

# Town of Belmont, MA

## Traffic Advisory Committee (T.A.C.)

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BELMONT, MA.  
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### Minutes of Meeting March 8, 2012

**Members present:** Peter Curro, Larry MacDonald (Vice Chair acting as Chair), Don Mercier, Dana Miller (Clerk), Tomasina Olsen, and Matt Sullivan.

**Ex-Officio Members present:** Glenn Clancy, PE

**Also present:** Debrah Baker, 40 Betts Road; Helena Burns, 39 Betts Road; Clare Crawford, 134 Dalton Road; Alson S. Drevins, 61 Betts Road; Janice Hoffman, 64 Betts Road; and Shelagh Meir, 82 Betts Road

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Minutes:** Matt motioned and Peter seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for April 12, 2012

**Dalton and Betts Roads:** Glenn reviewed the circumstances that contribute to danger at this intersection: while Dalton has a stop control, Betts is a through road; a tree at the intersection blocks drivers' sightlines; and a driveway at the intersection often holds cars, which also interfere with the view to oncoming traffic. A recent automobile accident precipitated the neighbors' February approach to the TAC. A second accident occurred at the intersection on the day after our February meeting.

Glenn recommended that four-way stop signs be installed at the intersection of Dalton and Betts Roads.

Deb Baker voiced her concerns about the tree branches that need to be trimmed back to allow a better view of the traffic. Deb wondered if the town might ask the resident to trim the branches. Glenn explained that zoning by-laws limit the town's ability to interfere with vegetation on private property. Don suggested that the town hire an arborist to trim the trees back severely—by ten feet or more. The neighborhood residents indicated that this was neither feasible nor desirable.

Shelagh Meir spoke about her concern that the existing stop signs are too far removed from the intersection. Janice requested that the existing stop signs and the stop line be moved closer to the intersection. She also requested that a sign be installed before the stop sign to warn drivers of the stop sign ahead. Glen reminded meeting members that stop signs are not intended to control traffic speed.

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Tommy motioned and Dana seconded the motion to approve the proposal that the town install a four-way stop at the intersection, relocate the existing stop signs and stop line so that they are closer to the intersection, and ask the resident trim back tree limbs. The committee voted unanimously to approve this recommendation.

In response to Janice's question, Glenn explained that the changes at the intersection would be made within the next two months.

**TAC Scope of Work:** Glenn explained the Selectmen's interest in establishing a forum in which town residents could address their concerns about town parking issues and the Selectmen's interest in the TAC providing this forum. In response to TAC members' inquiries, Glenn offered to bring Selectman Mark Paolillo to the next TAC meeting to further explain the Selectmen's thinking on this subject and to help develop a clear definition of the additional responsibilities that the TAC might assume.

At 7:50pm, Dana moved and Matt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Miller, Clerk



## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMO

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**MEMO TO:** Board of Selectmen  
Kellie Hebert, Interim Town Administrator

**FROM:** Glenn R. Clancy, P.E.

**SUBJECT:** Intersection of Betts Road and Dalton Road

**DATE:** April 2, 2012

#### **Background**

The Traffic Advisory Committee was asked to look at the intersection of Betts Road and Dalton Road to determine if changes could be made to improve the safety of the intersection. This intersection suffers from poor sight lines and has a history of near misses. Currently Stop sign control exists on Dalton Road and Betts Road functions as a through way.

#### **Evaluation**

The major problem with the intersection is poor visibility for northbound motorists on Dalton Road. Once a motorist on Dalton Road stops at the intersection of Betts Road it is extremely difficult to see to the right towards Grove Street and to the left towards School Street.

The Grove Street sightline is impaired by a large tree on private property and by the geometric layout of the roadway. I believe it would be impractical to have the tree pruned or removed. The School Street sightline is frequently blocked by parked cars in a private driveway. The driveway location is zoning compliant however the elevated grade of the driveway makes it impossible to see towards School Street when vehicles are parked.

#### **Recommendation**

This location is a candidate for a Four Way Stop approach. I have analyzed the intersection using the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the federal standard for placement of Stop signs, and I find a Four Way Stop approach is warranted.

Intersection of Betts Road and Dalton Road

April 2, 2012

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Section 2B.07 of the Manual, Multiway Stop Applications, contains the section titled, "Other criteria that may be considered," wherein two items are applicable when considering the placement of a Stop sign:

c. Locations where a road user, after stopping, cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to safely negotiate the intersection unless conflicting cross traffic is also required to stop; and

d. An intersection of two residential neighborhood collector (through) streets of similar design and operating characteristics where a multiway stop control would improve traffic operational characteristics of the intersection.

I believe both of these conditions are met. In addition to adding new signage, existing signage is proposed to be adjusted for better visibility. Also, as with all new Four Way Stop approaches, advance warning signs will be erected temporarily to help motorists adjust to the new signage.

The Traffic Advisory Committee unanimously voted in favor of the Four Way Stop approach.

On behalf of the TAC, I respectfully ask the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Department of Public Works to implement the signage recommendations. There will be an increased cost in labor and materials to achieve these recommended upgrades thus impacting the DPW budget.

Cc: Peter J. Castanino, Director, Department of Public Works



# Traffic Advisory Committee

## TOWN OF BELMONT

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

### Committee Members

Michael Bair  
Peter Curro  
Donald Mercier  
Tommasina Olson  
Matt Sullivan

**Date:** March 2, 2012

**To:** Members – Traffic Advisory Committee

**From:** Linda Nickens, Chair

**Subject:** Agenda for Meeting on **Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 PM** in the **Town Hall Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room**. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Linda via e-mail.

### Agenda

**7:00** Call to Order

**7:00 – 7:05** Minutes (2/09/12)

**7:05 – 7:30** Intersection of Dalton Road and Betts Road – Public Hearing

- Evaluate Request for a Four Way Stop Approach

**7:30 – 7:45** Discussion – Broadening Commission Scope to Include Parking Matters

**7:45 – 7:50** New Business

- No Known Items

**7:50 – 7:55** Old Business

- No Known Items

**7:55** Adjourn

**Cc:** Board of Selectmen – Mark Paolillo  
Kellie Hebert, Interim 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