

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

March 1, 2013

The Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting of the City of Rehoboth Beach was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Pat Coluzzi on Friday, March 1, 2013 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pat Coluzzi, Cindy Lovett, Lorraine Zellers, Dennis Diehl, Bill Sargent

Absent: Jim Ellison, John Gauger, Kathy Osterholm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Bill Sargent, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of the September 7, 2012 and November 2, 2012 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 4, 2013 and February 1, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The September 7, 2012 and November 2, 2012 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes were not available for approval.

Dennis Diehl made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the January 4, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Dennis Diehl made a motion, seconded by Lorraine Zellers, to approve the February 1, 2013 Streets and Transportation Committee Meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and recommend scooter parking implementation plan.

Pat noted that the scooter parking implementation plan had been presented to the Commissioners at their February meeting. The proposed area for scooter parking on Prospect Street is on the left side of the street. There was consensus among the Commissioners as to the proposed location. Proposed scooter parking would be on the left side of Queen Street. Originally there was to be decking and landscaping, but this project will not occur. Proposed scooter parking on St. Lawrence Street would be located on the left side of the street in the second parking space from the Boardwalk. Proposed scooter parking on Rodney, Norfolk and Stockley Streets would be located on the left side of the street in the first parking space from the Boardwalk. Proposed scooter parking on New Castle Street would be eliminated as the parking area would be directly in front of the entrance to the house. Proposed scooter parking on Philadelphia and Laurel Streets would be located on the right side of the street in a parking space at the corner. The areas behind the Fire Station, near the VIA, at Martin's Lawn and Deauville Beach could also be considered for scooter parking. Proposed scooter parking on Baltimore and Wilmington Avenues would be located between Second and Third Streets. Proposed scooter parking on Maryland Avenue would be located between two driveways. The two other areas on Maryland Avenue will remain for bicycle parking. The Committee has not decided at this point whether or not the parking spaces will be lined. The test spaces used this past year have lines. It has been suggested by George of All Wheels to have corrals and not have lines. Proposed parking on Olive Avenue would be eliminated. Proposed parking on Virginia Avenue would be located on the right side of the street in front of the loading zone. No scooter parking has been proposed for Rehoboth Avenue due to it being too dangerous and congested. Police Chief Keith Banks has recommended against scooter parking on Rehoboth Avenue for safety reasons. The proposed parking areas would accommodate 189 scooters.

Brenda Phillips, 20661 Fisher Street, thought that it would be better to have the spaces lined.

Ken Hensey, 21123 Bald Eagle Road, asked what the reasoning is for eliminating curbside parking next bike racks, etc. and what the purpose is for charging a permit fee for scooters. Scooter and bicycle parking is being taken away, and they are forced to go into smaller areas. It would be easier for scooters to park anywhere that there are pavers near a bike rack and not on the concrete itself.

The ultimate goal is to get the scooters off of the sidewalks because it is dangerous for pedestrians. The influx of scooters of the last three to four years has increased. It seemed fair to ask everyone to buy a permit if they are going to park downtown.

Tara, 20 Stonewood Chase, asked if other scooter parking areas are proposed on Rehoboth Avenue away from the Boardwalk.

The Committee is considering a parking area between Fourth Street and Rehoboth Avenue.

Pat presented the draft scooter/moped policy. All scooters must purchase a scooter parking permit in order to park in the designated areas for scooter parking within the City. The cost for parking permits is \$40 for a seasonal permit. Permits will be sold at the same locations as vehicle parking permits. If a scooter/moped is not tagged, a registration form must be completed. Parking fines will be issued in accordance with Section 92-265 following the same schedule as vehicle parking permits. Scooter parking permits shall be permanently affixed to the front of the scooter/moped within six inches of the headlight. Designated parking areas for scooters/mopeds will be outlined in a corral format with parking paint and signage clearly indicating that the area is strictly to be used for scooter/moped parking. Scooter/Moped Parking Maps will be available at all locations where permits can be purchased. In addition, maps shall be available at the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, Boardwalk kiosk and all area businesses that rent scooters/mopeds.

Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, thought a scooter with a permit can park any place in the permit parking system and can park in a metered parking space or on private property.

Lorraine presented the proposed moped/scooter regulations. Issues were raised at the February Commissioners' Workshop Meeting, and there was concern that not all the pieces were in place such as regulations, enforcement and processes with impact on City staff. Lorraine and Cindy did a search of the City Code with regard to current definitions/ordinances. They also had a meeting with Chief Banks to review them and obtain input, had discussions with Greg Ferrese and Mike Peterman, and had subsequent discussions with Mayor Cooper. The current Code provides definitions for electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD, also a Segway), moped, motorcycle, motorized skateboard or scooter, motorized wheelchair, triped, motor vehicle and vehicle. The current City ordinances can be found in Section 92-24 – Parking near Boardwalk, Section 92-28 – Parking upon sidewalks, Section 92-35 – Parking, stopping or standing in median strip, Section 92-36 – Parking in fire lanes, Section 92-38 – Parking restricted for certain vehicles, Article IV – Bicycles and Article XV – Operation of vehicles Section 92-121 – Driving on sidewalk. All of the ordinances listed include language for fines and enforcement. In summary, the City has language in its Code restricting vehicles from driving and parking on sidewalks and the Boardwalk. This will provide a framework for the Committee to create a policy brochure for use this season. Lorraine and Cindy were given the task of researching sample policies from other municipalities and researching the City Code. The recommendation is to create a separate article for Mopeds/Motor Scooters (two and three-wheeled motorized vehicles) and use Article 36 – Permit parking system as the framework. Consideration would need to be made as to what the article for Mopeds/Motor Scooters would include: (1) Purpose which would be to safely accommodate the increased use of mopeds/scooters and reduce conflict with pedestrians and other vehicular traffic. (2) Consideration would need to be made regarding establishment, administration, when effective would be to establish regulations for the safe use, parking and permitting of mopeds and scooters in the City. The administration would be the City Manager. Effective dates would be annual or seasonal. (3) Consideration would need to be made whether the definitions would be to include Moped, Motorcycle, Season vs. Annual, Valid Parking Permit and add Motor Scooter. (4) Consideration would need to be made regarding restrictions. Use restrictions would be that no person shall drive a motor vehicle longitudinally across any sidewalk in the City, nor shall any person drive any vehicle upon or across any sidewalk, except in order to gain access to or egress from a driveway or alley at a location where the curb, if such sidewalk is curbed, shall have been properly cut down for the purpose. (5) Consideration would need to be made whether parking would be prohibited. Parking prohibited would be that no motor vehicle (moped/motor scooter) shall be parked upon any sidewalk, crosswalk, street intersection, public lawn, curb or drainage course. No owner or operator of any moped (motor scooter) shall park such vehicle on any street within the corporate limits of the City except such vehicle may be parked in a designated area or marked parking spaces as determined by the City Manager or his designee for the parking of mopeds/motor scooters. Discussion ensued as to whether a scooter cannot park at or near bicycle racks or in bicycle parking stations; cannot be parked or locked to trees, bollards, railings, sign posts or fences and/or cannot be parked in designated scooter parking areas for more

than 24 consecutive hours. (6) Consideration would need to be made regarding establishing a parking area. Specially designated parking areas for moped/motor scooters have been established and will be outlined in a corral format with parking paint and signage clearly indicating that the area is to be strictly used for moped/scooter parking. Discussion ensued as to whether the corrals should be listed, be limited only to areas being created and what about residential areas and if so, specific language detailing how scooters should park. (7) Consideration would need to be made whether permit would be required. All scooters must purchase a scooter parking permit for parking within the City. Permits will be sold at the same locations as vehicle parking permits. If a scooter/moped is not tagged, a registration form must be completed. Scooter parking permits will be permanently affixed to the front within six inches of the headlight. Discussion ensued as to whether a registration form should be required for all scooters; providing a list of what is not covered such as scooter permit is not valid at parking meters – fees must be paid and scooter permit is not valid in other restricted areas such as fire lanes, handicapped spaces, etc.; and sale of permits at other than City locations and how it would work. (8) Consideration would need to be made regarding the issuing of parking permits. Permits would be non-transferrable, either seasonal or annual and readily identifiable (numbered, reflective). The fees for permits would be \$40.00 and \$20.00. Discussion ensued as to considering a reduction in the fee as an incentive if it is paid before a certain date such as May 1st. (9) Consideration would need to be made regarding violations and penalties. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than \$30.00 and no more than \$20.00 and shall pay the costs of prosecution. For the purposes of this article, an additional violation shall be deemed to occur each two hours that the vehicle remains in violation after the original citation of violation. Discussion ensued as to consideration of a lower fine since the permit is only \$40.00 and whether repeat violations should be towed. (10) Consideration would need to be made regarding an effective date. Discussion ensued as to a start date.

Tim Yancey said that there may be a problem with tripeds parking in the scooter parking areas.

The Committee will be approaching this enforcement that any motorized vehicle will need to have a permit in order to park at a scooter parking corral. If the width of a triped is in excess of three feet, it would have to park in a regular parking space or in a motorcycle parking space. Any motorized vehicle with three wheels will have to park in a regular parking space.

Brenda Phillips asked why the City will not be offering free parking until there are valid reasons to implement restrictions in the Code.

Free parking was offered this past season for people to park their scooters.

Jeremy Petrie, address unknown, said that free scooter parking should be encouraged in the downtown area.

Ken Hensey said that the City should not be in competition with the revenue from the business owners.

Walter Brittingham said the problem is that scooters and bicycles are taking over the sidewalks and it is becoming unsafe.

Blair, address unknown, said that most of the problem is be generated from non-residents so the rentals and non-residents should pay extra. Stickers should be located on the front forks of the scooters.

The Committee will need to monitor and make sure the program is working. Spaces may be added in the future. There was consensus that a permit will allow a scooter to park in any permitted parking area throughout the City. Scooters can park in the corrals and in the permit parking areas of the City. Scooters can park as many as will fit in a designated spot in the permit parking areas.

June Embert of Parking Department noted that cars have to parallel park with the flow of traffic, and moped/scooters should also be required to do the same.

There was consensus that scooters will be prohibited from bicycle racks and will be required to stay off the sidewalks. The time for scooters to be parked in designated parking areas will not be limited since cars are not limited in regular areas. Scooters cannot be parked or locked to trees, bollards, railings, sign posts or fences. The corrals should be lined, and the spacing should be determined by the City Manager.

The sense from the Commissioners at their meeting was that the fee should be \$40.00 to be paid by all persons who own scooters. There was consensus of the Committee that with regard to Delaware tagged scooters, the tag number will be related to the parking number. People from out of state will be required to fill out a registration form at the Parking Department office before a permit is issued. A pamphlet with the rules and a parking map will be provided at the time the permit is issued. The sticker will be mounted on the front fork six inches below the headlight. The permit is not valid for metered parking, handicapped areas, fire lanes, etc. The sign language will consist of Scooter/Moped Parking Only. Signs will also be placed at the entrances to the City to reflect that permits

are required for all scooters. The City Manager will provide the information as necessary. Decals and/or signage will be provided at all the bike racks to denote that there is no scooter/moped parking allowed.

The scooter parking implementation plan will be presented to the Commissioners at their next Workshop Meeting.

Presentation of bicycle parking plan.

Bill gave a presentation on the proposed locations of various sized bicycle racks at the street ends and the Boardwalk. Aerial photographs were viewed where existing and proposed new bicycle racks would be located. It seemed best to look for the places where new bicycle racks that would be anchored down could be placed, watch the usage and then wherever possible use the old racks and anchor them in the sand. New bicycle racks have been ordered and will be delivered in four to six weeks. Some of the platforms in the south should be extended at a later date because some of them are narrower on several streets than they are in the north.

Bill will be walking with Mel Craig of Public Works Department to view the various locations and implement the plan. They will also ensure that the tires from bicycles will not be blocking pedestrian traffic. In June 2013, the Committee will review the plan and locations, and look at where additional bicycle racks can be installed. Kathy Osterholm will be asked to come up with a plan for bicycle racks on Rehoboth Avenue.

Discuss items to be included on future agendas.

Items to be included on the next agenda are: 1. Scooters. 2. Continue discussing bicycles. 3. No idling for vehicles. 4. Truck loading/unloading.

Items to be included on future agendas are: 1. Discuss parking for lifeguards. 2. Discuss obtaining documentation of scooter parking and how it is used. 3. Address Surf Avenue, discuss parking on right side and bicycle parking and racks (next agenda). Parking should become a bike lane. 4. Review the bicycle implementation plan and placement of additional bicycle racks (June agenda).

Set next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Lorraine Zellers made a motion, seconded by Cindy Lovett to adjourn the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Ann M. Womack, CMC, City Secretary)

**MINUTES APPROVED ON
NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

(Bill Sargent, Chair)