

Scarborough Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2026

1. Call to Order & Attendance

Attendees: Jen Ladd (Chair), Craig Robinson, Portia Hirschman, Tuck Barclay, Roger Beeley, Stanis Moody-Roberts, Peter Freilinger (remote), Jon Anderson (Council Liaison)
Staff in Attendance: Angela Blanchette, PE (Town Engineer)

2. Jones Creek Potential Pilot Project

Angela reviewed a proposed pilot project along Jones Creek Drive in the Pine Point area of town. Maine Water is currently wrapping up a water main replacement project within many Pine Point roadways. During this construction activity, the on-street parking has been temporarily eliminated to provide room for the contractor to work. The new water main is being installed within the area of the on-street parking stalls along Jones Creek Dr. Town staff has heard from residents in the Jones Creek neighborhood that bike and pedestrian accommodations are needed, even if it is just pavement along the side of the roadway to allow for space to move throughout the corridor. The water main replacement project gave a unique opportunity to test out a dedicated shoulder to accommodate bike and pedestrian in-lieu of putting the striping back for the parking stalls. If the pilot program does not move forward, the parking would be striped to meet the State requirements of a 20-foot offset from intersections and crosswalks, and the local policy discussed at previous public meetings of 5-foot setback from driveways. By implementing these safety measures the onstreet parking stalls would be reduced from 35 to 19 spaces.

In the fall of 2026 Public Works Department has scheduled the repaving of Jones Creek (as well as other side streets in the area) and at that point the pavement markings will be covered and therefore an opportunity to collect feedback from the public and determine what the permanent condition should be moving forward.

The question is trying to find a balance between parking, safety, and pedestrian accommodations within a limited width public right-of-way.

The Committee has also been sent a letter by a business voicing concerns with eliminating parking in the area. See attached.

The Committee heard comments from Pine Point resident Pat Degon. Ms. Degon, who is also a member of the Pine Point Association (PPA), noted that she was speaking on behalf of herself and several neighboring residents rather than in an official capacity for the PPA.

Ms. Degon discussed concerns regarding pedestrian safety, limited sight distance for vehicles exiting driveways and side streets, and the conflicts that can arise between pedestrian activity and parked vehicles. She noted that the PPA over the years have regularly discussed driveway

sight-distance issues, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and safety concerns along Jones Creek Drive.

Questions were raised regarding parking restrictions in the area, as several nearby streets do not allow parking. Ms. Degon expressed interest in understanding why Jones Creek Drive is treated differently and advocated for a consistent approach to parking regulations, particularly in locations where parking restrictions could improve sight distance and pedestrian safety.

It was also noted that during the construction activity, in the absence of designated parking areas, vehicles are currently parking in an unorganized manner. Town staff indicated they would contact the Police Department to explore the installation of temporary "No Parking" signs to help address the issue in the short term.

Ms. Degon also reported that the Pine Point Association is conducting a survey of its members to better understand resident preferences and gather input on potential parking and safety improvements in the area.

The Committee discussed the Town's recently updated parking ordinance, which prohibits larger vehicles, such as campers and landscape trailers, from utilizing on-street parking spaces in residential zoning districts.

Committee members also discussed the overflow parking lot at Hurd Park. The lot was recently reseeded following work associated with the water main replacement project and is not accessible in the near future. This lot is historically limited in use for when the primary Hurd Park parking lot reaches capacity. The overflow lot is designated as paid parking.

The Committee considered whether the overflow lot could be temporarily utilized as free parking during the proposed demonstration project. However, members noted that because such an arrangement would be temporary, it would be difficult to determine whether the demonstration project itself was successful once the parking lot is no longer used for free parking. It was further noted that converting the overflow area from a temporary (limited use grassed lot) to a permanent parking lot would require State and Federal permits, which could present challenges in this environmentally-sensitive area.

The Town has had previous public conversations regarding the possibility of converting certain Pine Point streets to one-way traffic in order to create additional space for multimodal transportation accommodations. While this concept has been explored in the past, it has not advanced due to concerns expressed by area residents. Committee members acknowledged that the idea could be revisited in the future but would require a broader community discussion and would not be implemented in the near term.

Jen Ladd noted that the purpose of a pilot project is to gather public feedback and evaluate potential improvements using set metrics. She stated that a pilot project allows changes to be tested and, if unsuccessful, easily reverted to previous conditions, while successful outcomes can provide meaningful benefits to the community.

Overall, a majority of Committee members expressed support for implementing a temporary pilot project that would prohibit parking along Jones Creek Drive and establish a dedicated pedestrian area. Members agreed that the pilot project would provide an opportunity to

evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed changes and gather public feedback before considering any permanent modifications.

3. 2026 Transportation-related Council Goals Review

Jon Anderson reviewed the 2026 Council goals related to Transportation and Traffic items. These included the following:

- Develop corridor specific plans to address mobility on Rt 1, Payne Rd, and Gorham Road that considers multi-modal transportation (e.g. Toll structures on 95, Portland West, Reimagine Rt 1, Downs TMP, Sidewalks & Trails master Plan, Complete Streets Toolbox, METRO bus pilot)
- Develop a 20-year (or 10-year) financial plan by the end of the year to fund and respond to the results of the vulnerability assessment, transportation study, parks and facilities Master Plan, open space plan.
- Traffic Calming Policy review with the Transportation Committee
- Black Point Rd at Eastern Rd intersection, review with Transportation Committee.

4. Staff Updates

a. MaineDOT's Rt 1 Marsh Crossing Pilot Project

Town Council has decided that the pilot project will not move forward. The Town would like to continue conversations with Maine DOT to see if there are any alternatives that would allow for bike or ped facilities across the marsh. Staff will be requesting additional meetings with DOT to discuss.

b. Metro Connect expansion of services program

Town Council moved forward with the 3-year pilot with METRO's Micro-transit program. Questions have been raised about additional public meetings. METRO is willing to schedule a public meeting in July to continue the conversation on destinations if the public is asking for that. The pilot initial map is set; however, they are always willing to receive additional feedback to inform the service in the future. METRO will also be at local public events to publicize the program in hopes to increase ridership; including Summerfest, Sustainable Scarborough Day, and Public Library events.

c. East Grand Avenue Complete Streets Project

Town Council removed this CIP from the FY27 budget. Jon asked if there would be any smaller or less costly improvements. Public feedback was an integral part of the process that informed the design. Staff may look for additional design money in future CIP requests to redesign the corridor if that is the direction from Council to find a less costly solution.

d. Scottow Hill Road Project

Grant application has been submitted. The Town expects to hear if we were successful in August. If successful, funding would not be available until January 2027.

e. Eastern Trail Update

Shaw Bros has not provided a finish date. The first deadline for the South Portland section of the trail is October 2026. We believe that the full trail will be completed by that timeframe.

5. Public Comment

During agenda topics. No additional public comments to close the meeting.

Jones Creek Drive Pilot Project

1 message

Susan Clough <susanbayleyclough@gmail.com>

Fri, May 15, 2026 at 2:16 PM

To: ablanchette@scarboroughmaine.org, Tom Hall <thall@scarboroughmaine.org>, janderson@scarboroughmaine.org

Hello Angela, Tom and Jonathan,

I am writing to ask you to share the below information with the rest of the Transportation Committee.

Members of the Transportation Committee,

As business owners in the Pine Point area, we would like to address the pilot project being suggested which will result in removing all thirty-five parking spaces on Jones Creek Drive and replacing them with a bike lane this spring. We are adamantly opposed to the removal of such a large amount of parking in an area that is already underserved by parking and not yet metered.

We understand that there have been some safety concerns raised by people who own homes on that side of Jones Creek Drive, but we would like to suggest that when the lines are repainted after paving has finished this spring, that they simply follow the guidelines already set regarding driveway distances. This will already end in a net loss of sixteen spaces, but not all. We would also like to know how many accidents Public Safety has on record in this area that are due to shortened sight lines. When questioned before about the safety of our traffic circle, we were told that, though it is confusing and some claimed dangerous, that actual accidents were few and far between and so it would not be considered for change.

Importantly, this “pilot project” suggestion comes at a critical time for parking in our area and needs to be considered on a larger canvas. Due to Complete Streets changing the flow on East Grand Avenue, ten parking spaces will be eliminated on that street when the project is finished. Even more importantly, we have been informed that with the departure of Gorham Sand and Gravel from the overflow parking lot for Hurd Park, it will be reseeded and not available for use in the summer of 2026. The net parking loss amounts to nearly a hundred spaces (the grass lot is not marked out, so it varies). Add to that the lack of implementation of paid parking, and we will see the traffic and the pressure on the free parking in Pine Point increased fivefold. Already the parking at Stern Seafood is overwhelmed and a large percentage of the spaces that we lease are

not available to us. If this pilot is to take place, we will need to readdress the parking situation for our business.

Residents of Scarborough and visitors will be severely restricted in their ability to access our beaches. We don't believe that this pilot has been properly vetted with all stakeholders in town, only with a small number of people. Certainly Scarborough residents who don't live in the Pine Point area will see their ability to access our beach severely restricted. At the very least, it should go through a full public process before being implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vincent and Susan Clough
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