

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

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BELMONT, MA

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Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2013

Members present: Dana Miller (Clerk), Linda Nickens (Chair), and Matt Sullivan.

Ex-Officio Members present: Glenn Clancy (Town Engineer) Sargent Benjamin Mailhot (Belmont Police Department), and Andy Rojas (Vice Chair, Belmont Board of Selectmen)

Also present: Town resident, Sheila Flewelling.

Linda called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. As a quorum was not present, the Committee met on an informal basis.

Minutes: The discussion and vote on the June 20, 2013 minutes will be postponed until the next official meeting of the T.A.C.

Lexington and Sycamore Streets: Sheila Flewelling came to the meeting to thank Glenn and the Committee for the improvements that have been made at the intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Streets. Sheila reports that pruning the trees and bushes has greatly improved visibility. In addition, the change of the light timing has transformed the traffic at the intersection and resulted in much greater safety for drivers and pedestrians.

Four-Way Stop Locations: The T.A.C. will be looking into ways to improve pedestrian and automobile safety at the intersections of Slade and Upland, Oakly and Payson, Gilbert and Creely, and Waterhouse and Sherman.

Goden Street and the Newly Paved Roads: In response to a resident's concerns, the Belmont Police Department will conduct a speed study to assess the automobile traffic on Goden Street. Glenn will contact the resident to explain the speed study and its results.

Wellington School: Complaints have been made about student drop offs in the little parking lot and about cars taking left turns out of the lot. Law prohibits both.

New Business: Linda presented a resident's letter about traffic and parking related to the Wellington School. The Committee discussed the possible need for signs on Common Street to prevent parking there during school drop-off and pick-up.

Winter Street: Glenn has planned some road grinding and overlays to make the road smoother.

Police Department Enforcement of Traffic Law: The Belmont Police Department has obtained grants that it has used to enforce laws concerning pedestrian cross walks. The police department has also used grant funds to promote seatbelt use and to discourage drunk driving and texting while driving.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Miller, Clerk

Approved 12/12/13



Traffic Advisory Committee

TOWN OF BELMONT

19 Moore Street
Homer Municipal Building
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-0900
Telephone: (617) 993-2650 Fax: (617) 993-2651

Linda Nickens, Chair
Laurence Macdonald, Vice Chair
Dana Miller, Clerk

Committee Members
Peter Curro
Donald Mercier
Tommasina Olson
Matt Sullivan

Date: October 3, 2013
To: Members – Traffic Advisory Committee
From: Linda Nickens, Chair
Subject: Agenda for Meeting on **Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM** in **Town Hall Conference Room 2**. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Linda via e-mail.

7:00 Call to Order
7:00 – 7:05 Minutes (6/20/2013)
7:05 – 7:30 Four Way Stop Locations
Preliminary Discussion (Town Engineer to report)
7:30 – 7:40 Goden Street and Newly Paved Roads
Speeding Compliants
7:40 – 7:45 New Business
• No Known Items
7:45 – 7:55 Old Business
• ✓ Winter Street Update
• ✓ Lexington and Sycamore Update
• ✓ Wellington School Update
7:55 Adjourn

SLADE / UPLAND.
SHIMON / LATHAM.
SHIMON / CROSBY -

- AMY SPANOLA
• ALL SAINTS
• PARKING LOT (RIGHT SIDE)

Cc: Board of Selectmen – Andy Rojas
David Kale, Town Administrator
Glenn R. Clancy, Town Engineer
Sgt Ben Mailhot, Belmont Police Department
Richard McLaughlin, Belmont Police Chief
Peter Castanino, Director, Department of Public Works
Karl Haglund, Planning Board

Clancy, Glenn

From: Benjamin Mailhot [bmailhot@belmontpd.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Clancy, Glenn
Cc: chief@belmontpd.org
Subject: RE: TAC - No September Meeting
Glenn,

I have a few issues that have been brewing over the last few weeks. I've been telling people that TAC will be meeting again in the fall and that they should write a letter to TAC to formally state their problem but I don't know if any of them did or not. The problem areas that I have received complaints about are Waverley Street (Speeding & Crosswalk), Irving Street (concerns about speed after new pavement), Slade Street & Upland Road (4-Way Stop Sign request for visibility and safety concerns). I was going to go over the basics of these problems at the meeting but if were pushing it off to October I'll have time to type up a brief description of each problem to give the TAC members. If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,

Ben

Benjamin J. Mailhot
Sergeant - Traffic & Records Division
Belmont Police Department
460 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Emergency Call 911
Phone: 617-993-2538
Email: bmailhot@belmontpd.org

From: Clancy, Glenn [mailto:gclancy@belmont-ma.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 1:38 PM
To: Clancy, Glenn; sinasina30@yahoo.com; lcnickens@verizon.net; pfcirro@gmail.com; Dana Miller; mattsull74@yahoo.com; michael.s.bair@gmail.com; mercierbj@verizon.net; Laurence Macdonald
Cc: Paolillo, Mark; Hebert, Kellie; McLaughlin, Richard; Castanino, Peter; Karl Haglund; bmailhot@belmontpd.org
Subject: TAC - No September Meeting

Good afternoon TAC members:

We have no issues to discuss so there will be no September Meeting.

Thanks, Glenn

10/3/2013

Clancy, Glenn

From: Ian Todreas [Ian.Todreas@erg.com]
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 11:46 AM
To: Clancy, Glenn; chief@belmontpd.org
Subject: Goden St

Good morning gentlemen,

Just wanted to share with you an observation: I am frightened by the speed of vehicles charging up GODEN ST while kids are biking up that hill on their way to Chenery in the morning--7:30AM ish. A lot of vehicles look like they are contractors, landscapers, etc. (not necessarily parents or buses). Many of these middle school bikers look to be a bit wobbly, which makes it even worse.

Any way we can get some monitoring/enforcement, extra signage, sharrows or something to help?

On the plus side, the biking trend is strong and growing. The bike racks at Chenery are mostly full on nice weather days.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ian

Ian Todreas, Vice President
ERG
160 State Street, 9th Fl
Boston, MA 02109
617-357-4623
ian.todreas@erg.com

bet. Orchard & Goden

Dear Linda Nickens,

I saw in Belmont Patch that there's a Traffic Advisory Board meeting tonight to discuss speeding on newly paved roads. You were very helpful two years ago to those of us who live on Orchard St who bear the heavy traffic from the new Wellington School. Speeding on Orchard St. has gotten exponentially worse since the repaving.

Thank you *so much* for examining this issue. I never thought we'd long to have all those pot holes back!

A few notes for tonight's meeting (I'll be out of town):

- **Morning speeding between 6:30 and 8am:** Orchard St used to be "Do Not Enter" at Common St. from 7am to 3pm; now it's from 8am to 4pm. So we get a lot of speeders going from Common St. toward Goden St. to avoid School St lights and stop signs. Some are commuters, some are driving to the high school. This is at a time when many high school and middle schoolers are walking to school on Orchard, and some early arrivals to Wellington. Can we change it back to 7am?

- **Need a lane marker:** There's no line painted down the middle of the street -- this makes some people think it's one way, and they get annoyed when they drive in the middle and meet a driver going the other way. Can we get a line painted down the middle?

- **Unintended consequence of closing School Street at Cottage St** from 8 to 9 and 2 to 4 for cars traveling toward Waverly Sq: Cars and trucks travelling from Goden toward Common St jump off School St and take Orchard exactly when the school rush hour is at its worst. Every day several trucks from Purecoat, many garbage trucks, and UPS, etc use Orchard St as a trucking lane, because School St becomes one way at Cottage and they can't get through to Waverly.

- **School buses speeding:** Large yellow school buses use Orchard St when the plan we all signed off on said they would arrive and depart Wellington on School St, never on Orchard St. Two buses go down Orchard St at 8:10 am at about 35 MPH and again at 3:05 pm. They are supposed to use School St for all arrivals and departures.

- **Need better signage:** Orchard St. is not posted as School Zone, Slow, 20MPH for drivers travelling from Common St. to Goden St. Can we add traffic

signs for cars travelling in that direction? Now that it's a cut through until 8am and after 4pm, while students are arriving early, and staying late for after care, and pedestrians use Orchard St to go to and from the high school -- we need better signage to slow traffic in both directions.

- **Garbage trucks:** Russell trash pickups going to the school drive way over 30MPH. The ones picking up our trash and recycling go really slowly because they stop at each house. The ones for the Wellington race down the length of Orchard St.

- **Wellington teachers** drive really fast on their way to work, mostly from Goden St. to Common St. Have talked to the principal about it.

For the following issues, I will also email the new head of the Wellington School before and aftercare program. They apparently didn't get the traffic plan that we all agreed to where Before and Aftercare programs would use the large parking lot, never the smaller one near neighbors. Speeding is a big problem with parents dropping off and picking up at this program.

- **Wellington aftercare pickups:** Parents picking children up at Wellington aftercare make the street a total speedway from 5 to 6pm -- it's especially bad between ~5:30 and 6pm. Some of them exit the parking lot on Orchard (instead of School St -- it's posted do not exit on Orchard), and repeat the race back down Orchard St.

Idea: Can we open the Wellington parking lot entrance on School St. for parents picking up between 5pm and 6pm?

- **Wellington before school dropoffs** are taking place between 7am and 8:30 in the small handicap van lot across from #116 Orchard St, which is marked Do Not Enter/Staff Only. We were promised that there would be no parent drop offs or pickups in this lot -- that it would be fire access and handicap vans only. When you leave the small lot, it says Right Turn Only - most parents disregard this and take a left turn toward Goden Street. This is happening at the same time kids are walking to chenery and the high school, teachers are arriving, and commuters are cutting through.

Thanks for listening,

Margaret Waters
Orchard Street

Clancy, Glenn

From: Benjamin Mailhot [bmailhot@belmontpd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 8:52 AM
To: 'Mitch Hanley'
Cc: Clancy, Glenn; traffic@belmontpd.org
Subject: RE: Payson Speedway

Mr. Hanley,

Payson Road is a thickly settled area and according to MGL Chapter 90, Section 17, has a speed limit of 30 MPH. This is the standard applied across most of the Town of Belmont, and most of the Commonwealth as well. The white and black speed limit signs are covered under MGL Chapter 90, Section 18, and require a lot of requirements, which are cost-prohibitive for the Town, in order for them to be installed.

What I can do is conduct a speed study on a portion of Payson Road and see what the average speed is on the street. If the results indicate that there is a problem we will address that problem accordingly. There is a possibility if speed is proven to be a problem that yellow and black warning signs that say "Thickly Settled 30 MPH" could be installed if approved by the Traffic Advisory Committee.

The intersection of Payson and Oakley is a separate issue. According to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which the Town of Belmont follows on all new traffic signs, there are certain requirements that must be met to install 4-Way Stop Signs. 4-Way Stop Signs are not supposed to be installed to counter speeding on a street but rather to improve the safety of an intersection due to visibility or other factors.

I recommend that you write a letter to the Traffic Advisory Committee about your request for 4-Way Stop Signs at the intersection of Oakley & Payson. That is the first step to get the ball rolling on that issue. For more information on TAC please visit their website:
http://www.town.belmont.ma.us/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_BComm/tac

If you have any other questions or concerns you may contact me via email or the phone number below.

Regards,

Sgt. Mailhot

Benjamin J. Mailhot
Sergeant - Traffic & Records Division
Belmont Police Department
460 Concord Avenue
Belmont, MA 02478

Emergency Call 911
Phone: 617-993-2538
Email: bmailhot@belmontpd.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitch Hanley [mailto:meh173@mail.harvard.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 8:15 AM
To: traffic@belmontpd.org
Subject: Payson Speedway

Dear Sgt Mailhot,

I live on Payson Rd and have concerns about the speed at which cars and commercial vehicles drive on my street during all hours of the day. The drivers of these cars and trucks, however, are not completely to blame because, as I have observed, there are no speed limit signs posted anywhere along Payson Rd. I think it's obvious to everyone that Payson is a clever way to avoid the Common/Trapelo intersection. But these vehicles are racing down Payson at speeds which are a hazard to the many children who live on the street. My request is that some speed limit signs go up, and if that doesn't deter the speeding (unlikely), some police monitoring of the traffic.

My second comment is about the intersection at Payson and Oakley. Although there is a sign warning that the intersection is a "Dangerous Intersection," not only the speed of cars traveling down Oakley (which do not have a stop sign), but also the difficulty in seeing these cars with the angles of the intersection (going east on Payson), and the stop line set back to prevent sufficient sight lines (going west on Payson). I am not sure if this is a request to be made of you, or the city, but I really think this needs to be a 4-way stop.

Many thanks,
Mitch Hanley
63 Payson Rd