of approaches that were discussed to address trash included:

1.) Contracting with a service such as Mello for which **RC** has obtained estimated costs of \$1980/year

2.) Purchasing “Big Belly” solar compactors. Unsolved problem being who would empty these. **TB** stated that the Town does not have the resources to do this on a regular basis but only on an occasional basis.

3.) Providing barrels and liners by Newbury DPW or Health Dpt., then collecting these in a locked off site dumpster to be removed as needed. Problem with this solution is emptying barrels into a dumpster would fall to DPW (above) or volunteers and who would manage this.

4.) Surveillance cameras will be installed by the Police Department at no cost to the Town and the recommendation is that this be supplemented with signage to discourage abuse of trash collection by residents for household trash. Cost of signage TBD.

5.) Issuance of fines to discourage littering and abuse of trash collection services. Fines for dog waste left on the beach should be increased. **JL** will check to find out how many littering fines have been issued on an annual basis for Plum Island.

- Preferred solution informally agreed by the committee is #1, #4 and #5, above, which when coupled with aforementioned dog waste removal service would be best alternative. Budget: \$2,700 per year not including signage.

Amendment: Steve Mangion disagreed that animals at the beach is outside the charge of the committee and leash law for dogs at the beach was mentioned

5.2 - Facilities for Public/ public toilets:

- Ongoing discussion in conjunction with parking, which has same peak time usage times. Port-a-Potty previously supplied by local businesses. Costs briefly discussed \$2000.00 per season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

5.3 – Parking:

Amendment: Steve Mangion A citizen noted that speeding was noted as a concern .Dep Chief John Lucey will keep monitoring with electronic device.

- **T B** and Tim Meehan (Engineer) to present overview of Olga way parking lot March 3 public forum.

- **S M** stated that year-round parking would allow more “off island” dogs to be brought to the beach. To this **PE** responded that it is perfectly legal to bring dogs to the beach as long as the owners manage them, also, that the issue of having animals on the beach is outside of the Charge of this committee and the committee must not advocate for **certain** parking regulations for the “hidden purpose” of limiting animals on the beach.

- **Plum Island Resident** stated that the new this year “Permit Parking Only” restriction on Northern Blvd. has caused a hardship for residents citing lack of parking for children’s birthday party and family at Thanksgiving, at times when Northern Blvd was almost empty. There was discussion that residents could

call the PD and make special arrangements. To which residents responses included: (paraphrasing) “why have this administrative responsibility.... go back to previous seasonal permit only...it was an idea that was tried and did not work.”

Amendment: Steve Mangion notes Resident parking is the norm in most seaside communities. Town can issue placards for a fee for guests.

- **JL** summary indicates 277 parking citations issued @ \$50/ea. Equals \$13,850. Graph provided indicates 88% of citations issued were on PI Center plus Northern Blvd and that 85% of citations were issued between May and September.

5.4 – Streetlights

- **RC** spoke of problems associated with lack of street lighting on Plum Island Turnpike.

- Discussion of current lighting ongoing . Lighting currently provided by National Grid on a rental basis There may be a law which states that National Grid is required to provide energy efficient lighting when requested to do so. There is the conjecture that the Town could own energy efficient lighting and pay for the initial cost through savings on rental costs and reduced electrical consumption, **RC** will investigate further and return with recommendations for the committee.

- **PE** offered the name of Molly Ettenborough which has been provided by Mayor Donna Holaday as a resource who can be contacted regarding energy efficient lighting. Molly is Director of Energy and Sustainability for the City of Newburyport. **RC** will contact her.

5.5 - Lifeguards

- **JL** summarized past practices administrated by the Newbury Police Dept Lifeguard program before it was discontinued due to budget cuts. Relevant considerations include: 10k estimate for equipment, facilities/trailer for lifeguards previously supplied, lifeguard duties can include enforcement by providing a presence on the beach, extending the range and capability of an “on call” officer rather than continuous presence by a single police officer; more “eyes on the beach”.

- General consensus DO IT RIGHT OR NOT AT ALL

- Estimated Cost: \$50k/ season

5.6 - Revenue Sources for above

- Pat Keating to follow-up with a summary of possible sources. It was suggested that Pat Speak with Richard Jones, City Clerk (referenced by Mayor Holaday) with regard to parking controls and revenues that have been successfully implemented both within the City and on Plum Island, by the City.

- **TB** will be contacted by **PK** regarding financial records and a meeting with the the DPW

New Business :

- **PE** will update Draft Report for committee review, soliciting sections to be further researched and drafted by committee members. There have now been 5 Public Meetings held since January 7, 2016. The Committee will hold a “public workshop prior to next Annual Town Meeting, to be held on April 26,2016.”

- DEADLINE FOR FUNDS TRANSFER MARCH 22 FOR APRIL 26 TOWN MEETING AGENDA

- Master Plan as it relates to PI Martha Taylor information still needed. Also Grants (previous/ongoing?)/sidewalks/streetlights/Olga Way

- PE has summarized parking lot and street parking capacities on a spreadsheet. These are approximate averages based upon visual estimates and information provided by retail establishments and the Plum Island Foundation.

- Next meeting scheduled for February 23, 2016 (**Subsequently rescheduled to February 25**).

MOTION TO ADJOURN - Motion from Bob Currier to adjourn- Second Steve Mangion. All in favor
Unanimously approved 9:55 pm