

Town of Belmont, MA

Traffic Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting May 13, 2010

Members present: Linda Nickens, Laurence Macdonald , Dana Miller, Ron Sacca, and Peter Curro.

Ex-Officio members present: Glenn Clancy, PE; Sgt. Kevin Shea, BPD.

Absent: Andrea Masciari and Tommasina Olson

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Linda Nickens, Chair.

Minutes: Dana Miller, moved, and Ron Sacca, seconded, and the April 8, 2010 Minutes were unanimously approved.

Harvard Lawn – Grove Street: 6 Month Review

Enforcement – Sgt. Shea reported that BPD is short on manpower therefore less enforcement. Sarkis K, resident, expressed concern about traffic backup at the lights at Belmont St and Grove St Signage creates backup, there is concern about emissions and increased traffic. He is also feels that cars making right turn from Belmont St onto Grove St speed up after turning. Sgt Shea reported that traffic had been backing up previously and therefore cars started cutting through neighborhood. Speed limit is 30 MPH. He said that he would put in for pop up enforcement on Grove St. Sarkis K would like a “Do Not Block Intersection” sign near Unity Ave. Chuck Schwab, resident, stated that there was such a sign near Park Rd. Kay Hudgins, a resident, feels that speed is more of an issue by Fairview Ave. Good vs Bad. She can't see when making a left turn out of Fairview Ave due to overgrown hedges and a parked motor vehicle. She would like to be able to make a right turn from Fairview Ave to Grove St. Unity Ave sign is not as dangerous. Linda N, TAC, suggested that Glenn Clancy look at the possibility of removing signs at Fairview Ave and Grove St. Susan Moran, resident, feels that the Unity Ave/Grove St signage has greatly improved traffic on Unity Ave. Her neighbor says that she can now get out of her garage. However, it is still difficult to get out of Fairview Ave. Chuck S would like to see selective enforcement on Unity Ave. Tough getting out of Fairview Ave. Morning traffic flow seems to work out better than the afternoons. Paul Laffey, resident, complained about speeds up to 40MPH, tough time getting out onto Fairview Ave. No Right Turn in the AM and No Left Turn in

the PM makes it difficult to transport children to school. Susan M questioned the need for signage at Fairview Ave and Grove St. Larry M, TAC, asked about dissolving the total plan. A number of the residents present did not want that option. Sgt Shea stated that the cost of a traffic signal would be prohibitive, when someone asked about the possibility of a traffic light at Fairview Ave and Grove St. Linda N, TAC, asked about a stop sign and accident statistics at Fairview Ave and Grove St. Ron S, TAC, said that there is good and bad in any plan. There is improvement but at some sacrifice. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, said that if we take sign down we are back to where we were. The plan was to eliminate cut through traffic. Susan M, again mentioned the bushes. Paul L spoke about speed on Grove St. and reiterated his feelings about getting children to school. Ron S, TAC, concerned about town's liability by leaving "dangerous intersection" sign up. Chuck S, wondered about diverting some of turning traffic from Belmont St eastbound onto Park Road. Chuck S and Eunice L both spoke about the difficulties in school drop off and pick up. Glenn Clancy spoke about the restrictions on Grove St and the tradeoff-keeping traffic from cutting through vs not able to turn. Chuck S stated that the residents of the border roads see cut through traffic. Susan M asked about a flashing "Slow Curve Ahead" sign. Both GC and RS said that they would like to see crash data for this area. In response to some requests for traffic lights, additional stop signs, GC said that the guidelines are very strict about traffic controls. He mentioned the geometry of the road, trying to get traffic to slow down on Grove St and constraint on money. The failure of the roads override to pass has cut down on pavement management. He will look into the possibility of installing flashing beacons. Sgt Shea said he will send out a letter to have the owners move the MC/MV in question about blocking the view of motorists. GC will send out a letter to the property owners about trimming hedges, to make it safer.

Winn Brook School – Sherman Street One Way Proposal

Janet O'Malley, resident, she feels that the problem is not a traffic issue, but a parking issue. Parking should be on one side only. Sgt Shea spoke about enforcement of parking regulations. A resident at 111 Sherman St spoke about parking in front of her house, snow banks and double parking. Glenn Clancy mentioned that notification was sent out by direct CCY to the neighborhood. Sgt Shea spoke to the effect of implementation on local neighborhood streets. Dana Miller, TAC, emphasized the concern about the safety of children. Janet O'M addressed the preschool drop off/pick up around 1PM. GC said that this was the 3rd time that TAC has addressed this issue. Last 2 times residents and the School Department did not buy in to the proposals. Janet O'M stated that the fence on Sherman St was moved in to allow for parking/drop off on that side of Sherman Street. GC said that school administrators and PTOs need to work with and educate parents on drop off/pick up policies rather than continue with the free for all that exists. He also stated that parking regulations are hard to manage. Janet O'M is strongly opposed to one way – rather see 1 side parking only. Linda N feels that we

should try the one way plan. Dana M suggested we extend the no parking down to number 93 Sherman St. Janet O'M suggested diagonal parking by the field. GC stated that the field is school property. It is protected land. GC said that the parking restrictions are currently 8:30AM-9:30AM No Parking and 2:30PM-3:15PM No Parking. The resident at 111 Sherman St said that in Winter 2 cars cannot pass one another. GC stated that No Parking is No Standing/Stopping. Ron S asked about the percentage students of Special Needs Program that will go to the new Wellington School. How much of the problem will go away. Larry M asked about the Preschool/Special Needs drop off/pick up. Janet O'M said that there is a pick up around 1PM. So, there is a third DO/PU time. Signage around the various schools are posted for 2 times at each location, morning and afternoon.. Dana M stated that the main concern is and should be the Safety of the Children. No action taken at this time. TAC will continue to investigate.

Upper Concord Avenue

Dan Healey talked about the meeting that 20 neighbors held at the Day School in March 2010. A copy of the letter sent to Glenn Clancy is a part of the record. Sue Bass, resident, talked about pot holes being speed bumps, issue of speeding, traffic calming and sidewalks, curbing and installation of cement sidewalks where grass is on the odd side of Concord Ave. GC said that the BOS and Pavement Management Committee have been very strict on use of asphalt berm and HP access. There may be some leeway on curbing for drainage purposes. A period of discussion about sidewalks (to Habitat or to Bel Ctr from the McLean land) followed. GC mentioned that some granite curbing had been installed by the contractor doing sewer and drainage work. Usually an asphalt shoulder is installed, however, curbing may be placed for drainage. He did say that a full depth reconstruction is planned for Upper Concord Ave. Also discussed was drainage, catch basins, sewer, and ways to guide runoff into storm drain to prevent runoff flowing into houses. BOS is sticking to policy. The residents could ask to meet with the BOS to express the concerns. GC said that on volume alone a Stop Sign westbound on Concord Ave approaching Mill St might meet the warrants required. Earlier proposed designs had the Mill St intersection with Concord Avenue more of a T intersection. Lynne Delise, resident, questioned as to whether the location of a stop sign coming from Lexington side of Concord Ave would be appropriate. GC gave the traffic count on Concord Ave as 5600-5700 cars daily. Mill Street volumes are higher. He will look at possibilities. He also said that a roadway with more than 6000 shall have a center line. Less than 4000 should have center line. The plan is to have a double yellow by the curve, no uphill center line from Mill St. He referred to Washington St with a volume of 5500 cars and no center line. Linda N suggested striping and channelization of the Mill St and Concord Ave intersection. George Herzlinger, resident, pointed out 2 serious MVAs at the bend hitting the stone wall, very narrow road, unfriendly to pedestrians, cars swerving to avoid pot holes and 60 MOH speed. Gary Pforzheimer, resident and bicyclist, said the road is too narrow, asked if road could be widened as much as possible as there are many

bicycle commuters. Linda N asked about taking of land to widen the roadway. GC spoke about the right of way, face of wall to face of wall, back edge of sidewalk to back edge of sidewalk where existing, bound by stone walls, encroachment on private property and easements which can be a 3-5 year process. Gary P suggested even a grass sidewalk. GC said that Upper Concord Ave is scheduled for this year hopefully Sept-Nov. GC would like to see a bike path. He would like to propose and identify what he can do. Residents could pay for other work. They may go to the BOS with their ideas and proposals. Cynthia Mathes, resident, would like to see a sidewalk from Somerset to the Highland Cemetery. Ron S suggested removing knoll from roadway to improve sightline for pedestrians crossing by Somerset St. George Vosegerichian, resident, feels drainage is paramount, catch basins are full, and there is significant ledge. DPW suggests double grading area for catch basins and regrade road area. GC said that Pavement Management intends to deal with drainage issues at bottom of hill. Pam H, resident, feels that a dialogue has started, looking for ideas and ways to address all issues. Lynne D would like to see raised crosswalks installed. Several expressed displeasure with water main work recently done especially in the area of communications. A communications plan needs to be developed for this project. Ron S mentioned a State sponsored Bicycle Safety Program. Gary P would like white lines on sides of the road referred to as fog lines. Ron S mentioned the dip in the road near Somerset St and the cemetery. Regarding raised crosswalks, physical barrier rather than signage, may need help from the BOS. GC cited the cost of signs and their effectiveness. Ron S expressed concerns for funeral processions going over raised crosswalks. Glenn Clancy stated that new parameters make it difficult. These are only preliminary discussions.

Lake St/Cross St New Crosswalk

Sgt Shea recommended for future action. Need clarification as exact location.

Peter Curro moved and Dana Miller seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence P. Macdonald, Clerk

Town of Belmont

Traffic Advisory Committee

May 13, 2010

Residents Present:

Susan Moran	41 Unity Ave (Grove St)
Chuck Schwab	43 Dartmouth St (Grove St)
Sarkis Karakozian	25 Grove St (Grove St)
Kay Hudgins	32 Fairview Ave (Grove St)
Janet O'Malley	93 Sherman St (Sherman St)
Bill Trabley	Marlboro St (Grove St)
Paul Laffey	66 Dartmouth S(Grove St)
Eunice Laffey	66 Dartmouth St (Grove St)
I Avriilio (?)	111 Sherman St (Sherman St)
Dan Healey	670 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Bruce Rosenblum	965 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Sue Bass	530 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
George Herzlinger	560 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Lynne Delise	81 Pinehurst Rd (Concord Ave)
George Vosgerichian	915 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Cynthia Mathis	711Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Gary Pforzheimer	741 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)
Sam Knight	660 Concord Ave (Concord Ave)