

Draft Minutes, Ordinance Committee, Feb 11, 2009

Town of Falmouth Council Ordinance Committee  
February 11, 2009

Members: Dave Libby, Joe Wroblewski, and Cathy Breen  
Staff: Nathan Poore, Town Manager; Jay Reynolds, Acting Parks & Public Works Director; Amanda Stearns, Community Development Director; and Ethan Croce, Senior Planner

#### Item 1 – Street Connectivity

Joe gave overview of history of Council action and Planning Board administration of the connectivity resolutions when he was on the Board.

C. Breen – asked what the goal is, to have all streets connected or to have less public streets, avoid costs of serving dead-end streets and more private ways

JW responded that he understood it was partly to reduce costs, encourage neighborhood connections, both pedestrian and vehicular. Political criticism – some towns are cutting off connecting streets.

The group discussed what policy other towns have.

J. Wroblewski mentioned that acceptance is a legislative act, Council can accept if they want. Standards are really guidelines.

The committee discussed what option they have, to either try to draft something or send it back to the Council. They also asked staff what town services are currently provided on private streets.

J. Reynolds responded that trash pick up is performed if the trucks can access the private way, Public Works does not provide maintenance of private ways.

N. Poore stated that the town must provide special education students public transportation. The bus will access based on the road conditions. Public safety – the town will plow for ambulance or fire equipment and also clear intersections if visibility is an issue.

D. Libby stated that if the town does not want dead end streets just should state they won't be accepted. The majority are dead end roads. It is a good idea to keep the discussion in front of the PB, that there are no guarantees regarding acceptance.

C. Breen indicated that she would like to keep the resolution but should articulate what the Council wants.

D. Libby posed the question what to do when physical barriers prohibit connectivity. The group discussed loop dead-ends and second means of egress for public safety reasons.

E. Croce added that interconnected road help to diffuse traffic on sub-collectors.  
N. Poore added that where situations are possible, connections should be encouraged.  
E. Croce noted that in the RCZO connections are required but where a street connection is not reasonable connections for pedestrian/trail connections are required.

Items to be considered in a policy draft:

- ✚ Public Safety
- ✚ Neighborhood Connectivity
- ✚ Future connections to other developments
- ✚ Build or not to build
- ✚ Council to accept paper streets or built street
- ✚ Costs of maintenance and provision of services
- ✚ Diffusing traffic
- ✚ Trail connections
- ✚ Overall public benefit
- ✚ Two means of egress.

The committee agreed that the policy should be effective moving forward. Current private streets would still be eligible but would need to meet the standards.

Staff to work on policy and ordinance for April workshop

Next meeting on policy March 25<sup>th</sup> Wed 7:30 a.m.

Notes prepared by Amanda Stearns.