

*Town of Hampton*



*Department of Resources and  
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission  
100 Winnacunnet Road  
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842  
HBVD Conference Room – Beach Fire Station  
Monthly Meeting – November 17, 2016  
7:00 PM**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton Representative  
Fran McMahon, Rockingham County Planning Council  
Rick Griffin, Selectman's Representative  
Michael Housman, DRED Operations Supervisor  
Bob Preston, Hampton Chamber of Commerce  
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District  
Dean Merrill, Town of Hampton Representative

**Excused:** Bill Watson, NHDOT, Vice Chairman

**Others Present:** William Rose, NH DOT Project Manager  
Jason Bachand, Town Planner

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Introduction of Commissioners.**

**Public Comments related to Agenda Items.** There were no public comments this evening.

**Appointments.** Police Chief Sawyer – HPD - Traffic Control

Chief Sawyer spoke about planning for the next beach season and how the HBAC could help with traffic control. He stated that the summer of 2016 was a busy, but great summer. The focus centered on traffic control and keeping traffic moving at a steady pace. He noted there are certain areas that are critical given the gridlock traffic. People want to be able to leave the beach without being stuck in traffic.

He spoke to a program in cooperation with the HBAC and Experience Hampton with regard to crowd control gates, especially from G to D Streets. He reported that the HPD had secured a large amount of fencing from Lawrence which made a big difference this year, although there were not enough fences. He stated there is a 2000 foot area to cover G Street north including the east side from the Seashell to F/D Streets. This would perhaps convince, and hopefully, encourage people to cross in the crosswalks, not going into the traffic. He commented that there are no laws for a pedestrian to use a crosswalk in New Hampshire. Traffic must yield to pedestrians, but pedestrians do not have to yield to drivers if not in a crosswalk.

Chief Sawyer spoke of the experiment with the traffic/crosswalks during the summer of 2015 and noted that if there is control over the crosswalks, it expedites control through the whole beach. The above fencing project, he stated, would cost approximately \$18,000 (a one-time cost) for fencing to complete the above sections. The pieces are 8 feet long and 240 pieces would be required. The Town now has 33 pieces. He stated the \$75 cost per section is a ball park figure; however, does not include shipping.

He encouraged a collaborate effort between the government and private sector to provide the remedy to some of the traffic/pedestrian issues. He noted that people would be allowed to move the fences to drop off deliveries at the businesses, but would be required to put them back.

Chief Sawyer said the fences could be dressed up and made to look more appealing. He reported that Nashville, TN uses the gating system with the same types of traffic/pedestrian problems they were having, and they now have a mesh sweep that goes over the gate that says "Welcome to Nashville". This makes the gates look appealing and welcoming during the tourist season.

Mr. Nyhan commented that if the HBAC teamed up with other organizations, there possibly could be some match money. Mr. Nyhan asked if any of the above cost was in the 2017 budget allocation. Chief Sawyer said it is not in the budget, but there may be other funds available.

Mr. Rage pointed out that there may be problems with the fencing in front of boardwalk hotels, and Chief Sawyer said there would be breaks at the streets and crosswalks. Further, he said the plan is not to come down on business owners and the HPD would work with the business people. However, loading zone restrictions would have to be enforced.

Mr. Rage also suggested if mesh covers were used, they may be able to say "Keep Hampton Safe". It was also suggested that businesses could use the covers as advertisements. Chief Sawyer pointed out that there would have to be discussions and approval from DOT and DRED. The advertising covers could be explored vs. just use of a steel fence.

Mr. Griffin stated it is great when people bring back usable ideas from travelling and, by having partners in these projects, is a great way to help taxpayers.

Mr. Nyhan suggested talking with DOT and State Parks and come back to the Commission, and others, for partnering in this project. He stated he likes the project. Mr. Griffin stated that he knows that folks are willing to hear the plan, but any issues would have to be taken into consideration.

Chief Sawyer commented that with the beach season expanding, it takes more robust security efforts.

Chief Sawyer also requested the HBAC consider supporting the HPD Warrant Articles dealing with the authority to spend money out of the Asset Fortitude Fund; and, the Traffic Safety Device Article including mobile speed bumps and highway message boards.

Mr. Nyhan, with regard to the fencing project, above, asked if officers will still be stationed at key crosswalks even with the barriers, and Chief Sawyer said they will be stationed during key traffic times and that officers will be deployed as always as people like to see a uniformed officer. He pointed out that all is being done in the best interest of public safety. Chief Sawyer noted that police recruitment is difficult during these times and he hopes to be back to normal recruitment soon.

Mr. Preston commented that the Hampton Police and State Police are well received with whatever they do; and, with regard, to the fences, it is a good idea for the cost.

The Commissioners all agreed that the HPD is doing a great job.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Review and Approval of the October 27, 2016 Minutes**

**MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Rage to approve the Minutes of the October 27, 2016 Meeting as presented**

**VOTE: 6 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 2 Abstain (Mr. McMahon & Mr. Merrill), 1 Excused (Mr. Watson)**

**MOTION PASSED**

#### **Transportation Grant Discussion – William Rose, NHDOT Project Manager, was present for discussion.**

##### **1. Final recommendations - Phase One of the Transportation Grant**

Mr. Nyhan reported that recommendations will be made on the four major focus areas which Mr. Rose will take back to VHB in order to move on with the next phase of developing engineering plans and cost estimates.

##### **Recommendation #1 –Ashworth Avenue, Alternatives 1, 2, and B2**

Comments: Mr. Nyhan reviewed the three alternatives stating that at every meeting held with all organizations and the public, the consensus was overwhelming to keep Ashworth Avenue as one way. The signal at the south end of Ashworth and Ocean Boulevard was questioned by Mr. Preston who said traffic would get stuck going over the bridge if a signal and it may be easier for DOT or the State Parks to come up with a fix for that intersection.

**#1 Final HBAC Unanimous Recommendation – Ashworth Avenue. Alternative #1 - To remain one way with 2 lanes southbound, new sidewalks, a bike lane, creating greenery, and an option with a signal at the south end or no signal light**

##### **Recommendation #2 – Ocean Boulevard South, Alternatives 1,2, and 3**

Comments: Mr. Nyhan reviewed the following including moving 63 spaces east with a sidewalk in the middle if engineering is feasible. One lane on Ocean Boulevard is not acceptable and there was consensus that an engineering comparison be done for Ocean Boulevard South as in Alternative 1 and also Alternative 3. It is questioned whether moving 63 spaces east bound would be acceptable. Also, a bike lane would be provided and the width of the sidewalks can be addressed later on. He recommended looking at Alternatives 1 and 3.

Mr. Housman questioned if it not feasible to move the 63 spaces east, will they remain. He stated the concept has promise, but if there are issues, there would have to be a conversation.

Mr. Preston commented that DRED is not interested in losing the parking spaces. It would be nice, but one has to think about the stores and motels/hotels. The spaces are critical. Once construction starts on the Boulevard, the sidewalks can then be looked at. It could be done, but do not want to take revenue away from DRED or the commercial people. For the record, Mr. Rose will put together a report asking VHB if that can be done in that area. Mr. Rose said that it can be looked at from an engineering standpoint, and it is also important to note that according

to VHB, the middle sidewalk cannot be eliminated in its entirety. There has to be a physical space between the parking lot and travel way. During the preliminary design phase it will be determined if this buffer area can be minimized and the width reallocated for another use

**#2 Final HBAC Unanimous recommendation – Ocean Boulevard South – To look at both Alternatives 1 and 3 with an engineering comparison between Alternative 1 and also Alternative 3 as to whether moving 63 spaces east bound is acceptable. Also, keeping the road two lane, and providing bike lanes with expanded sidewalks on west side with widths being addressed later.**

### **Recommendation #3, Ocean Boulevard North, Alt 1, Alt 3.**

Comments: Mr. Nyhan stated from the beginning of the parks complex, south building, all the way to the bath house there was no discussion on any alternative parking on the east side. Further, there was no discussion of parking schemes from the complex to the Ashworth Ave bathhouse. For the record, parking will stay.

Mr. Preston stated that driveways on Ocean Boulevard are very narrow and one almost has to stop on Ocean Boulevard to enter. If there is one lane north and two lanes south, it would enable a safer turn. He also said that one must take the recommendations from Church Street upward into account.

Mr. Ladd questioned if anything can be done at the beginning of Church Street to improve vehicle movement where it comes to a stop

Mr. Rose said he is hearing and noting the concerns expressed by the Commission.

**#3 – Final HBAC Unanimous Recommendation Ocean Boulevard North – Alternative #1 Ocean Boulevard North from Highland past Church Street up to Boar’s Head would have parking on the east side and the three lanes from Highland stays three lanes up to Boar’s Head. North of Church Street remains as 3 lanes as there is a turn lane. Also, placing traffic lights at Highland Avenue and Church Street.**

### **Recommendation #4 – Ocean Boulevard North from Board’s Head to Winnacunnet Road**

Comments: Commissioners also recommended, for this area, looking into evacuation route signage within the redesign of the roadway. Also, reviewing the option of a jug handle at Church Street. Have engineering look at the alternatives and give thoughts of a traffic light as first choice, or a roundabout which would not require closing of King’s Highway.

**#4 Final HBAC Unanimous Recommendation – North from Boar’s Head to Winnacunnet Road reducing the road from four to two lanes, eliminating the middle lane parking and adding parallel on street parking on both sides of the roadway, bike lanes in two directions, a small parking area with 57 spaces. At the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Winnacunnet would have a traffic light as first choice or a roundabout. With a traffic light, King’s Highway could be left open for right hand turns. A roundabout would require the south end of King’s Highway to be closed off.**

## **2. Next Steps**

Mr. Nyhan stated the project will now move toward the second phase; and, Mr. Rose said that the alternatives not being identified will be dropped, with VHB starting the scope for the second phase.

**Treasurer's Report: Mr. Housman**

Mr. Housman reported that the balance of \$9,994.43 remains the same as the month of October's balance.

**MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.**

**VOTE: 8 in favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Excused (Mr. Watson) MOTION PASSED**

**Old Business:**

**1. 2017 Town Warrant Articles impacting the beach area.**

Mr. Bachand will review the departmental Warrant Articles at the January meeting of the HBAC. These include the Accessory Dwelling Units Articles and Flood Ordinances. Public Hearings will be held in December.

**2. Discussion – Commission objectives for the coming season.**

There were no objectives brought forward.

**3. Other Old Business.**

No other old business was brought forward.

**New Business:**

**1. No meeting in December Discussion**

The Commission agreed there will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2017.

**2. 2016 Annual Report**

Mr. Nyhan reported that the Annual Report of the HBAC will be sent to the Commissioners for approval prior to being submitted to the Town on or before December 28, 2016.

**3. Other New Business.**

No other new business was brought forward.

**NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2017 – 7:00 pm – Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall.**

**Adjournment.**

**MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Houseman, seconded by Mr. Merrill to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.**

**VOTE: 8 in Favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Excused (Mr. Watson) MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Marchand, Secretary

**Thank you Channel 22 for taping this meeting!**