

Traffic Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting October 8, 2009

Members present: Linda Nickens, Peter Curro, Larry Macdonald, Tomi Olson, Ron Sacca, Glenn Clancy, and Sgt. Kevin Shea.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM by Linda Nickens, Vice Chair

Wellington School Traffic Discussion:

GC: The Planning Board has set on site parking at 80 spaces. He then spoke about funding and pavement management concerns including improved sidewalks, raised crosswalks and traffic calming. TAC has a heavy focus on pedestrian safety with traffic calming as a pedestrian amenity rather than speed control. He cited the use of raised crosswalks at the Winn Brook School on Cross Street, Bright Road and at the Butler School. The intersection of Cottage Street and School Street may warrant the use of a raised crosswalk. School Street and Goden Street needs to be mitigated for pedestrian safety. Orchard Street has many concerns that need to be addressed. It is not yet known how traffic and parking on Orchard will be addressed. There are to alternate proposals to be studied. Also, there are sidewalk concerns on both Cottage and Myrtle Streets. He discussed the pros and cons of neckdowns and roundabouts using the intersection of Beech Street and White Street as an example. A wide right turn has to be made from Beech Street to White Street. Ann Paulsen, resident, commented on traffic making left turns from School Street to Myrtle Street and on the speed of cars on Myrtle and School Streets. TAC feels that final mitigation of concerns and issues might not be done until School Street is reconstructed, which will not happen until after the new Wellington School is completed. Temporary steps at traffic control and pedestrian safety would be implemented. TAC would have to react to Planning Board actions. Robert Morvillo expressed concerns about parking and traffic flow on Orchard Street. He spoke about the Draft VHB Traffic and Parking Study. GC then spoke about the Planning Board and site improvement process. He mentioned other interested groups such as the Ad Hoc Parking Committee, Capital Budget Committee, Wellington Building Committee, BOS and the School Committee. Who will take ownership of various components of the Wellington Project? Laurie Graham, School Committee member, said that the School Superintendent had met with both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief to address safety concerns. Dana Miller, resident, questioned whether further studies from the various boards will/could hold up the Wellington Project. John Kolterman, resident, wondered about rebuilding Orchard Street and Glendale Road as part of the project. GC said that more money would be needed to fund road projects. The citizens of Belmont tuned down the roads override. Tomi Olson, TAC, reminded we had to include the increase of pre-school students.

Dana Miller, resident, spoke about concerns of keeping playspace and greenspace at required levels. Ann Paulsen, resident, talked about the 4 Way Stop sign at the School Street and Goden Street intersection. She mentioned other 4 Way Stop locations in the area. GC said that School and Washington has volume and visibility issues, Fairview Avenue and School Street has safety issues as a primary concern. The School and Goden Streets intersection warrants a 4 Way Stop, the problem is how to implement it, because of the unique off-centered intersection. It will happen as soon as engineers can come up with design that will work. Ron Sacca, TAC, suggested that the architectural plans for the Wellington Project show intersecting ways and driveways in the surrounding neighborhood.

Falmouth Street/Unity Avenue Discussion:

Glenn Clancy read letter from residents. They are looking for a barricade at Unity Avenue and Park Road. This is to prevent traffic from using Falmouth Street and Unity Avenue as a shortcut to avoid the traffic lights at Belmont Street and Grove Street. They feel that traffic is going at a high rate of speed through the neighborhood and there are a lot children present. Sgt. Kevin Shea stated that the Traffic Studies do not support. Documentation was provided to the members of TAC. After a brief discussion it was decided that there be no action on the petition. No residents present.

Chester Road/Carlton Road School Zone Study Discussion:

This was a follow up to a previous discussion. After discussion it was moved by Tomi Olson, with a 2nd by Ron Sacca to approve Chester Road/Carlton Road as a school zone with signage to be determined after follow up by Glenn Clancy and Sgt. Kevin Shea.

Glenn Clancy then updated TAC on the Blanchard Road Project by the City of Cambridge.

Hermon Street/Knox Street Traffic Issues Discussion:

This is in response to letter from Ann Healy of 32 Hermon Street on her behalf and her neighbors. They are asking for "no turns" and "dead end" signs to be posted to prevent people from changing direction on Park Avenue by turning into Knox/Hermon. Action, further study will be made by GC, Sgt. Shea and TAC.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurence P. Macdonald, Acting Secretary

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Residents Present October 8, 2009

Lucy Pullen 83 School Street Belmont WBC

Heidi (last name illegible) 38 Hillcrest Road Belmont WBC

Laurie Graham 27 Grove Street Belmont WBC

Eric Smith 44 Pequossette Road Belmont WBC

John Kolterman 107 Orchard Street Belmont

Dan (last name illegible) 79 School Street Belmont

Dana Miller 41 Myrtle Street Belmont

Anne Paulsen 90 School Street Belmont

Robert Morvillo 116 Orchard Street Belmont WBC

Thomas Battle 106 Orchard Street Belmont