

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

**August 24, 2015**

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chair Bill Sargent on Monday, April 27, 2015 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Bill Sargent, Kathy Osterholm, Cindy Lovett, John Gauger, Jim Ellison, Toni Sharp, Dennis Diehl, Lorraine Zellers

Absent: City Manager Sharon Lynn

Also Present: Police Chief Keith Banks

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

John Gauger made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of July 20, 2015 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett, to approve the July 20, 2015 Streets & Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from Bill Cook, 807 Bayard, supporting the bike patrol. He believed that to minimize conflicts among boardwalk users, education efforts must be directed all users. He suggested placing a few signs on the Boardwalk especially the narrow portion for cyclists to slow down and walkers and runners to not walk three or four abreast and to listen for cyclists, and also that citations should be issued for dogs on the Boardwalk during the summer.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discuss status of proposed additional crosswalks and silent policemen.**

Police Chief Keith Banks noted that a silent policeman has been placed at the crosswalk of Surf and Lake Avenues. For the crosswalk and silent policeman at the tot lot, it is not ADA compliant. This location will need to be looked at in the future with regard to funding should the Commissioners decide to fix the apron and the sidewalk and put curbing there to make it ADA compliant. All this would need to be done before the striping and the silent policeman can be placed there. At Olive Avenue and Second Street, the Fire Department did not want a silent policeman place at this location. This location would also need to be looked at due to ADA compliance issues. The City Manager will propose work on these locations during budget session.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, commented that the silent policeman at Surf and Lake Avenues has not been placed correctly. The silent policeman needs to be placed that it is facing motorists coming from the west going east so they can see it at night. Another silent policeman needs to be placed for motorists coming from the north going south. A no parking sign need to be put up for additional awareness.

**Discuss possible improvements to Surf Avenue.**

Police Chief Banks, City Manager Sharon Lynn and Streets Department Supervisor Mike Peterman met with the traffic engineer to look at possible improvements to Surf Avenue. The City Manager has received a bid in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the engineering study to see what improvements would be needed. The improvements will be proposed during budget session.

Walter Brittingham suggested that a drone could be used with regard to a traffic study for Surf Avenue, Lake Avenue, First Street and Rehoboth Avenue. A traffic study should be done now in the high season to show what is happening on those streets.

**Report on and/or discuss additional items of possible concern.**

Police Chief Banks reported that the City Manager had received a letter with regard to speeding on Canal Street,

and someone had requested a flashing speed sign on that street. Police officers having been patrolling Canal Street, and speed count will be done this week.

**Discuss status of Bike Patrol – Frank Cole.**

Frank Cole reported that the bike patrol has been in full swing from Memorial Day to last week. There had been five volunteers which was reduced to three due to perceived problems. Of the five, there were two adult volunteers, and they will continue to fill in from time-to-time. As of August, there has not been a bike patrol presence on the Boardwalk on a daily basis. The challenging aspects have been conduct which were addressed immediately. The program was successful, but it can be expanded if there would be an adult volunteer to take a leadership role other than himself. The volunteers noticed that fewer people were on bicycles this year. No hard data was provided to the Committee. There had been the same number of incidents or problems or slightly fewer than there were last year as a result of the increased presence of the seasonal police officers and the addition of the bike patrol. Frank thought that the Committee's attention should be shifted to the congested streets, particularly at night. He suggested that Atlantic Cycles would be doing commercials next year to advocate safety of which he hoped the City would endorse a marketing campaign which would include commercials on television.

Bill Sargent suggested that the Committee should consider posting speed limit signs on the Boardwalk for next year. Bike lighting and reflectors at night do not show up as well as they could, and they should be consistent with the State.

**DISCUSSION with Jeff Niezgoda from DeIDOT and Matt Chesser from DNREC about state plans regarding issues that may impact Rehoboth Beach. Susan Moerschel from DNREC and the Mayor will also attend.**

Matt Chesser and Susan Moerschel were in attendance at the meeting.

Susan Moerschel noted that the trails in Cape Henlopen State Park are finished. It is not contemplated that there will be any other trails on the Rehoboth end, but there will be some on the Lewes end. This could affect the number of riders which would use the 15 mile regional loop. The idea is to get riders off the road, but it is problematic in the City. The biggest area that is problematic is from the Junction Breakwater Trail coming across the canal and into the City. This would involve more from DeIDOT than DNREC. DeIDOT developed a concept plan to connect the south end of the Junction Breakwater Trail to Rehoboth Avenue. Meetings had been held here with regard to this plan. Susan did not know what DeIDOT's plans are at this point. Private property had been identified that the continuation of the trail would need to go through.

Jim Ellison provided the Committee's proposed bike map for illustration. The Commissioners will need to review the map before finalizing it. The purpose of the map is to highlight the streets that are very dangerous for bicyclists, the ones that bicyclists would need to use extra caution and the ones that would provide the safest bike routes. The main issue is that there is no safe way to exit the City for the Junction Breakwater Trail. The Committee has discussed the possibility of putting in a red light at Canal Street so bicyclists would have a safe way to cross Rehoboth Avenue and then cross the Canal Bridge to get to the Junction Breakwater Trail. This area that the Committee feels it needs help with. The Circle is unsafe, as is the remainder of Rehoboth Avenue. There is a problem with bringing DeIDOT's proposed two-way bicycle traffic across the north side the bridge and dumping the bicyclists at the Circle and having the bikes going the wrong direction at that point. There is very little opportunity to do much in this area without some very creative thinking.

Susan noted that DNREC has trail maps on its information boards inside the parks. It also provided a map of the region to Carol Everhart of Rehoboth Beach/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce. DNREC can provide printing and posting a large map at both of the gateways in partnership with the community to provide resources. In addition to the map at each gateway, there will need to be markers along the way. She suggested that someone from the Committee and a representative from DeIDOT as well as Susan, etc. meet to look at the region comprehensively.

Pat Coluzzi, 41 Sussex Street, said that the two trailhead maps would be nice. Directional markers would need to be provided by the State.

Kathy Osterholm said that the Committee needs to work on its internal City signage to get bicyclists from the Junction Breakwater Trailhead to Gordon's Pond Trail. She and Cindy Lovett will work with Susan Moerschel with regard to what improvements can be made to communication signage that are part of DNREC's prerogative.

Mayor Cooper said that no one has looked at the impact on the City and how it will be handled. If trails are creating down people's streets, they need to be involved in the process. He asked if there is any funding available for the City to look at what the impact of the trails is on the City. Mayor Cooper will coordinate a meeting with the State to continue the process in a path forward. Susan will be involved with the next meeting. He did not want any

additional signage in the City until the issues have been resolved.

Susan Moerschel provided statistics of the users of the Gordon's Pond Trail and different sections of the Junction Breakwater Trail. Counters, which have a beam, measure the users on the trail. There has been an average of 52,000 users on the Gordon's Pond Trail this year from January to the end of June. There has been an average of 25,000 users on the south end and 40,000 users on the north end of the Junction Breakwater Trail.

Pat Coluzzi, 41 Sussex Street, asked what the status is of use of sharrows. They are helpful. The current ones should be repainted, and more sharrows should be added. Bill Sargent said that no policy has been made on sharrows, and there has not been any active discussion about extending the sharrows or updating the current ones at this point in time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Discuss proposed Bicycle Friendly Street Guide for 2015 – Jim Ellison**

Jim Ellison said that he will email the correct map to the Committee members for them to review. This map will be presented at the Commissioners Workshop Meeting on September 9, 2015. Members should forward any comments prior to this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discuss possible locations for additional signage to beach and trails.**

Kathy Osterholm and Jim Ellison had worked on this item together. Kathy said that the City is responsible for its own signage in the City proper. DelDOT and DNREC has taken care of signage getting people into the City. For visitors coming into the City, the City does not have a signage system that gets them into the City to shop or visit downtown or a signage system that gets them out to the Junction Breakwater Trail once they are downtown.

Bill Sargent suggested that a list of specifics for signage should be prepared. The Committee should discuss it, and then the list should go to the Commissioners.

Jim Ellison noted that the map would be posted at the gateways to the City.

### **DISCUSS ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.**

Items to be included on the October 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> agenda are: 1. Discussion with DelDOT about state plans regarding issues that may impact Rehoboth Beach. 2. Current Old Business issues. 3. Parking permit fees.

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Presentation by Mike Tyler for bicycle friendly city.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were none.

## **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Joe Hill suggested that the Committee will consider making a recommendation to the Commissioners of increasing parking permit fees to at least \$25.00 to \$30.00 per day for next summer. There should also be more police officers patrolling the streets to issue tickets.

## **SET NEXT MEETING DATE.**

No meeting will be held in September 2015. Tentatively, the next meeting will be held on October 19 or 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bill Sargent adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**MINUTES APPROVED ON  
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

**(Ann M. Womack, City Secretary)**

**(Lorraine Zellers, Acting Chair)**