

PUBLIC
HEARINGS
COMMENTS

Public Hearing Public Hearing, Town Council 4/26/21

Galen Beale <[REDACTED]>

Tue 4/20/2021 6:06 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I am against parking meters on Pocahontas Road. I would rather the town try the solutions found at Seapoint Beach. Parking areas segregated for Town Residents only and parking spaces for others, with limited parking based on the size of Seapoint Beach. This works. Parking on only one side of the road seems silly. Before and after the park opens and the gates are shut, many people come for walks, and these people are mostly locals and deserve some consideration.

Parking issues have now arisen in places where there were not problems before, and I think the increased parking along our roads by people who want access to the water is here to stay.

In addition to parking Pocahontas Road, roads such as Chauncey Creek Road, Seapoint Road, and I am sure there are many others, need to be addressed. There is a huge increase of parking at the culvert and the ramp on Chauncey Creek Road. I think there should be parking there for residents. Folks with paddle boards, etc. spend many hours there going to Brave Boat Harbor, taking up the parking. I wouldn't want to limit their time, but residents who swim there like to come and go and have no place to park.

Thank you,
Galen Beale
63 Chauncey Creek Road, Kittery Point, ME. 03905

Pocahontas Road parking comments for Public Hearing.

Maureen Bilodeau <[REDACTED]>

Wed 4/21/2021 11:50 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Parking on Pocahontas Road near Fort Foster was quite busy during this past winter. Families and friends were so delighted to have somewhere safe to go during the pandemic. It did create a busy situation with some safety concerns with adults, kids, and dogs getting out of cars onto the road.

During the summer season there often was a back up of traffic on Pocahontas Road. People would arrive early to wait for the gates to open. This was compounded by people making u-turns to leave when they realized they couldn't pass at the gate. Signage was insufficient.

People need access to Fort Foster. If parking is limited on Pocahontas Road, there needs to be an alternate solution to access. Fort Foster is a major town asset.

Off season proposal

My proposed solution would be to open the park in the off season to cars from sun up to sun down. Someone from the Public Works department or the Kittery police department could open and close the gates.

There would need to be clear signage explaining the no parking on the road along with info on fines and/or towing. There would need to be clear signage on when the gates would be open.

This would be in effect whenever the park is not open, including weekdays when the park is open on weekends

When it snows, the Fort Foster entry road should be plowed to the parking lot and the parking lot plowed. The plow crew already goes to the gate.

Driving access should be limited to and from the parking lot. Current barriers could control access off season

In season proposal (when the park is open)

The line could be eliminated by opening the park at 7 am to season pass holders.

Many people use Fort Foster for exercise early in the day. For people with young children 10 am is late. Opening early would spread out the entrance times and people wouldn't be waiting in line for access. Daily passes would only be available after 10 am.

This would add 3 additional hours per day for gate coverage. In the course of an approximately 120 day season, that would only be 360 hours of additional pay. Shifts could be varied to provide coverage (for example 6-1 and 1-8). At \$10/hour, this

would be \$3600. If cost is an issue, raise the fees on non resident passes and day passes.

This would provide improved access to Fort Foster and support banning parking on Pocahontas Road. There would be no need to spent significant money to move the gates and gate house further into the park to keep the wait line inside the park and off the road.

Maureen Bilodeau

Pocahontas Road

Ronald Vargo <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/26/2021 6:31 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I see that there is an agenda item on the Council Meeting of April 26 relating to parking on Pocahontas Road. I am assuming that the item under discussion is whether allowing parking along both sides of the road is a potential safety hazard.

I want to bring to your attention another safety issue, the speeding that occurs on Pocahontas Road, primarily from people going to and from the park.

I am a resident of Pocahontas Road and like many others who live on Pocahontas or one of the neighborhood roads, I take walks along the road frequently. I see many others walking their dogs and children along the road. I do not believe I am exaggerating when I say that more than 50% of the cars traveling the road are going in excess of the speed limit and many are traveling 40 mph or greater in this 25 mph zone.

I can only assume that during COVID that citations have been curtailed or reduced. However, with the improving weather, the widespread vaccinations and an open the Park, the traffic is going to increase exponentially and this could become a real safety hazard.

I am guessing that this is not isolated to Pocahontas; one only has to drive the Kittery Mall Road, Whipple Road and others to see that our speed laws are often ignored.

I love Kittery and have had only great interactions with our Police Department. But greater enforcement of our speed limits and citing violators would make for safer roads and maybe put some more dollars into the town coffers.

Regards,

Ron Vargo
Pocahontas Road

Sent from my iPad

Fort Foster

Sara Rhoades <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/26/2021 9:47 AM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

As a longtime member of a group of walkers who use the park responsibly in the early morning, I urge you not to limit parking on Pocahontas Road when the park is not open (off hours as well as seasonal.). Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment.

Sara K. Rhoades
Kittery resident

GENERAL
PUBLIC
COMMENTS

Kittery EV

Robert McDonough <[REDACTED]>

Mon 4/12/2021 12:05 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

I just wanted to state my support for Kittery to move in the proper direction of acquiring an electric vehicle for town use. Many misconceptions are still prevalent and blocking efforts to transition to this superior mode of propulsion.

Fleets across the nation are converting over now as the low maintenance requirements and costs savings are apparent. This will trickle down to the general public as we see the UPS, FedEx and DHL vehicles arriving in your driveways over the next coming years. Many new EV options are coming out this year, including the first pick-up trucks.

I have been driving EV for over three years and have watched the supporting infrastructure grow with much more fast charging options becoming available. Charging stations are easily found through mobile apps. Range anxiety is quickly becoming a thing of the past with the latest vehicles. The Nissan Leaf or Chevy Bolts are affordable and the choice of fleets.

It would be recommended to get a Level 2 charger (240VAC-approx \$1,800) for the town office to provide reasonable charge times, but most charging is done overnight resulting in a "full tank" every morning if chosen. The vehicles are provided with 120VAC "trickle chargers" (need an outdoor receptacle)..

This is a step in the right direction for Kittery.

Robert McDonough
Kittery

I support Electric Vehicles

Mon 4/12/2021 9:20 PM

To:town comments <tcomments@kitteryme.org>;

Dear Kittery Town Councilors,

Its my understanding that you are considering leasing two electric vehicles and installing an electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall. I am in full support of this plan and it seems to me like it makes great sense. We have the Biden infrastructure plan coming down the pike which is going to really boost electric cars all across this country and we should be at the forefront of this. This is a sound investment and I support using my tax dollars for such an efficiency and early adopter approach. Someday soon we all will be driving electric vehicles and it's the financially responsible and environmentally correct thing to do. I hope you will all vote to support this move and I look forward to Kittery being ahead of the curve. We can do this!!

Thank you for your time and commitment to this town that I love!

P.S. I ask that this letter be distributed to all Kittery Councilors and to other decision makers in Town Government.

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