

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, February 9, 2009
OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION OFFICES
7:00 p.m.**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at the offices of the Ocean Park Association. Chair MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Sharri MacDonald
Vice Chair Michael Tousignant
Councilor Laura Bolduc
Councilor Shawn O'Neill
Councilor Robin Dayton
Town Manager Jack Turcotte
Assistant Town Manager Louise Reid
Chief Dana Kelley
Chief John Glass
Interim Public Works Director William Robertson
Planner Gary Lamb
Planning Board Chair Win Winch
Ocean Park Association Director Ed Rae
Ordinance Committee Chair George Kerr
Ordinance Committee Member Bob Scoville
Ordinance Committee Member Steve Bryant
Residents and Business Owner of Ocean Park
 Stewart Shuster, Ann Lane, Phyllis & Daniel Hayes,
 Charlie Gladu, Helene Whittaker, Barbara Ultsch,
 Bonnie Davis, Dick Skillin, Win Winch
Business Representatives: Ed Rea, OPA; David Dunton, Yellowfin**

Absent: Councilor Shawn O'Neill

Background:

Discussions about the parking issues in Ocean Park have been a priority issue for several months with the staff. Historically the parking concerns go back twenty-five years and there have been many attempts to fix the problems but we are back to the same issues of concern which is the safety factor. Staff has met with Win Winch and Ed Rea of the Ocean Park Association, to try to come up with a parking plan that is acceptable to both the Town from a safety issue and the Ocean Park Association as well. Individual citizens in Ocean Park have also participated in their concern and in suggested solutions to the issues being raised. The Chair again indicated that she would like to see a committee of Ocean Park residents and business owners come together as a group to present their views on possible fixes to the safety concerns.

Workshop:

This Workshop this evening is another attempt to address particular parking issues on Temple Avenue. It was indicated that in the future it is recognized that other issues need to be addressed as well including parking on other streets in Ocean Park; possible revised parking plan for Seaside Avenue between Colby and Randall; possibly permit parking considerations; satellite parking suggestions (possible use of the Shuttlebus/trolley); parking at the West Grand Pump Station, etc. Chief Glass explained that his fire engine is 11 feet wide and the largest truck needs 16 feet for outriggers to be set.

On November 9, 2009 Ed Rea, Director of the Ocean Park Association, sent a memo to the Interim Town Manager, Jack Turcotte, the Assistant Town Manager, V. Louise Reid, suggesting a timeline and process for resolving parking issues and suggesting a meeting to talk about it.

On November 19, 2009, Police Chief Dana Kelley, Deputy Police Chief Keith Babin, Interim Town Manager Jack Turcotte, Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid, and Town Planner Gary Lamb met to formulate a response to the timeline memo sent by the Director of the Ocean Park Association, Ed Rea, and create an action plan for parking changes, however a response was never sent. The major issues are existing public safety concerns and Staff therefore strong recommended Temple Avenue changes be voted on by Town Council this winter and be in place prior to Memorial Day weekend, 2010. Further discussion on other parking solutions can extend into the fall of 2010 and the winter of 2011 as needed as these issues present challenges other than immediate public safety concerns. This February 9, 2010 meeting is the first public presentation of the staff plan.

This evening there were many suggestions made to be considered but it is evident that the Temple Avenue parking is the most pressing public safety concern and should be handled separately. Pedestrian safety and emergency vehicle passage is unacceptable at present and must change. This should be discussed in the weeks ahead and the Town Council should vote on proposed changes, that if approved, will be in effect prior to May 30, 2010.

Chief Kelley and Chief Glass indicated that there be no parking on the east (OPA Temple) side of Temple Avenue from West Grand Avenue to 200 feet northwest past Free Street. This will eliminate parking area for approximately 47 vehicles. Many of these cars park on the sidewalk in this area and this not acceptable from a public safety standpoint. In addition, when cars are parked on both sides of Temple Avenue, ambulance, fire or other large commercial vehicles cannot pass safely, also not acceptable from a public safety standpoint. Parking on other Ocean Park streets should be discussed at another time with all parties involved. Staff strongly suggests that the Ocean Park Association add additional parking on private property. If this is pursued as a parking lot with fees, some ordinance changes may be necessary to add a commercial parking lot use to this zoning district. Such ordinance changes take months to work their way through Town Council and also possibly the Planning Board.

A great deal of time was spent on the possibility of parking permits, not just for Ocean Park but on a town-wide basis as well. Remote parking and shuttle bus service can be pursued by the Ocean Park Association on private property with private funds, or in combination with the Town if adequate town funding is available. Attempts to decide this

issue should definitely be extended into the winter of 2011 with town-wide beach, Ballpark and Milliken Street parking lot areas being considered. It was recognized by everyone attending and expressed several times during the evening that the issues are impacting public safety as well as the activities at Ocean Park. the Council indicated that as a first “baby step” it is a process in which we address Temple Avenue first and resolve it before the 2011 summer season; and then in a progressive manner address additional issues after the fact.

A multi-pronged approach for long term solutions made this evening very compatible for all who attended. Several Councilors spoke as well on the developing of new satellite parking; installing two hour limit signage in new areas from Memorial to Labor Day; possible installation of new meters in the Ocean Park area that need to be fed until supertime; Department of Public Works assistance for the creation of ten to twelve new spaces behind and on each side of the Temple itself; stepping up police enforcement; and a possible parking permit system.

For the short term it was suggested that there be no parking on one side of Temple which received minor resistance and the possibility of it being signed and striped for the 2011 tourist season. The Council members made it clear to the residents and business owner that they will evaluate the situation after the summer and if changes are needed they will be met but this is a beginning to at least attempting to find a solution to the safety issue.

One of the concerns raised was that non-Ocean Park business owners and employees need satellite parking within walking distance of downtown Ocean Park. When asked about the new double meters, Chief Kelley indicated that they cost approximately \$750 each but usually pay for themselves in the first year. The need for Handicapped Spaces is still a necessity and the placement of those spaces still to be determined.

The participation by members of the Ordinance Review Committee enhanced their desire to support the Council and the residents and business owners of Ocean Park in finding a solution that will be to the satisfaction of the majority. Further review by staff would include the satellite parking issue, the access road by the Waste Water Department, the area of the Pump Station, Salt Water Pond, the Ballpark and Campground possibilities. Another issue to be followed up were questions that were raised about the bike path and pedestrian walkways on Temple Avenue. The time frame for the new parking policy was discussed and although it was suggested the end of June, it appeared that the Council felt that May 31st through October 31st would be the best possible scenario, permitting early arrivals to get used to the system before the summer begins. The need for a lot of direct advertising of the changes, television, mailings, post office postings, individual word of mouth, etc., all are needed to see that individuals are well versed in the changes before the summer begins. It is also recognized that most of the people affected are summer visitors who will not know about the changes before they arrive during the summer.

It was noted that in the final analysis this is a Town Council decision and the Council was encouraged by some to just get it done. Again it was noted that success will also involve education so people are informed. Another couple of inputs at the meeting included the statement that the \$1 per hour charge for the Milliken Street Parking lot is too much but there were those who felt that was a very reasonable amount. It is obvious that with any of the changes there will be a learning curve for people and police monitoring of the areas will be

vital to the success as well. Another question was whether there could be a stop sign at the corner of West Grand and Randall. Chief Kelley indicated this is a State Road and would not be in the parameters of our ability to do that.

The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

**I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of four (4) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of February 9, 2010.
Louise Reid**