

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 9, 2009**

In Attendance: Linda Nickens (LN), Andrea Masciari (ASM), Tomi Olsen (TO), Ronald Sacca (RS), Peter Curro (PC)

Absent: Phil Richmond, Laurence Macdonald

Others: Glenn Clancy (GC), Office of Community Development  
Kevin Shea (KS), Belmont Police Department

Meeting Called to Order: 7:15

Approval of March, 2009 Minutes –  
Motion to Accept by TO  
Second – ASM  
Minutes Unanimously Accepted

**PUBLIC MEETING – TRAFFIC MITIGATION DISCUSSION**

HARVARD LAWN NEIGHBORHOOD – MARLBORO STREET, FAIRVIEW AVENUE, ETC.

GC – gave brief synopsis of petition received by TAC for traffic mitigation in this neighborhood. TAC does not embrace speed bumps and a 4-way stop sign does not meet warrant. GC and KS monitored activity during peak hours. Put together a proposal and found that issue is really cut-thru traffic, trying to beat light at Grove/Belmont.

TAC does not want to restrict neighborhood residents from getting home. Restrictions put in place a few years ago were not accepted by residents, so now we want to put something in place that will make it difficult for non-residents to get out of neighborhood once they get in.

GC – imperative that we have a police officer at first. BPD will program “pop-ups” to alert dispatch that there are problems with the plan.

LN – expressed approval of plan. Stated that original petition did include a lot of signatures who are in favor of implementing some traffic mitigation.

RS – opposes No Left Turn signs. Not enough people from neighborhood to “start this engine.” Not a lot of accidents. Too many left turns. Will town trucks that service cemetery be exempt from these restrictions?

GC – town trucks cannot ignore the No Left Turn

ok 6/11/09

ASM agrees that we implement the plan based on history and last meeting, and if it doesn't work, we can address it again in six months.

Mr. Kelly (resident) - Does not like the plan because it would require him to go all over the place to get home from Wellington School. GC said he got a call from a woman who expressed the same thoughts.

GC Suggested stop sign on Marlboro Street.

Chuck Schwab - 43 Dartmouth Street - frustrating before because he could not get into the neighborhood. Suggested other route to enter neighborhood. Asked for Do Not Block Intersection sign at Grove and Fairview

Mark Gurwell - 63 Dartmouth Street - original signer of petition - different than he thought it would be. Too much traffic or speeding.

LN - read petition - speeding, cut-thru traffic, creates dangers for people, exceeds posted 30 MPH, worried about excessive speed with lots of babies.

MG - penalizes people who live in the neighborhood and want to get out in the afternoon.

GC - if we can keep people out of neighborhood who don't live here, the residents who live here will respect speed limit. This plan might help to reduce speed

RS - suggested stop signs instead of turn restrictions. There are children in every neighborhood in Belmont.

GC - Made it clear that according to the Federal Manual, stop signs are not to be used as speed control.

Judy Schwab - 43 Dartmouth - this has been a problem for years. Up from Unity, toward Oxford, people usually don't stop at stop sign. Doesn't think stop signs will help. Everyone wants a solution, but no one wants it to interfere with their personal schedule.

TO - not enough police to serve tickets for people who blow through stop signs.

LN - suggested that we try this for a while, and then revisit if necessary

GC - if sign says "No Right Turn" people might jump across Grove Street.

Kara Catrambone - kids play near gate of cemetery. Is concerned that more people will cut through cemetery.

ASM - suggested "no cut through" sign at entrance to cemetery

GC – hesitates to put another sign, but we should keep an eye on it. GC mentioned that Corridor improvements will make a difference here due to better efficiency of Corridor.

Brief discussion about Corridor.

ASM – asked GC if the potential lifting of ban on overnight parking in this neighborhood would have an impact on this.

GC - does not think so.

Kelly – any chance we can install a single or double yellow line from Fairview to Marlboro?

GC - Federal regulations speak to double yellow line (not single) – average daily traffic under 4000, so no double yellow would be allowed. , 4000-6000 – discretionary – 6000+ - “you shall have a double yellow line”. This is under 1000. Would not rise to level of double yellow line.

Motion to accept 3.5.09 plan showing proposed traffic signs in the Harvard Lawn Neighborhood

On a temporary six-month basis. 3 approved. 1 opposed

LN – reviewed next steps with audience re: recommendation to BOS. Will be noticed on Web site. GC – do not expect anything until May due to Town Meeting. BOS will vote on it. Always an open meeting. We will review police and resident feedback. If another public meeting is warranted, we will put it on our agenda.

### **SCHOOL STREET GODEN STREET INTERSECTION DISCUSSION**

GC – engineers study – nothing to suggest 4-way stop sign. Residents pushing hard nonetheless. GC concerned about left turn off of Goden onto School, coming up to Concord Avenue. Tree is a major obstruction (left onto school from Goden). Somewhat major roads.

ASM – suggested making Goden one way. GC thought island on Concord Ave w/be an issue

ASM – suggested making cut in median. GC does not think this is a good idea.

LN – can we do anything about the tree?

GC – suggested raised crosswalks when road is redone after school is built. Said that neighbors do not want flashing beacon. Cannot advocate 4-way stop for speed control

LN – Suggested that we invite neighbors in and show them how difficult it is to mitigate this intersection. Let's do what traffic consultants suggest – VHB

ASM – Suggested that we try it for six months

RS – Suggested that we do this during school year in order to ensure that we get realistic traffic volumes

LN – will invite neighbors in for next meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Election will be held next month

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion to Adjourn – ASM

2<sup>nd</sup> – RS

Meeting adjourned – 8:25



## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMO

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**MEMO TO:** Board of Selectmen  
Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator

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

**SUBJECT:** Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendation -  
Grove Street Enhanced Traffic Control Signage

**DATE:** May 12, 2009

On Thursday, April 9, 2009 the Traffic Advisory Committee met with a group of residents from the Harvard Lawn neighborhood. Several residents signed a petition asking the TAC to address cut through traffic speeding through their neighborhood. They suggested placing a 4-way Stop control at Unity Avenue and Marlboro Street as well as other Stop signs and crosswalks in locations throughout the neighborhood. They also asked for speed bumps.

The TAC was unwilling or unable to accommodate the suggestions but was able to support a plan that they feel will limit cut-through traffic. The plan calls for new signage to be installed on Grove Street. The new signs would prevent traffic traveling south on Grove Street in the morning from turning into the Harvard Lawn neighborhood. In the afternoon, traffic heading west on Belmont Street, that attempts to avoid the signal at Belmont Street and Grove Street by turning down Marlboro Street or Oxford Avenue, will be forced to turn left on Grove Street from Unity Avenue or Fairview Avenue. Please see the attached plan for a detailed look at the new signage.

The Traffic Advisory Committee respectfully recommends approval by the Board of Selectmen for the placement of these signs. The effectiveness of the signs will be evaluated after six months and the TAC will recommend changes if necessary. As with any request for new signage, labor and materials will be furnished by the Department of Public Works and they will also bear responsibility for future maintenance of the signage.

**Cc:** Sgt. Kevin Shea, Belmont Police, Traffic Division  
Peter J. Castanino, Director, Department of Public Works