

Meredith Neck Lake Access Parking Committee Final Minutes

October 16, 2025, 5:00pm, Meredith Annex Conference Room

Attendance: Bette Higley, Lynn Leighton, Judy Sehnal, Bob Higley, Judie Milner, Mike Pelczar, Joe Crawford, Glenn Ahrens, Mike Faller, Chief Harper

Virtual Attendees: Jay Merselis, Bill Young, Jon Dayton

Absent: Larry Rose, Eric Johnson, Craig Skinner

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm.

Acceptance of Draft Minutes from June 25th, 2025, October 9, 2024 and October 24 meetings. Pelczar motioned, Crawford seconded the motion. All in favor.

Dayton: 2025 parking lot data was distributed to all Committee members. There were no questions or further discussion regarding the data.

Milner: Debriefed the committee with regards to public parking complaints, most related to the changes and some were special situations that were addressed.

Harper: shared his observations including complaints, 40+ tickets from Lovejoy lots, 42 tickets from Cattle/Patricia, reluctance to detach trailer from truck, commercial wakeboard operators operating from the docks and parking, a concern for enforcing May 15-October 15 signage. Overall a successful program.

Faller: shared his observations, including considering adding 4-5 parking spots on Lovejoy Sands Road opposite Lovejoy Lane intersection between lower lot and boatyard wash building. Also mentioned some complaints about detaching trailers from vehicles. Mentioned that he had a discussion with a State official regarding options for the Lower Lot.

Group thoughts and discussion:

- Considered reducing the # of Disability parking spaces at Cattle. Cattle lot will need additional boulders to keep cars from driving down the embankment.
- Recognized the obvious interconnectedness of all the lots, including opportunistic use between them.
- Recommended exploring the Lovejoy lower lot restraints (as a result of the Federal matching grant in 1987) including adopting pay-to-park parking lot management tools. Further analysis needed to understand the impact and dislocation of various entities parking in the Lower Lot including: Residents (Town, Island, and guests), Non-Residents, Goodhue (employees, boat rental customers, dry slip customers, and vendors), AMC (employees and campers), Contractors (employee pick-up), Charter fishing boats (staff and customers), Charter wake surfing boats (staff and customers)
- Discussed Upper lot expansion: car and trailer reached capacities as outlined on attached data sheets. Some trailer parking confusion and inefficient parking due to a

lack of trailer parking signage at the rear of the lot. Trailer parking considerations for size of trucks and trailers and disinterest in unhitching trailers from trucks. Explore buying land for additional parking for trucks and trailers or expand the lot to accommodate them. It was mentioned that there may exist complications for expansion from public/private easement agreement, in the wetlands setback, Meredith Board approvals, usage dates for vehicle parking.

- Considered a stand-alone resident parking sticker in the future given shortcomings of the existing Facilities Use sticker/hang tag system
- Discussion regarding parking fines - \$75 did not deter violators. Consider \$150 per day. This will be brought to the Select Board.
- Consider daily only trailer parking and writing daily trailer parking tickets so trailer parking area is not used as a storage site
- Reviewed Patricia Drive use. No issues in 2025, minimal tickets written. Unease with codifying parking on Patricia was expressed. Patricia Drive rarely used on weekdays. Integral for islanders 8-10 weekend and holiday days. Patricia Drive residents had no parking complaints. The consensus was to revisit this allowance after next year. Recommended No-Parking Sign be put at the top of the road.
- Discussed the uniformity in time allowances for residents' use of the reached capacity with consideration to remove 72-hour car parking limits at the Upper lot. Further analysis needed to understand how this might impact Lower and Upper Lot parking behavior.
- Recommended signage improvements for launch traffic pattern, Lower lot sign visibility at issue, currently located behind the pole
- Public communication with handout and town website was good
- Facility Use sticker and 2025 hang tag should be good for another year. Will order more. Nearly sold-out 500. Will reorder
- Residents need to be notified that their 2025 Hang Tags will be good for 2026 so they should not discard them.

Phase Two: Determine Town goals for Lower Lot parking and work with the State/Fed agencies to see if there is a better way to manage parking usage to achieve Town goals.

Next meeting October 30th, 3 pm. Target date of Nov 10th to present a Summary Of Recommendations to the Select Board to extend the Pilot program for 1 more year before making permanent Ordinance changes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7 pm