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Town of Belmont, MA
Traffic Advisory Committee (T.A.C.)

Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2012

Members present: Peter Curro, Larry MacDonald (Vice Chair), Don Mercer, Dana Miller (Clerk), Linda Nickens (Chair), and Tomasina Olsen.

Ex-Officio Members present: Sgt. Benjamin Mailhot, BPD

Also present: Catherine Stolberg, 127 Brookside Avenue, Harry Aroyian, 337 Mill St.

Linda called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

The committee unanimously approved the minutes of the October, 2012 meeting.

The Intersection of Mill Street and Concord Avenue:

Ben explained that, following the recent installation of a "No Left Turn" sign on Mill Street at the intersection, the town received multiple complaints. Some people believe that, while the sign increases safety at the intersection, it needs more enforcement. Others assert that the sign reduces safety.

Linda reviewed the town's previous attempt to resolve traffic safety issues at this intersection and the plan that was developed to reconfigure the intersection. In the end, this plan was not pursued because a resident objected.

Harry Aroyian, who owns the gas station at the intersection, recounted his observation of the innumerable cars that recklessly drive through his gas station and race across the intersection. Mr. Aroyian has been grazed by cars that illegally drive across his gas station property.

In response to Linda's question, Sergeant Mailhot and Mr. Aroyian agreed that a time-restriction on the "No Left Turn" sign would not be likely to improve safety at the intersection.

The committee discussed various ways that the intersection could be reconfigured. One approach would involve a re-design of the intersection so that Mill and Concord would meet in a T. Another approach would involve eliminating the part of Mill Street that borders Mr. Aroyian's property—so that Mill and Concord intersect only once. A three-way stop at the intersection was also discussed.

Committee members were concerned that traffic be prevented from driving across Mr. Aroyian's property. Committee members suggested that the town could test proposed traffic changes at the intersection with the use of cones and barrels.

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In response to voiced concerns about budget constraints, Catherine ~~Stahler~~^{STALBERG} suggested that the town simply shave a bit off the island to achieve an intersection better approximating a T. Catherine suggested that the improvement in the line of sight might be considerable with only a minor adjustment to the island.

The TAC concluded its discussion of the Mill Street-Concord Avenue intersection by agreeing that Glenn should explore engineering options and implications, and budgetary considerations, for remedying traffic risk at this intersection.

Mill Street by the Victory Garden:

Catherine explained that cars travelling on Mill Street, from Lexington towards Watertown, tend to gain speed as they pass the intersection with Concord Avenue. The cars crest the hill picking up speed and do not put on their brakes as they begin down the hill by the Victory Garden. Catherine pointed out that there is no speed limit posted on the road and that there is a pedestrian crosswalk by the victory garden. Catherine asked that a "Thickly Settled, 30mph" sign be installed on the southbound side of Mill Street.

After discussing other possible remedies to the speeding on this part of Mill Street, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that a "Thickly Settled, 30mph" sign be installed at the crest of the hill, before the pedestrian crosswalk, on the southbound side of Mill Street.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 13pm

Respectfully submitted, Dana Miller, Clerk