

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, August 18, 2015
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
6:00 p.m.**

A Town Council Workshop of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Chair O'Neill opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Shawn O'Neill
Vice Chair Joseph Thornton
Councilor Kenneth Blow
Councilor Jay Kelley
Councilor Michael Tousignant
Town Manager Larry Mead
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Police Chief Dana Kelley
Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter
Fire Chief Ricky Plummer**

The purpose of this evening's Workshops is to discuss parking restrictions and prohibitions, Seaside Avenue. The parameters of discussion will be parking from the intersection of Union Avenue to Winona Avenue.

It should be known that letters were sent along with a map depicting Seaside Avenue to each of the owners of property on Seaside Avenue. In addition the Police Department put this notice at each address on Seaside Avenue and in addition the information was provided on the Town's web site.

Police Chief Dana Kelley presented the following information:

On August 4th 2015, a request to restrict parking on Seaside Avenue between Seacliff and Odessa Avenue was brought forward to the Town Council by a local resident that resides on Seaside Avenue. I asked that the council not take any action on that request and to consider reviewing the parking situation on Seaside Avenue in its entirety from the intersection of Union Avenue and Seaside Avenue to the intersection of Winona Avenue and Seaside Avenue.

The current parking ordinance for Seaside Avenue has nine separate elements within in a distance covering 4/10 of a mile. Making another change to the ordinance would make ten.

CURRENT ORDINANCE

Seaside Avenue. Diagonal parking only shall be allowed on the ocean side of Seaside Avenue, between Colby Avenue and Temple Avenue; each parking space shall have a 30-minute limit and

shall be so marked with appropriate signs. No vehicle shall be parked on either side of Seaside Avenue between Randall Avenue and Porter Road. Parallel parking only shall be allowed on the ocean side of Seaside Avenue between Winona and Tunis Avenues. No vehicle shall be parked on the westerly side of Seaside Avenue between Winona and Tunis Avenues. Parking is allowed on both sides of Seaside Avenue from Demeritt Square to Oceana Avenue; parking is allowed on the ocean side only of Seaside Avenue from Oceana to Tunis Avenue; parking is allowed on both sides of Seaside Avenue from Tunis Avenue to Seacliff Avenue. No vehicle shall be parked on either side of Seaside Avenue from Seacliff Avenue to Union Avenue.

I have, on many occasions, voiced my concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians and traffic congestion in the areas between Seacliff Avenue and Winona Avenue. As most of you know, during the summer months, Seaside Avenue is very congested and heavily traveled by motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. There are no sidewalks and pedestrians are forced to walk in the roadway. Pedestrians walking in the street and coming out from between parked vehicles are always at risk of being struck. With cars in some locations parked on both sides, the roadway is barely wide enough to accommodate one vehicle. Larger vehicles, such as fire trucks, large trucks, etc., cannot get through.

The road width varies to between 20 and 25 feet from Seacliff to Winona. The towns parking ordinance states that parking is restricted to one side only on roads that are between 20 and 30 feet wide. In some areas of Seaside Avenue, parking is allowed on both sides, creating even more congestion. In other areas of Seaside Avenue, vehicles are able to park off from the pavement in what would be the town's right of way, however, in some locations, the towns right of way has been improved out to the edge of the pavement by abutters. Bushes, flowers, trees and other barriers have been installed, preventing parked vehicles from getting off from the pavement. This has occurred over a period of years and has resulted in narrowing areas of Seaside to where they can no longer safely accommodate parking on both or in some cases, even one side. In other areas where parking is allowed on one side only, parked vehicles, because of encroachments, have been forced further out onto the pavement because of the narrowing of the travel portion of the roadway to one lane.

My recommendations are as follows:

Eliminate all parking on Seaside Avenue from the intersection of Union Avenue and Seaside Avenue to the intersection of Seaside and Winona Avenue.

PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE

Seaside Avenue. Diagonal parking only shall be allowed on the ocean side of Seaside Avenue, between Colby Avenue and Winona Avenue; each parking space shall have a 30-minute limit and shall be so marked with appropriate signs. No vehicle shall be parked on either side of Seaside Avenue between Randall Avenue and Porter Road. No vehicle shall be parked on either side of Seaside Avenue from Union Avenue to Winona Avenue

This change would eliminate approximately forty (40)parking spaces. In a proposal that I submitted to Council last year, I recommended eliminating parking on Seaside Avenue and adding an additional eighteen (18) parking spaces on West Grand Avenue between Tioga

Avenue and Pavia Avenue. My thoughts were that we could recover some of the lost parking on Seaside, and generate additional revenue by installing parking meters. Because of citizen opposition to the idea, it was not approved. If there is now any interest in considering eliminating parking on Seaside, reconsidering the proposal, minus the parking meters, may be an option for you to consider.

In the section of Seaside Avenue from Randall Avenue to Old Salt Road, It is interesting to note that although not currently under review by the Town Council, parking on both sides of Seaside Avenue from Randall Avenue to the Old Salt Road is prohibited. Seaside Avenue in that area is for the most part, wide enough to safely accommodate parking on at least one side and maybe both, while the section between Seacliff and Winona Avenue is not.

If the council decides not to make any changes to the current parking ordinance for Seaside Avenue, I would suggest that right of way improvements be made that would allow legally parked vehicles to park as far off the pavement as possible. Doing so may require removing shrubs, trees, fences and other plantings in the right of way, but it would help to resolve some of the congestion that occurs ,that is being created by vehicles that are legally parked and being forced further out onto the travel portion of the roadway.

There was a large number of Ocean Park residents who came to the workshop and also participated including David and Debbie Walker, William and Stephanie Edgerly, Art and Lin Pelletier, Reig and Patricia Rex, Linda and Chuck Sulkah, Steve and Dayle Moreau, Elaine Kelley, Philomena O'Connor, Tim and Norma Brennan, Rich and Anthoula Rozakis, David and Patty Robinson, Stuart and Jane Goldstein, Carter and Helene Whittaker, Nicole Arey, Chico Potvil, Louis Angelo, Pat David, John Bird, Eric Dunbrack, Shirley Spyropoulas, Margaret Padova, Kathleen and Steven Zannoni, Kristen Denison, , Kevin Heoberg, Sharri Tripp, Brian Pilgrim, and Kathleen Hedberg Zanoni.

Many of the excellent comments contained repeats of the same suggestion but they are formulated below. Those publicly speaking included Helene Whittaker, Brian Pilgrim, Dave Robinson, Sharri Tripp, Kate Ziconi, Tommy Torres, Rich Pasadis, Charls Socola, Bill Edgerly, Stephanie Edgerly, David Walker, Elaine Kelley, Stuart Goldstein,

No parking on either side of Seaside

Safety issue

Free parking

Yellow striping is confusing to those as to whether they can or cannot park

Signage is terribly lacking all over Seaside and adjoining streets

No consistency in how parking or not being allowed to park is shown

Research the issue before deciding.

Parking on wide side of Ocean (nearest the ocean so children can get out of their cars without having to cross the street.

Too many "close calls"

Poorly lit sections

Recognize this is a beach community and no parking is an issue for both tourists and residents

Make the other side where parking is not allowed into a section for walkers, bikers, baby carriages, elderly, small children.

Make it strictly walking and have no parking whatsoever

**Address encroachment issues,
Have speed bumps placed
Speed bumps are a problem for bikers, walkers, carriages,
Will affect revenue
Need to keep safe and possible access to residences
Foot traffic is immense
Rent spaces in neighbors yards
Parking Stickers
Don't permit RV's to park
One way street
Stop signs at every street
Cut down trees for more room to park
Lack of visibility when pulling out of driveways**

At the conclusion of the meeting Councilor Tousignant asked for a raising of hands of those who favored no parking, parking on one side, or one way traffic. It appeared that there was equal support for both no parking and parking on one side and some interest for one way traffic.

The Chair explained that the next action would be for the Chief to develop an ordinance regarding the parking issue and at the Town Council meeting on September 1st to set a public hearing to consider changes to the ordinance. Once public comments were made it would then go under new business to be approved at the following meeting.

The Chair thanked those who attended the Workshop and Council said they were impressed with the courtesy and expertise provided by those in attendance. The Workshop ended at 7:04 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 pages (4) pages is a copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of August 18, 2015.

V. Louise Reid