

Town of Belmont, MA

Traffic Advisory Committee (T.A.C.)

2015 NOV 10 AM 9:07

Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2015

Members Present: Joe Griffin, Larry Macdonald (Vice Chair), Don Mercier, Dana Miller (Clerk), Tomi Olson, Matt Sullivan.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Glenn Clancy (Town Engineer), Sargent Benjamin Mailhot (Belmont Police Department). Jim Williams (Belmont Board of Selectmen) was also present at the beginning of the meeting.

Also Present: Don Becker (legal representative for a resident), 35 Horne Road; Mary Beekman, 18 Kilburn Road; Alison (President of the Tennis Club) and John Borelli, 290 School Street; Arline Davis, 18 Blake Street; Debra Deutsch, 56 Hull Street; Lou Graham, 254 Waverly Street; Anders Busse Jensen, 63 Kilburn Road; John and Sandra Occhino, 18 Hull Street; Heather Nahas, 21 Blake Street; Sameul S. Robinson, 88 Kilburn Road; Jeff Roth, 78 Watson Road; George Sareraund, 14 Hull Street; Ligang Zhang and Wen Liu, 33 Hull Street.

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Blake Street: Mr. Clancy explained that, after the TAC passed a motion to install a sign prohibiting parking within 35 feet of the intersection of Blake Street and Kilburn Road, he received communications from additional residents that were also concerned about parking in the neighborhood and from the President of the Belmont Tennis Club, who opposed the new parking prohibition. Mr. Clancy arranged for this evening's hearing so that those concerned could discuss the parking prohibition.

The club president read information about the Tennis club and then discussed at length her disagreements with one resident about on-street parking. The TAC reminded the club president that it was inappropriate to repeatedly refer to a resident by name. Multiple residents reported that tennis club members were rude and hostile to the residents. Multiple residents also reported their concerns about emergency vehicles making their way down Blake Street and Kilburn Road when cars were parked at the side of the road. One resident and her lawyer expressed concern about the road's pinch point, where the road is constrained by a tree opposite 18 Blake Street. The lawyer asked the TAC to protect the safety of the neighborhood residents by limiting on-street parking at the pinch point so emergency vehicles can access the residences.

As Sargent Mailhot had suggested in the March 12, 2015 meeting, Mr. Griffin suggested that parking on Blake Street be restricted to one side of the street so that emergency vehicles can access the street.

TAC members wondered if the tree opposite 18 Blake Street is healthy or not and whether it is on town or private property. One resident reported that the tree regularly loses large branches.

Public discussion of this topic ended at 7:48pm. The TAC moved to re-affirm its decision that a "No Parking" sign be installed on Blake Street, 35 feet from the intersection with Kilburn. The TAC also moved that the town evaluate the tree opposite 18 Blake Street to determine if it is healthy and if it is on town property. Further, the TAC recommended that the town fire department evaluate Blake Street and Kilburn Road to determine if emergency vehicles can access the roads with cars parked on one or both sides of the road. Finally, the TAC agreed that Glenn will send out notices to residents in this area for a hearing to be held in the fall to discuss the possibility of restricting parking to one side of the street on both Blake Street and Kilburn Road.

Hull Street (8:08pm): Residents reported that the two-hour parking restriction near the intersection of Trapelo Road is not enforced. As a result, some cars are parked all day and cars coming from opposite directions cannot pass each other on the street. Residents reported that cars park over the berm and on lawns. Mr. MacDonald observed that cars also park on the gas station driveway, despite the "No Parking" sign posted there. Sargent Mailhot will have enforcement officers check the area.

Jeff Roth and Bicycles in Belmont (8:20pm): Mr. Roth advocated for measures to make Belmont safer for bicyclists. He asked about covered bike parking and spoke about a MAPC grant program that provides discounted rates for these covered racks. He also asked about plans for bike lanes on Belmont roads. Mr. Clancy suggested that the town public works manager would need to confer with the town administrator and the BOS to explore what resources might be available to paint bike lanes.

Dalton Road (8:43pm): The TAC reviewed a resident letter describing safety concerns at the intersection of Livermore and Dalton Roads. Mr. Clancy suggested that the TAC consider whether or not a four-way stop would be appropriate at this intersection while also considering the advisability of four-way stops at the following intersections: Oakley and Payson, Oakley and Cushing, Payson and Cushing, Slade and Creeley, Horace and Gilbert/Brettwood, Lexington and Beech/Burnham. Mr. Clancy suggested that, in considering these intersections, the TAC should review data on accident histories, traffic volumes, and geometry/visibility at the intersections. TAC members will visit these intersections and plan to

discuss them—and any other intersections about which TAC members are concerned—in the fall.

Mill Street: As he did at the previous meeting, Don Mercer raised his concerns about traffic safety at the intersection of Mill Street and Concord Avenue. The TAC again discussed previous plans it had developed to address safety concerns at this intersection and resident resistance to the proposed changes. TAC members discussed the possible merit of a traffic circle to control traffic at the intersection.

Other Business: There will be no TAC meetings in July or August of 2015. A hearing on Brighton Street traffic restrictions will be held in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Miller, Clerk