

TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2009

In attendance: Linda Nickens (LN), Laurence Macdonald (LM), Andrea Masciari (ASM), Phil Richmond (PR)

Absent: Tomi Olson, Peter Curro

Glenn Clancy (GC), Kevin Shea (KS)

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve – Andrea Masciari
2nd – Laurence MacDonald

School Street – Goden Street Intersection Discussion

GC addressed audience with respect to a 4-way stop sign. Needs engineering study and support. VHB was approached – they suggested flashing beacon and a warning sign on approach to give motorists an idea of what to expect. Warrants do not support 4-way stop. GC thinks it's only fair to have a broader discussion. He is stumped because he cannot find a way to install a stop sign without causing conflict between motorists approaching from each direction.

LN – wondering what the biggest problem is at intersection.

Gretchen McClain (Resident) – lots of screeching brakes when cars travel up and down Goden Street because vehicles travel quickly along School Street, where there is no clear vision. New Wellington School could generate more traffic. Lots of near-misses during school hours due to high school drivers. Impossible for kids to cross School Street to get to school in the morning.

LN – once traffic patterns change or increase, we may then meet the warrants for a 4-way stop approach.

GC – we can make decisions with respect to a 4-way stop signs, but they are not used for speed control. There may be enough latitude in warrants to justify a 4-way stop sign anyway. Sight distances may be difficult to overcome. GC will get input from traffic consultants. Anne Paulsen told GC that this intersection will be looked at during the Wellington traffic study.

Dan(?) – Pedestrians are also an issue. It is hard for drivers to see pedestrians crossing from Goden onto School and Goden across Goden. Mailboxes and tree are in the way. Solar glare in winter is frightening.

LN – Suggested installation of some zigzag lines to force drivers to slow down and pay attention.

GC – lines wear out. Must be repainted every year because the paint is water-based and doesn't last. Suggested raised crosswalk, but that w/have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen because they cut all funding for traffic calming. GC thinks it could be approved because there are so many schools in this area. VHB is looking at traffic issues and GC will discuss this with them. Not comfortable installing two raised crosswalks because it would create a gauntlet for drivers, making it unsafe for vehicles. A lot of intersection to raise, and could lose its impact because cars would be on it for too long and would get comfortable.

GC will confirm that intersection is part of their scope when working on Wellington traffic study.

FALMOUTH ROAD/UNITY AVENUE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Resident would like to put up a barrier to block Park Road at Unity. Intersection is very unsafe for children.

GC discussed what we did in the neighborhood already regarding turn restrictions onto Fairview and Unity. If you're on Grove in the morning, you must continue up to set of lights. In afternoon, you will not be able to drive right from Unity and Fairview. Drivers will get caught in neighborhood, and hopefully won't do it again. Barriers are not supported by TAC

KS will do a traffic/speed count during peak hours. The perception of speeders is usually much faster on small streets as opposed to larger ones.

LN – Even though TAC can do some turn restrictions, there's a good possibility that other residents would be very angry.

GC and Nicole? Discussed parking on the shoulder to narrow the street.

Residents questioning why they were told they cannot put a berm in front of their houses. GC said granite curbing is okay, and cannot understand why they were told they could not install berms.

GC told residents that TAC hears about this all the time, and that every street in Belmont has these issues. That's why we are successful with time-related issues.

KS – when the Traffic Division receives complaints, they pass it over to the dispatcher and implements\ speed, crosswalk violations, etc to deal with controlling and addressing traffic complaints. He did see some violations during a weeklong observation of Unity/Park. KS will start this on Monday, June 15th. We will have the counts for the next meeting.

LN – we will look at this at our August meeting, on August 13th.

NEW BUSINESS

Sidney Werlin – 92 years old – still interested in saving the world. He has lived at the Corner of Chester and Carlton Rd. for 60 years – thinks we s/have a School zone sign on Chester/Carlton. Is willing to work to change the 300 foot law, but is hoping we'll install it without forcing him to “jump through hoops.”

Jim Pazanise – PCT 4 TMM – Lives on 177 Lexington Street – excessive speed – MBTA buses, Bentley bus, 18-wheelers, all day long. Where pavement is broken, trucks make loud bangs when hitting broken pavement. Discussion about changing truck route to Pleasant Street.

GC – Newport is doing a lot of road work in Watertown. GC will find out what they're doing . KS thinks they're coming from Route 2, possibly in Saugus or Lunenburg.

ASM suggested sending a letter to trucking companies and asking them to be more considerate of neighborhoods.

KS is putting up radar board on Lexington Street

GC will talk to public Works to see if contractors can do anything to fix the patches that cause so much noise when hit by trucks

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 PM