

Town of Castine
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

PC
CP
SEM

DATE: Monday, November 4, 2019

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Peter Vogell, Chairman; Colin Powell & Gordon MacArthur, Selectboard; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer; Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Estimated 30 members of the public including Monique Labbe of the Castine Patriot.

Peter Vogell opened the meeting at 4PM and introduced the topic of discussion: 1) to discuss proposed amendments to the Castine Traffic Ordinance.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, reviewed proposed amendments:

- No overnight parking on west side of Main from Battle Ave to Court
- No overnight parking on north side of Court Street from Pleasant to Dresser
- Change parking from 3 to 4 hours at Town Dock
- Change year round 1 hour parking to both south and east sides at Town Dock
- Change prohibited corner parking distance to 25 feet from 10
- Change Handicap parking space in front of 27 Water St to 21 Water St

Julie Van de Graaf asked if there was a standard # of feet from corner rule and the reason for changing the parking distance from 10ft to 25ft. Peter Vogell answered there are numerous intersections in Town that emergency vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances, etc) and delivery trucks have a hard time maneuvering through and visibility is difficult not only for emergency vehicles but for all vehicles.

There were concerns about losing valuable parking spots within a 25ft from corner rule. It was asked if there will be increase signage or how will 25ft from corner rule (and all restrictions) be posted. Wouldn't there be a financial impact for new signage. Karen Motycka, Finance Officer, said it cost about \$30 for a new sign plus pole and public works time to install.

Bobby Vagt suggested making the rule "25ft where posted", therefore, it could allow only those intersections that are the hardest to maneuver around and have visibility issues to be posted and also allows the Selectboard to post as needed and not have to come back to the public. The Selectboard thought that was a great idea.

Discussion.

Bob Friedlander asked if there was any progress on reducing the invasion of student parking and loud trucks. Gordon MacArthur said these issues are talked about frequently at the T/G Mtgs. There have been changes in the past but we are in hopes that a a few of these current

proposed changes could really help, i.e., adding the additional 1-hr parking along the boat ramp side of the Town Dock; changing restrictions for west side of upper Main St from Battle Ave to Court; and changing restrictions on north side of Court St from Pleasant to Dresser. There is no perfect solution.

Shawn pointed out that the Court St from Pleasant to Dresser change could open up approximately 16-18 spaces and west side of upper Main St from Battle to Court approximately 32 spaces; net gain approximately 48 spaces.

With no other discussion, Peter Vogell closed the Public Hearing.

Peter Vogell made motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.