


From: sam dunn samdunn184@gmail.com 
Subject: Fwd: VTA Bus Circle
Date: June 10, 2023 at 11:27 AM
To: Rich Saltzberg saltzberg@mvcommission.org

SD

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>
Date: Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 7:11 AM
Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle
To: Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>, Christopher Habekost <chabekost@tisburyma.gov>, John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>, William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>, Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>, sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>

Et al.

I personally think this issue should be discussed and voted on by the Select Board, I will discuss this further with Jay.
Roy Cutrer

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From: Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 11:33:40 AM
To: Christopher Habekost <chabekost@tisburyma.gov>; Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle

Dear Roy,

I had originally found the bus stop to be in bad condition during the climate week beach cleanup back in April with over 3000 cigarette butts picked up, two broken/loose bollards and a broken bench on the beach aide and suggested pressure washing the area and painting/repairing the bollards. Due to the design of the shelters four completely enclosed sides, although it's good for the rain it invites loitering of the homeless. I drove by today at 0900 while picking up a contractor at the ferry and found two with baggage. I also think another cigarette container may be good to have there.

I had a conversation recently with a female that is homeless that lives in a tent in town who told me more of the issues at hand with the area and more about being homeless as a female and scared of getting assaulted. I also had a separate interaction with the homeless at Cumberland Farms trying to pet my dog and he growled at them as they kept trying to put their hands in my vehicle to pet him. I had to tell them to back up and leave my dog alone.

I had an informal conversation with the Chief and LT at the Memorial Day Parade about this issue and was under the impression everyone knew about it as there are often living in the woods near DPW/ veteran's park/cumbies and hanging at the bus stops. Showering at Owen Park etc.

One idea I had that nonprofits offer other places is laundering of the homeless clothing. Without a year-round shelter and those struggling with substance use disorder this is unfortunately the situation we are in.

What are the nonprofits involved and is there any homeless liaison that does outreach to these individuals?

The police are usually on the front lines due to complaints etc. is there a way to pull the records to see how many complaints there are?

The bus stop needs some love and attention as it is the entry point. I will be more communicative about this issue going forward.

Christina Colarusso
Tisbury Select Board
CColarusso@tisburyma.gov

From: Christopher Habekost <cnabekost@tisburyma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:46:30 AM
To: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle

Hi Roy,

There are more homeless people loitering in this area and they are much more uncooperative than they were previously, we would like to address the problem more comprehensively than we have in the past to keep it from becoming more of a problem. Posting signs puts the violators on notice and shows the public that the town has recognized the problem and is serious about resolving it. If you have any other suggestions for how to address this issue, we are open to further discussion.

Chief Christopher Habekost
Tisbury Police Department
32 Water Street, PO Box 426
Tisbury, MA 02568
Office: 508-696-4240 ext-601
Fax: 508-693-5543
chabekost@tisburyma.gov

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From: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:36 AM
To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>; William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Christopher Habekost <chabekost@tisburyma.gov>; sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle

Et Al,
Can someone tell me where this concern came from? What has changed that we need to post no loitering signs at the bus stop and a SSA?

Roy Cutrer
Tisbury Select board
Chair

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From: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:40:28 AM
To: William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>

William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Christopher Habekost <chabekost@tisburyma.gov>; sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle

Since Angie is providing funding for the signs, she asked if I approve it essentially. I am not comfortable doing so at this time. I defer to select board. I have other questions and on vacation. If on steamship authority land, their call.

Jay

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From: William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 9:19 AM

To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>

Cc: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>; Christopher Habekost <chabekost@tisburyma.gov>; sam dunn <samdunn184@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: VTA Bus Circle

Good morning Everyone,

Signage isn't required to enforce the law, but it is extremely helpful when it is clearly posted, and the offenders can read it for themselves and understand the consequences. It has become a problem because we have a homeless population on the island, with little to no resources here to deal with it, that is a whole other topic, of which we have been to many meetings around the island with different groups and agencies looking for a solution. There are people living all around the island, in tents, and when they are asked to leave, they move on to another area or another town. Most times, when Officers go to the bus stop and other areas, the folks are compliant and move along. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case, and some become belligerent. We have one person down there who has stated that there isn't any signage and that he doesn't have to leave. This makes things more difficult for our Officers in these situations but being able to direct his attention to a sign would be very helpful. I have spoken with Todd Falvey from the Steamship Authority and forwarded him the signage proposal. The SSA has reviewed the signage with their legal department, and it was approved. The signs are being made as we speak and will be posted both inside and outside EVERY SSA facility, a simple easy solution, they love it because they deal with similar problems at all of their terminals both on and off-island. I have also spoken with Angie Gompert as you have seen in her email. She is planning on installing the signs at the Edgartown bus area and doesn't need permission from anyone to do so there. It is a simple request to have the signs posted. It will really be helpful to us as we deal with those who are not cooperative. I would be happy to bring any of you down there to meet the uncooperative ones in person to see what I am talking about; it isn't very pleasant, but it is part of our responsibility and something we deal with every day as Police Officers. We haven't seen a need to bring these concerns to the Select Board as this is something we deal with on a regular basis and most times we don't have any issues. Recently, however, as I stated, some of these folks are becoming more difficult. Bottom line is that it will make our jobs easier and your support on posting the signs will benefit those folks who utilize the VTA, and assist us in doing our job in keeping the area free and clear of vagrants, littering, public intoxication, urinating and defecating in the area, etc. This is where folks come off the ferry

ultimately and detaching in the area, etc. This is where folks come on the ferry, anything to assist us is greatly appreciated. We would only need 1 sign posted on each of the bus shelters. I don't believe it needs to be voted on to move ahead, Angie just needs an ok. Thank you all for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Bill Brigham

Lieutenant William P. Brigham
Tisbury Police Department
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Phone: 508-696-4240 ext. 606
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From: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 8:34 AM
To: William Brigham <wbrigham@tisburyma.gov>
Cc: Roy Cutrer <rcutrer@tisburyma.gov>; John Cahill <jcahill@tisburyma.gov>; Christina Colarusso <ccolarusso@tisburyma.gov>; Elena DeFoe <edefoe@tisburyma.gov>
Subject: Fwd: VTA Bus Circle

Is signage required to enforce? Why has this become a problem? Those are my questions upon my return.

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From: Angie Gompert <angie@vineyardtransit.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 10:36:40 AM
To: John Grande, Town Administrator <jgrande@tisburyma.gov>
Subject: FW: VTA Bus Circle

Hi Jay,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying some time off. I've been chatting with TPD regarding the frequent usage of the bus stop by folks with no transit destination, rather they are hanging out and certainly a bit intimidating to many actual users of the bus system. Before I put up the attached signage, I'd like to confirm that you, on behalf of the Select Board are in agreement. I'd also like to correct that the VTA did contribute money towards the cost of the shelters, but the Town actually owns them.

The VTA is in concurrence with the signage and will be likely be installing these in Edgartown as well.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
Angie Gompert, Administrator
Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority
11 A Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
508-693-9440 ext 110
508-693-9953 (fax)
www.vineyardtransit.com



From: William Brigham [mailto:wbrigham@tisburyma.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 8:42 AM
To: Angie Gompert
Cc: Christopher Habekost; TPD Command
Subject: VTA Bus Circle

Good morning Angie,

I spoke with Kirk Metell who informed me that the 2 bus stop shelters at the circle belong to the VTA. He said that the Tisbury DPW does try and keep them clean and also removes the graffiti when it appears. I have attached the No Loitering notice here for you to review. I also sent this to Todd Falvey at the Steamship Authority, and he had the SSA attorneys review it, and it was approved. He is having the signs made and they will be placing them at all of their ferry terminals inside and out in Vineyard Haven, Oak Bluffs, and Woods Hole. We also checked with the District Attorney's Office to be sure it is a statute we can apply to both the SSA and VTA bus areas and we were told that it is good. If you want to put these signs on the bus shelters, that is something that the VTA would need to do, and then we will be happy to enforce it. Since you own the shelters, I don't think you need any approval to do so. We don't plan on using it to arrest groups of people lingering around the terminal, but rather we want it posted in public so that the folks that tend to hang around there are put on

notice that they could be arrested if they choose to linger, they can read it for themselves. Having these signs in place will allow us to at least have an option if necessary. Feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Best,

Bill

Lieutenant William P. Brigham
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