

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Saxton called the November 19, 2019, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; Chief Jason Lovins; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 8, 2019, TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to accept the November 8, 2019, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with a 6-0-1 vote. Those members voting for the motion were: Councilmembers Abbot, Boteler, Oliver, Stevenson, Weisgerber, and Mayor Saxton. Councilmember Callaway abstained.

**DISCUSSION OF CAT HILL AND OCEAN DRIVE SPEED LIMIT**

Mayor Saxton stated that a property owner has asked the Town to reconsider lowering the speed limit in Cat Hill to 15 MPH because of the curved roads. After discussion the consensus was to leave the speed limit in Cat Hill at 20 MPH.

**DISCUSSION OF PERMIT PARKING AND CAT HILL BARRICADE FROM MEMORIAL DAY TO LABOR DAY**

After discussion, the consensus was to keep the timeframe for permit parking and the barricade from May 15 to September 15 inclusive.

**DISCUSSION OF RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY ON EAST SIDE**

Mayor Saxton explained that resident parking permits would be required for parking on the east side of Route 1. One-day parking permits could only be used on the west side of Route 1. Note: For clarification of resident parking permits and one-day parking permits, see Town Code § 94-6 Parking permit system.

After discussion, the consensus was that a resident parking permit would be required to park on the east side of Route 1 and one-day parking permits could not be used on the east side of Route 1.

Mayor Saxton asked Councilmember Abbott to go back to the Charter and Code Committee to see if a code change is required and for the committee to write a proposed amendment if needed.

**DISCUSSION ON BEACH VENDOR FOR SALE OF FOOD AND DRINK, BEACH CHAIRS AND UMBRELLA RENTALS, AND FITNESS INSTRUCTORS/CLASSES**

After discussion there was consensus to put out a bid for a beach vendor for the sale of food and drink. Mayor Saxton believes the bid RFP should include a minimum bid amount. There was consensus to not offer a vending service for beach chairs and umbrella rentals. Regarding fitness instructors/classes, the Town Manager will follow up with the Town Solicitor and bring the information back to Council.

### **DISCUSSION OF BICYCLE PARKING**

Mayor Saxton stated that the Town continues to look for lots on the east side to lease for bike parking.

Council discussed the recommendations the Planning Commission presented at the October 24, 2019, Town Council Workshop Meeting:

- All members of Council spoke in support of bike parking on the west side of Route 1 between the pedestrian walkway and end of canals in areas south of Anchorage/Evergreen.
- All members of Council spoke in support of installing additional bike racks on the north side of N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- No members of Council were supportive of the use of off-set beach access walkways for bike parking.
- The following spoke in support of converting some Ocean Dr. parking spots into bike parking corrals: Councilmembers Oliver, Boteler, Stevenson, and Mayor Saxton
- The following spoke in support of converting two parking spaces in Sandpiper Village into bike parking corrals: Councilmembers Boteler and Abbott and Mayor Saxton.
- The following spoke in support of the beach corral option: Councilmembers Weisgerber and Abbot.

Regarding his support of converting two parking spaces in Sandpiper Village into bike parking corrals, Mayor Saxton stated that he believes everyone shares in the problem and the solution.

Based on Council's discussion, the Town Manager will present a proposal for the Council to vote on at the December 13, 2019, Town Council Regular Meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Steve Hart, 433 Black Gum Dr. – Suggested allowing public comment after each agenda item. Regarding bikes, spoke against the beach corral and spoke in support of bike parking on the west side of Route 1. Spoke in support of reducing the speed limit in Cat Hill to 15 MPH. Spoke in support of allowing residents to go around the barricade.

William Ferara, 443 Black Gum Dr. – Inquired about the Assawoman Canal Trail. Asked who should be notified to confiscate the abandoned kayaks, canoes, and commercial crab pots sitting in the woods on State property at the end of Black Gum Dr.

John Janowski, 403 Cattail Rd. – Regarding the kayaks at the end of Black Gum Dr., said that area falls under DNREC.

Randy Bartholomew, 6 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. – Spoke in support of the Mayor's comments regarding the bike issue. Suggested contacting the residents on N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. regarding bike racks on the shoulder. Regarding the beach vendors, include in the agreement specific hours for the service and publicize the hours for the public. Spoke in favor of allowing resident parking permits only on the east side of Route 1 and suggested Council consider reducing the number of parking permits available per resident from four down to two or three.

Susan Spingler, 47 S. Anchorage Ave. – Stated that she appreciates the Council taking a serious look at the bike issue. Spoke in support of biking to the beach. Spoke in support of bike parking on the west side of Route 1 and on N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Believes N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. will have a problem with bike overload.

Frank Spingler, 47 S. Anchorage Ave. – Spoke in support of bikers. Believes the bike issue is primarily a July 4<sup>th</sup> problem. Supports the beach corral during peak periods. Suggested checking the easements in Sandpiper Village.

Natalie Petti, 63 S. Anchorage Ave. – Suggested using bike racks that accommodate bikes with wider tires. Commenting on the inconvenience of the barricade on Black Gum Dr. and the use of the police force to man the barricade, suggested amending the ordinance regarding the barricade to make it work for everyone. Ms. Petti spoke in support of a resident pass to go around the barricade.

Judy Stack, 418 Black Gum Dr. – Spoke in support of the barricade at Black Gum Dr. and Kent Ave. Spoke in support of reducing the speed limit in Cat Hill to 15 MPH.

Nina Link, 114 Elizabeth Way – Spoke against a corral on the beach for bike parking. Spoke in support of two parking spots in Sandpiper Village to be used for bike racks. Regarding bike parking, believes enforcement must be part of the solution.

Geoff Sculley, 20 Cleveland Ave. – Spoke in support of leaving the speed limit in Cat Hill at 20 MPH. Except for a couple of handicap parking spaces, suggested getting rid of all the parking spaces in Sandpiper Village and turn them into bike parking. Suggested having two loading and unloading zones at the crossovers in Sandpiper Village.

Debbie Fanshel, 413 Cattail Rd. – Spoke in support of property owners being able to go around the barricade and possibly privatize the roads. It was noted that if the community went private it would no longer be a municipality and the community would not be able to have a Police Department. Spoke in support of a speed bump at the curve near the intersection of Black Gum Dr. and Cattail Rd. Spoke in support of allowing resident parking permits only on the east side of Route 1. Does not believe renters should have access to resident parking permits.

#### **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to go into executive session for purposes of discussing personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed, unless the employee or student requests that such a meeting be open, and discussion of the content of documents, excluded from the definition of “public record” in § 10002 of this title where such discussion may disclose the contents of such documents;. Discussion of terms for Town Manager and Police Chief employment contracts. 29 Del. C. §10004(b) (6) and (9). Motion unanimously carried.

#### **MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to exit executive session at 5:50 p.m. Motion unanimously carried

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to adjourn the November 19, 2019, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 5:51 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.