



Town of Nantucket Finance Committee

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Committee Members: Denice Kronau (Chair), Stephen Maury (Vice-chair), Joseph T. Grause Jr., Peter McEachern, Joanna Roche, Peter Schaeffer, Chris Glowacki, Jill Vieth, George Harrington

MINUTES

Thursday, January 23, 2020

4 Fairgrounds Road, Community Room – 4:00 p.m.

Called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Staff in attendance: Libby Gibson, Town Manager; Brian Turbitt, Director of Finance; Alexandria Penta, Financial Analyst; Terry Norton, Town Minutes Taker

Attending Members: Kronau, Maury, Grause, Schaeffer, Glowacki, Vieth, Harrington

Absent Members: McEachern, Roche

Documents used: Draft January 6 & 9, 2020 minutes; Citizen and Town Warrant Articles for 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM); Email to John Lavenburg dated 12/02/2019; Roundabout Safety Diagram slides; Statement from Peter McEachern ref. Chapter 66; Ground Rules for Public Information Session.

Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

1. January 6, 2020: **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Schaeffer) Carried unanimously
2. January 9, 2020: **Motion to Approve.** (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Schaeffer) Carried unanimously

IV. DISCUSSION OF OPEN ITEMS AND POTENTIAL MOTIONS FOR CITIZEN ARTICLES FOR 2020 ATM

1. Article G (67) Prohibiting Roundabouts Near School – John McGrady

Discussion **Mike Burns**, Traffic Analyst – He’s here to address safety concerning specifically the Surfside/Bartlett Roads roundabout; this article would also affect the proposed roundabout at 4 Corners. The diagram indicates the conflict points, opportunities for a crash; conflict points are reduced from 6 with an intersection to 3 with a roundabout.

Maury – The concern from Mr. McGrady is the pedestrian safety, which he says study support increases with roundabouts.

Burns – Safety gets amplified for the pedestrian when they are crossing two-way traffic. In a roundabout, the pedestrian only has to worry about one direction at a time due to the pedestrian islands. There is a risk for running a stop sign, whereas a roundabout has visual deflections that slow the traffic.

Vieth – The graphic makes it look like the school is farther from the intersection than it is.

Grause – Asked about the impact of the 3-way stop sign at the Surfside/Bartlett intersection.

Burns – He thinks stop signs have un-intended costs, for instance a roundabout improves air quality due to less engine idling than with a stop sign; it also reduces consumption and cost of the extra gas from idling.

Grause – Asked if there is data or research that the roundabout will improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Cited issues with the Milestone Rotary.

Burns – Milestone Rotary requires improvements; those improvements would be built into this roundabout. The improved safety comes from reduced speed and reduced conflict points. The State has mandated communities to consider putting in roundabouts first. That wouldn't be in effect if roundabouts weren't safer.

Grause – If there is research supporting the safety of roundabouts, that would be a very good thing to make available to the public.

Burns – He feels the facts supporting the safety of a rotary/roundabout should not be debatable; using an emotional talking point to stir people up shouldn't be allowed.

Vieth – The public perception of the Town's response to traffic is "let's do a rotary."

Harrington – It seems to him a substantial amount of driver frustration isn't due to truck traffic, it's the endless numbers of examples of really bad decisions made by drivers and pedestrians; that is a big part of the mix of frustration and anger. He questions if a 70-foot truck could make it around the proposed Surfside/Bartlett Roundabout.

Burns – That kind of input would help the design process, this is only a conceptual drawing that could accommodate a 50-foot wheel base. We have asked that the center island be shrunk to accommodate larger vehicles; a house also move has to get through this roundabout. The Select Board makes decisions on restricting truck traffic.

Harrington – Asked if there are any roundabouts set up for crossings such as this with lights that would stop the traffic for school children crossing. Pointed out we should be able to anticipate flow through roundabout.

Kronau – She likes the pedestrian islands provided in the roundabout; you are managing only one-way traffic at a time.

Burns – Explained how the crossing guard would manage the crossings for school children. With stop signs, a turning driver off Surfside Road has to look back over the shoulder to check for pedestrians or cyclists; with the rotary, the driver doesn't have to do that.

Vieth – Asked why the crosswalk was moved closer to the roundabout; doesn't understand why that's necessary.

Burns – Closer to the roundabout allows for use of the pedestrian islands.

Grause – He believes the stop signs at the Bartlett/Surfside intersection have worked. Statically we are dealing with tiny incidents of accidents.

Burns – The National Clearing House for Safety in Schools has gone through all the research and encourage roundabout design.

Maury – Mr. McGrady stated that our School Board opposes the roundabout; asked if Mr. Burns could confirm that. If they do, asked how we could alleviate their concerns.

Schaeffer – According to Town Counsel, Town Meeting's job is to appropriate funds. Thinks this discussion could be a waste of time. If it is scientifically proven roundabouts are safer, there is no reason for us to be talking about this.

Glowacki – There are people who simply think this is just a bad idea.

Kronau – Appreciated getting the facts behind this; she feels this will be an emotional issue on Town Meeting floor.

Burns – Suggested Board members talk to family and friends and share what they've learned today.

Schaeffer – He wonders if we can vote against science; he doesn't agree a roundabout is safer.

Glowacki – There is a reason to put in the roundabout; we need to debate that reason.

Grause – The reason is Town and Mr. Burns say a roundabout will handle a bulky and heavily-travelled intersection. The political reality is people will wonder why we want to increase traffic flow.

Vieth – Asked how much this roundabout would cost.

Burns – The figure for this is currently \$3m which is partially State funded; there are also the permitting costs.

Maury – We have in essence that are trying to stop rotaries: this for rotaries within 1000 feet of schools and one that prevents a project from coming back more than twice.

Kronau – Would like to start ruling on these; there are a total of 120 warrant articles. Asked if the Board can meet a consensus.

Discussion on the motion to take no action.

Glowacki – He would recommend a motion not to adopt informed on the idea of a blanket issue around the Island.

Kronau – The comment with not to adopt would be that the article isn't clear enough to whether or not roundabouts are safer for children.

Harrington – Withdrew his motion.

Discussion on the motion not to adopt and a possible comment.

Schaeffer – The comment could be that we don't want to override the Town.

Motion

Motion to Not to Adopt. (made by: Glowacki) (seconded by: Schaeffer)

Vote

Carried unanimously

2. Article C (38) Re-establish Parks & Recreation Department – Maria Zodda

Discussion

Schaeffer – This is another article that would override Town Manager who decided not to have a Parks & Recreation (P&R) Department.

Kronau – This is non-binding and doesn't appropriate money. It would have to come back to another Town meeting for appropriation if it were to pass.

Grause – He thinks the Town should do a better job with P&R but doesn't support creating a new department. Agrees with Mr. Glowacki it is micro-managing the Town.

Kronau – Her concern is the trade-off to support this department. The potential message of this article is for the appointment of someone from the P&R committee to work with the DPW on maintenance of the fields and playgrounds.

Glowacki – Confirmed a P&R master plan in the works. Feels this is premature because once we have that plan, the resources become clearer.

Discussion about the role of the P&R Committee and getting them to work closer with DPW.

Motion

Motion Not to Adopt. (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Vieth)

Vote

Carried unanimously

3. Article WW (74) Bylaw Amendment: Chapter 66 – Prohibit Obstructions on Beach – Burton Balkind

Discussion

Kronau – This would prohibit putting up barriers in the intertidal zone.

Grause – This is weighing the rights of property owners versus the right of beach users.

Vieth – There is already a law protecting the rights of people; she feels this goes a step further.

Maury – Read a statement from Peter McEachern against supporting this article because Chapter 91 protects the owner and it amends Chapter 66.

Glowacki – This is against putting up barriers prohibiting "easement" use of the beach. If we vote against this because it doesn't belong in Chapter 66, we need to reread Chapter 66.

Schaeffer – Read what the change to Chapter 66 would be: no barrier prohibiting the uses of fishing, fowling, and navigation.

Grause – This wouldn't give people the right to walk on the beach.

Maury – Feels the barrier went up because people were no long respecting the private property.

Glowacki – He'd prefer to wait until Mr. McEachern can explain his comments.

Schaeffer – He'd support this article. He questions if we say no to this, would that encourage more people to put up barriers.

Maury – We need to look at the larger concept; we don't know how many properties would be impacted by this. Also, if this passes, it is in conflict with State law, which trumps in this case.

Harrington – It takes more than one vocal complaint to put the board in the position to make a decision.

Grause – The owners have a situation where people are tromping all over their property; he's more for protecting their property rights to the low-tide mark.

Schaeffer – Suggested voting against this and having a comment that the state law stands on its own. Read Chapter 91 states landowners should not restrict people from FF&N.

Motion **Motion Not to Adopt.** (made by: Grause) (seconded by: Vieth)

Vote Carried 4-2//Schaeffer & Glowacki opposed

V. OTHER FINCOM BUSINESS

1. Public Information Forum:

Kronau – Handed out a list of ground rules for participation. This is a working document for FinCom to understand how the session will go. The Community Room is reserved for 5:30 to 8:30 on March 12.

2. Grause – He has copies of the comment for Article O.

Kronau – Mr. Golding's Bicycle Accident Database article update is that Mr. Golding is going to withdraw it on Town Meeting floor. It will be separated in the warrant.

3. Capital Program Committee (CapCom)

Kronau – Met with Libby Gibson and Alie Penta about how to get access to CapCom's information; the CapCom report was sent out today; we will discuss it with Brian Turbitt Monday & Tuesday. She will meet with Stephen Welch on Saturday to go over the report and discuss CapCom.

4. Next meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020; 4:00 p.m.; 4 Fairgrounds Road Community Room
Open Items & Tentative Capital Project Recommendations Status Update

Motion to Adjourn at 5:48 p.m. accepted by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Terry L. Norton