

MINUTES

Falmouth Transportation Management Committee
Thursday, July 23 6:00PM
Meeting in Zoom Virtual Teleconference

Town Manager Julian Suso convened this initial meeting of the Transportation Management Committee. In attendance were the following members: Ralph Herbst, Alison Leschen, Edward DeWitt, Paul Dreyer, Chris McGuire and Jane Perry. Joining the meeting at approximately 6:45PM was member Paul Grunden. It was noted that appointed member John Keenan has recently resigned due to a family illness. Also in attendance was Select Board member Doug Brown, who offered some welcoming comments, Police Chief Ed Dunne and Public Works Director Peter McConarty.

Mr. Suso welcomed all members to the Committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve. All persons in attendance briefly introduced themselves and provided some helpful background comments related to their respective interest in the mission of this Committee. Mr. Suso then read the Mission Statement for this Committee, as adopted on February 24, 2020 by members of the Select Board. He also referred to the Commonwealth Open Meeting Law which governs all actions of this Committee. Copies of both the Mission Statement and the Open Meeting Law were provided to all Committee members. Committee member Jane Perry advised other members for the record that she was taping this meeting to facilitate her full participation.

The Committee discussed and voted to appoint Ed DeWitt as Chair and Alison Leschen as Vice-Chair. No members stepped forward willing to serve as recording secretary for the Committee. In response to a question, Mr. Suso affirmed that there are inadequate Town staff resources to allow each one of the dozens of Town Committees to be assigned a staff member for clerical and/or recording purposes. Available resources only allow this to be done for the Town's four regulatory committees. At the suggestion of Ralph Herbst, it was agreed that all members would eventually serve as recording secretary – on a rotating, meeting-by-meeting basis. Mr. Suso will be responsible for drafting the Minutes of this initial meeting and Mr. Herbst would take up this task for the next regular meeting.

Following some discussion, the Board voted 6-1 to establish meetings at 7PM on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month via Zoom Teleconference. Mr. Dreyer voted in the negative, preferring that a potential meeting time be

considered earlier in the day. Mr. McGuire offered to serve as the “host” for the upcoming meetings of the Committee, working with a representative of the Town’s IT staff.

There followed a general discussion of possible future agenda items and meeting format. Ms. Perry, Vice-Chairperson Leschen, Mr. Dreyer and Chairperson DeWitt offered comments and suggestions. In summary, Chairperson DeWitt noted that perhaps this Committee may generate a series of white papers on various transportation topics, taking a broad and holistic approach and giving priority to people. He also noted that he will be circulating a draft agenda for the coming meeting.

Under “Other Items,” it was asked of Mr. Suso, Chief Dunne and PW Director McConarty of any thoughts or suggestions going forward. Mr. Suso suggested potential Committee consideration of the downtown parking challenge, including specifically an issue which he, Chief Dunne and Mr. McConarty had discussed – that being consideration for a prohibition on overnight parking in the municipal lot between Post Office Lane and Library Lane (with the need to exclude those living upstairs in the adjacent commercial buildings). Many have observed individuals parking overnight in this area and travelling to Martha’s Vineyard for extended stays which is a clear disservice to the downtown businesses whose customers use this parking area. Both Chief Dunne and PW Director McConarty offered to answer questions and provide periodic assistance to this Committee within their areas of responsibility. Mr. Suso confirmed that no emails had been received from the public, asking to be read for the record at this Committee meeting. In answer to a question regarding a possible Committee web page, Mr. Suso respectfully cautioned that it is most helpful to have a designated Committee member fully responsible for maintaining and updating such a web page as the presence of web pages which are not routinely maintained is a common complaint. It was also noted that IT staff have available a designated email address for this (and all other Town Committees) to facilitate public interaction on the part of the Committee Chair.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:46PM.

Julian M. Suso
Town Manager and Recording Secretary