

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF BOW MAR, COLORADO
MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING
JULY 11, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: The Town meeting of the Town of Bow Mar was called to order on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 by Mayor Feldkamp. The meeting was held at Centennial Lutheran Church, 3595 W Belleview Avenue, Englewood, CO 80110. A quorum was declared present at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor	Tom Feldkamp
Trustees	Marsha Dennis
	Margo Ramsden
	Jane Carlson
	Doug Champion
	Steve Fabricant
Clerk	Sue Blair
	Angie Kelly
Legal	Dan Harvey

Mayor Feldkamp opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending to share their concerns and thoughts.

Trustee Fabricant provided a brief history of the traffic issues in Bow Mar. Trustee Fabricant noted that this has been a topic of discussion for over 50 years and the Trustees are looking to provide solutions so the traffic concerns can be mitigated. Trustee Fabricant also noted there have been multiple traffic committees over the years that have also reviewed this issue. The current plan is to hire an independent 3rd party company to conduct a traffic study in which the magnitude of the traffic issues will be determined and ideas for solutions will be provided depending on the problems determined. Once that is completed, it will be time to discuss possible solutions and how they impact the Town.

Trustee Ramsden spoke about the process and the fact that the Board will be very transparent through the process of this evaluation. Trustee Ramsden noted that currently there have been no decisions made on what solution will work best, this is the job of the contractor to provide an expert evaluation and solutions. Trustee Ramsden noted that the Trustees want to hear the concerns of the residents now, so the RFP can be developed to address as many concerns as possible.

Public Comment: The following are summarized statements received from residents.

A resident noted that they are concerned that traffic is a continued discussion. They also noted that last time gates were discussed, it was decided they were not the correct solution for the Town. There have been actions taken over the years to help mitigate traffic concerns such as speed bumps, cutting off through streets, etc. but this is still a concern. The resident also noted they do not want to live in a gated community and agrees with the plan to hire an independent consultant to study the issue.

A resident noted they do not want to live in a gated community and feels most of the traffic issues are Bow Mar moms taking kids to and from activities. They also noted that they feel most of the speeding issues are Bow Mar moms through the neighborhood. The resident also noted that they feel the traffic issues are due to more service people coming through the neighborhood than before; such as cleaning people, landscapers, etc.

A resident noted their residence does not face a traffic issue but that they are concerned for their neighbors that do have traffic problems. The resident also noted that they feel safety is a larger concern than traffic. That traffic contributes to the safety concern, but that safety is the larger topic that should be discussed. They noted the upside of gates outweighs the downside of gates.

A resident explained that their family moved to Bow Mar because it is a beautiful community. They purchased near Sheridan and have spent a lot of time picking up trash along the road (alcohol bottles, fast food bags, etc) that they feel the residents of Bow Mar would not be throwing out of their car. The resident noted they feel that the Town is sharing the community with people who do not respect it. The resident also noted that nighttime security is a concern with the easy access to the Town and they feel gates would help mitigate this concern.

A resident expressed concern that their driveway is a thoroughfare for people who seem lost or just need to turn around. Their grandkids play in the driveway and they are very concerned for their safety given the volume of cars that turnaround at their home. The resident also noted they feel the traffic is going to get worse with all of the development in the area. They would like to see the Trustees push the City to open Quincy and Lowell to allow more traffic to use those as cut throughs, instead of Bow Mar.

A resident indicated they feel that the cut through traffic is a huge problem. They also agreed that they sees a lot of alcohol bottles, fast food bags/items, and trash being thrown out of cars and feels this is attributable to the cut through traffic. The resident explained their car had been broken into and 3 attempts have been made to break into their home as they live on a major cut through road. The resident agreed the problem will likely get worse with all of the development happening near the Town. They did note that they feel Bow Mar South has an effective solution. Trustee Fabricant explained that Bow Mar South is not a Town so the regulations are different but the comment was noted.

A resident shared that they have kids and there are a lot of kids in their area of Town. They explained that the safety of the kids is a concern due to the volume of traffic and that the speed bumps have not done much to solve the volume issue. The resident is in favor of a professional study being completed to help provide insight and solutions.

A resident said they have lived on the 2 busiest streets in Town and served on the 1997 traffic committee. They explained that the solutions provided in 1997 were all very expensive and hard to legally accomplish. The resident also indicated they are not against gates but they are not necessarily in favor of them either.

A resident explained that they work at Colorado Academy and deals with safety and maintenance for the school. Their concern is that the Town is paying a lot of money to maintain the roads and a large volume of the traffic degrading the roads is not part of that paying contingency. The resident also noted they are worried about the safety of kids playing in the Town and that they want the Town's money to go toward the right things.

A resident noted they have 4 kids and live on a street that does not see much traffic. However, they are concerned about the traffic cutting through the Town and the safety of the residents as a whole.

A resident said that the traffic on Prospect is an issue and that their driveway is also a popular turn around for people who are lost. They have kids playing in the driveway and the cars turning around is a major concern. They noted that even if they didn't live on a busy street, they are still concerned about the traffic in the Town as a whole for the community. The resident also shared that they were concerned about the security in the Town and solicitors. They have no qualms about gates but would like to see other solutions put forward also.

A resident said the traffic on Wagon Trail is an issue and that they agree with the professional study being completed before any decisions are made about a solution.

A resident explained that their car was stolen from their driveway and the safety of their kids is a major concern. The resident noted that traffic volume makes it unsafe to play outside.

A resident noted that they appreciated an independent 3rd party assessment being done to define the problem before any decisions are made. The resident also expressed concern that the resident of the Town be consulted before any decisions are made and asked if there was a process for approval that the residents could expect? They asked if the Town would hold an election? Or get a formal vote? The resident also noted that they would like the residents to see the outcome of the 3rd party assessment to help define the problem. They also noted that they could not find evidence of another municipality in Colorado gating their community.

A resident said they have lived in Town for 60 years and that the entire Town is affected by the traffic problem. They indicated that the traffic circles help bring down some of the traffic but that it is still an issue. They noted their daughter lives in a gated community and they have no trouble with getting in to see her. The resident noted there have been lots of meetings over the years about this issue and they hope the entire community can come together to find a solution about the traffic problem this time. They said that they like gates as a possible solution.

A resident noted that traffic has always been an issue in the Town. They have lived in Town for many years and the traffic has always been a problem. They also noted that they feel every Town has a concern about traffic and safety. They expressed that they have no desire to live in a gated community and feels it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure kids are safe when outside playing. They raised kids in Town and noted the same concerns were present when their kids were young but feels that gates should not be the solution to this concern. The resident also noted that a lot of people drive through other neighborhoods but do not pay to use their roads.

A resident explained that this same issue came up when they were a Trustee and the crime is not a new issue. They also said they are necessarily for or against gates but that there are many challenges to gates. They also noted that research was done when they were a Trustee and Towns are allowed to gate their roads. The resident also shared that they feel that the residents should be consulted about all the options and the decision.

A resident shared that the traffic has been a problem since 1966 when there was a race track next to Bow Mar. They shared the story of the officer getting shot at when he pulled over a car that was not a Town resident but a fugitive on the run; who was cutting through the Town. The resident shared that they feel there is a problem with traffic and speeding on Lakeshore and that getting a professional study completed is a good idea to find solutions. They noted they are in favor of gates, given the changing times.

A resident noted they appreciate the Trustees transparency and wants to see that continue through this process. They also noted they live just west of the Belleview traffic circle and their driveway also sees a lot of turn around traffic and they are concerned about their kids' safety. The resident noted that they agree with the 3rd party study and would like to see what the meaningful solutions are; they are ok with gates but would like to see options.

A resident said they live on Prospect and they have seen an increase in traffic over the last 8 years. They are also worried about kids' safety and is strongly in favor of gates. They are also strongly in favor of the independent expert providing an evaluation for the Town to consider.

A resident noted they feel the speeding and cut through traffic is an issue. They expressed frustration that the residents of the Town are paying for roads that the cut through traffic does not have to pay for. The resident agreed that a professional study is a good idea and gives the Town ideas to solve the problem. They also noted they had not wanted to live in a gated community but now feels that it would be a good idea for the safety aspect.

A resident explained that they are new to Town and that they moved there with the hope to live in an area where the family can be outside carefree. They are nervous about the traffic and their kids driving through Town in cars and golf

carts. They also expressed concern about the development happening around Bow Mar and how that will affect the traffic volume. They also felt gates could help property values.

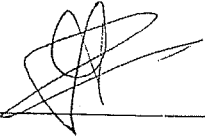
A resident noted that they are more concerned about crime than traffic. They are in favor of a professional study but would like to see crime issues included in that study. The resident also expressed they do not want a solution to be done half-way. They want to ensure that a decision for a solution is carried out to the fullest. If the Town shifts traffic from one entrance to the other, no true solution has been found.

A resident said they are hearing two issues: traffic and security. They feel that the issues should not be folded together and would like to see crime statistics evaluated also so the two issues can be fully evaluated separately. They felt that gates would not keep people from walking into the community and may not help solve the crime issue.

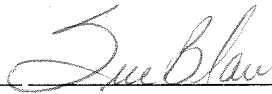
A resident provided a written statement on behalf of BMOI: "As the BMOI rep, please pass on our continued concern over security. BMOI spends a ton of time, money, and aggravation keeping no-members off the beach because the neighborhood is not gated. As a resident, I want the cut through traffic to stop – it's only getting worse. Theft and home invasions are occurring at an increasing rate. Needs to stop and I don't really care if we have to fight Denver County to make it happen."

Mayor Feldkamp thanked everyone for the comments. It was noted that the next step would be to provide a summary of the meeting and find a consultant to conduct the study. The residents will be provided the results of the study and another meeting will be scheduled once that study is complete.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Tom Feldkamp, Mayor



Sue Blair, Town Clerk