

Traffic Advisory Committee minutes for Tuesday, January 20, 2004

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, L. Nickens, A. Masciari, T. Riley, T. Turner, and P. Curro; Tom Gatzunis, Director of Community Development, K. Hamilton, BPD; Andy McClurg, Planning Board/Trapelo Road Corridor Design Committee; T. Higgins, Senior Planner; W. Brownsberger, Selectman.

Absent: T. Olsen, M. Gavin

Also attending; M. D'Andrea, P. Marinelli,

7:05 p.m. Meeting called to order

Administrative items:

- Minutes from previous TAC meetings. After reviewing the minutes from 12-03-03, TR moved that the TAC accept them without revision. Seconded by LN, the motion passed 5-0.

Report from W. Brownsberger, Office of Selectmen (7:07 p.m.)

- Discussion of long-range pavement management/capital budget plan. Expressed desire to formulate a "forward-looking plan to tackle problem areas."
- Create a priority list of projects to present to Capital Budget Committee annually.
- Discuss strategies for bringing high-priority projects into the annual budget discussions.
- TG reported that state Chapter 90 funds have been cut to \$150K/yr., meaning that little money is available for project design studies.

Paolo Marinelli asked whether "Seven dangerous intersections" project received any design funds from the Commonwealth. TG stated that no funds were obtained from MHD for that project.

Report from Andy McClurg, Planning Board (7:59 p.m.)

- AMcC discussed the process by which a committee recommendation makes its way to the BoS. He recommends that for the Trapelo/Belmont corridor, that much of the planning be handled by TAC.
- A major question to be resolved is: How many lanes of traffic should be supported on Trapelo Rd.?
- T. Higgins proposed that a small amount of money (~\$10K) be sought from '04 Town Meeting for a pilot design of a short segment (100 ft.?) of the corridor.

(8:20 p.m.) TAC discusses the plan of action on the Trapelo Rd design project. Consensus view is that immediate proposals are not urgent, and that building consensus slowly with the various constituent groups will pay dividends. AMcC suggested that The state Development Office should be an integral element to Trapelo Rd corridor planning, since road way and local economic development are inextricably linked.

(8:40 p.m.) MF proposes that the Town move immediately to place the Trapelo project on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to help obtain funding for design. AMcC felt that lack of a detailed plan will not jeopardize TIP status. TG concurs that getting the project on the TIP is the first priority, because design funds will be crucial. AMcC proposed to bundle the \$10K Town money with the off-site public way expenses to be contributed by the CVS development on Trapelo Rd. to hire a design consultant with the goal of getting on the TIP. AMcC will make a motion to the Planning Board to recommend a process (that includes the TAC) for moving forward on the Trapelo Rd. project.

(8:55 p.m.) KH states that traffic counts will be needed for the entire corridor, which will be costly. KH thinks that 25 volunteers will be needed to assess "turning motions", while mechanical "tube counts" will be adequate to measure volumes.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Mayja Frisoli 3/11/04