



TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

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PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

6:30 PM

TOWN HALL - 314 MILL STREET

1. Citizen Comments
2. Planning Commission Priorities Update
 - Beautification, Town Entrances, Streetscaping
 - Parking and Traffic
 - Strategic Relationship Building
 - CIP
3. Deputy Town Manager Report
4. Parking Recommendation
5. Chair/Town Council Report

Eliot Perkins
Planning Commission Chair



TOWN OF OCCOQUAN

Circa 1734 • Chartered 1804 • Incorporated 1874
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TOWN COUNCIL
Earnest W. Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins

DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER
Christopher Coon, MPA

Deputy Town Manager's Historic District Parking Report Planning Commission Meeting - July 23, 2019

Overview

Making any changes to the parking spaces in the Town, such as width, needs to be approved from VDOT. Town Staff recently had a meeting regarding some of the proposed changes that the Planning Commission have discussed. There are several factors that will dictate when and how changes to the parking spaces will be completed. Below staff will provide the processes the Town will need to complete and staff recommendations on how and when we can move forward with different processes.

Planning Commission Items

Town Staff discussed several items with VDOT representatives.

- 1.) Parking Space Width
- 2.) Angled Parking on Washington Street
- 3.) Possibility to Timed Parking on Mill Street
- 4.) Timeframe for Repaving Roadways

Responses

- 1.) Parking Spaces can we widen the spaces from 8 feet to 8.5 feet or 9 feet. As previously discussed, increasing spaces from 8 feet to 9 feet would result in the loss of 10-13 parking spaces along Mill Street. Increasing from 8 to 8.5 feet would result in an estimated loss of 5-7 spaces. For reference the spaces along Washington Street between Commerce Street and Mill Street are 8.5 feet wide.
- 2.) The spaces on Washington Street could be angled to help prevent drivers from driving the wrong way up Washington Street, however, an estimated 3-5 parking spaces would be lost. While discussing this topic staff inquired about changing parallel parking to angled along Commerce Street between Union and Washington Street. The VDOT representatives felt that we would be able to make that change and it could gain us the same 3-5 parking spaces we would lose if we changed Washington Street spaces.
- 3.) The VDOT representatives told town staff that most of the time when you see timed parking on streets the locality holds the responsibility for maintaining that road. That being said, it has been done before where VDOT maintains a road and has to approve the timed parking sections. This will just take time for the Town to complete everything VDOT will require prior to being able to implement any timed parking.
- 4.) With the potential of needing to mill the streets and apply new stripes for parking spaces town staff inquired about the timeframe of the repaving of our roadways. VDOT indicated that our roads would not be paved before 2021 but, should complete by 2022.

Next Steps

If the Town would like to change the Parking Design that we currently have we need to create the new plan and submit the changes to VDOT for approval. Once that is complete, we could then move forward with the removing of the current parking stripes and install the newly design parking stripes. VDOT did indicate that if we do this then you will still be able to see the old parking stripes until they repave the roadways and that does not have a high aesthetic appeal and normally makes people confused.

Recommendation

In the Fiscal Year 2020 the Town has budgeted for restriping the parking spaces and road markings. Town Staff can request that the road markings be repaired by VDOT until they repave in 2021 or 2022. Town Staff feels that if the Planning Commission and Town Council would like to move forward with changing the Parking Design then we should use the money currently allocated for the restriping for a new parking design. This will allow us to send the new parking design to VDOT and obtain their approval within the next couple years and when they repave the streets, they will also apply the new parking stripes. This also would not impact our ability to work with VDOT for timed parking.

-End-