

Town of Castine
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

PV
CP
GM

DATE: Monday, May 2, 2022

TIME: 4:00PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Peter Vogell, Chair; Gordon MacArthur & Colin Powell, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Estimated 18 members of the public including 4 members attending via Zoom and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Peter Vogell opened the meeting at 4:00PM and introduced the topic of discussion: 1) to discuss revised Traffic Ordinance – option of making Perkins Street from Main Street to Pleasant Street One-Way.

This request came from resident Ann Miller who is concerned this area is an accident waiting to happen. You cannot see around parked cars to maneuver from Perkins Street out into traffic onto Main Street, you cannot travel safely and/or get emergency vehicles up or down Perkins Street with the parking pattern, etc.

John Parish, 18 Main Street resident (corner of Main & Perkins Street), said he has concerns making this section one-way. He said it would heavily impact those who live on Perkins Street and who go to Main Street frequently to visit the Post Office amongst other travels. Making it one-way would require a lot of signage and Castine does not need any more signage. John said limiting parking in that area is a better way rather than making it a one-way section.

Brooke Tenney asked who and how would it be enforced? It would not be enforced full-time. Castine does not have a police dept. Hancock County or State Troopers randomly patrol our community.

Joe Slocum said he agrees with John Parish that making this section one-way is not the way to handle the concerns. He said he is concerned of the impact it would have on traffic flow to Water Street and specifically vehicles backing up from T&C Market into Water Street.

Gordon MacArthur said he conducted a traffic study and presented the diagram showing a proposed traffic flow, pavement, signage, etc.

Liz Parish said what applies to this street should apply to many other streets in Castine. This is not the only area in Town with these types of concerns.

Tony Politano suggested an easier fix by installing a "No Parking from Here to Corner".

Peter Vogell said it could be considered making the section one-way during the summer months and make it both ways for winter months. Those present did not like that idea. Too many rules and no one favored having a set of rules for one season and another for the other season.

Discussion.

At end of discussion, Peter Vogell made motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Second by Colin Powell. Approved 3-0.

Public Hearing adjourned at 4:16PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.