

DATE: November 24, 2021  
TIME: 12:09 PM

**MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021  
HIGH SCHOOL TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP  
5:00PM**

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Roy Epstein <i>Select Board</i>	Glenn Clancy <i>Community Development Director</i>	Sergeant Ben Mailhot <i>Police Department</i>
Anne Paulsen, Vice-Chair <i>Resident</i>	Thayer Donham <i>Planning Board</i>	Jay Marcotte <i>DPW Director</i>
Jessie Bennett, Chair <i>Resident</i>	William Lovallo <i>BMHSBC Chair</i>	Dana Miller <i>Traffic Advisory Committee</i>
Catherine Bowen <i>School Committee</i>	Larry Link <i>Resident</i>	Mary Wybieralla <i>Resident</i>
	Patrice Garvin <i>Town Administrator</i>	

Attending: Anne Paulsen, Resident; Mary Wybieralla, Resident; Jessie Bennett, resident; Larry Link, Resident; Dana Miller, TAC; Sgt. Garabedian, Belmont Police Department; Catherine Bowen, School Committee; Bill Lovallo, Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee; Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development; Jay Marcotte, Director of Public Works; Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator.

Chair Jessie Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:00PM, and started the meeting by introducing everyone on the committee.

Check in on HS project progress/timeline.

Jessie then handed the meeting over to Bill Lovallo for a brief update on the Middle and High School's project schedule. The High School is set to open at the end of August and that is what the committee is currently focusing on.

Jessie then had Dana give an overview of the meeting that was held that morning in preparation for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on Thursday evening that will discuss drop off for the new High School campus on Concord Ave and student parking. Glenn Clancy explained that Thursday night there will be a presentation by the Middle and High School about the areas that they are looking to have designated on Concord Avenue for student parking and where the drop off/ pick up zones will be. Then the TAC will give their comments and then the public will be allowed to weigh in as well. There is an intersection project going on as well at the area of Concord Ave and Goden Street and there are new pavement markings associated with that project, those pavement markings will be part of what is available on Thursday evening. It was discussed that Dana should point these markings out specifically on Thursday and mention that these markings are engineering standard and are not something that can be reconfigured.

Glenn noted that the configuration of student parking and drop offs on Concord Ave have to be voted on by both the Select Board and School Committee. The Select Board asked the TAC to review this and make a recommendation to the Board before voting on the final configuration. Glenn added that with the opening of the High School at the end of August that these decisions would have to be made in the next three to four weeks to allow adequate time for new signage to be installed.

Kate added that in general the School Committee was in favor of the proposed plan, but were worried that the configuration may incentivize driving to campus and were worried about that.

Bill displayed the diagrams of Concord Ave that would be shared at the TAC meeting on Thursday night and said that there are expected to be approximately 100 parking spaces for cars. Bill then showed all of the crosswalks to get onto the campus as well as the transition bike lanes for the new intersection at the intersection of the campus, Concord Ave, and Goden Street. The group then discussed how the bike lanes would work on Concord Ave. Glenn said that the plan that has been laid out that they would let school get started in September, see how the student parking works and see how the new signal at Concord Ave and Goden Street operate. Then they would use this data to reconvene the conversation about the bike lane. The group did discuss some concerns with the bike lane and Anne noted that these have taken the conversation out of the scope of the High School Traffic Working Group (HSTWG) and should be discussed at the TAC meeting on Thursday night.

#### Discussion of committee priorities.

Jessie then discussed that the committee had outlived their charge. Meaning that when the committee was first appointed it was for a one year term, and then was renewed by the Select Board for another year, but now they had surpassed that as well. Jessie said that she knew that there were members of the HSTWG that would want to continue, and that many of the motions of the HSTWG had been passed onto the appropriate boards and committees, but that she is aware that there are people that do not believe that the work of the Working Group is complete.

Anne started by saying that when the HSTWG was created it was to be an intimate group rather than the TAC which is town-wide; and that it was to make sure that the neighborhoods had representation. Both Anne and Mary noted that they have had many comments from the neighborhoods impacted by the school and that they do not believe that the HSTWG has completed what it set out to do. Mary added that none of the issues on School Street or on lower Goden Street have been resolved. Mary noted that she understands that time needs to be spent reviewing the data that will come from the

changes to Concord Ave, but that there needs to be some plan to address the School Street/ lower Goden street neighborhood.

Patrice then was recognized to say a few of her concerns. Patrice began by noting that each department aside from the Town Administrator's office that is represented on the HSTWG had lost some level of staffing due to the failed override. This puts a larger strain on the staff members who attend these meetings and therefore overburdens their departments. Patrice also mentioned that since the HSTWG has passed on many recommendations that the TAC would be the committee to take on these issues.

Anne mentioned that she felt that the individual neighborhood concerns would not resonate with the TAC as well as they do on the HSTWG because the TAC is a town-wide committee.

Glenn was then recognized and said that while TAC is town-wide, that this neighborhood would not end up buried in TAC. Mary thanked Glenn for saying that, and said that there is a perception that the neighborhood issues would be buried if they were left to the TAC.

Kate, Dana, and Jessie all agreed that the HSTWG should create a final document to pass onto the TAC so that some of their smaller recommendations do not get lost or forgotten. Jessie added that in terms of what is not currently resolved that they should also consider where those would best be resolved. Kate had mentioned both the walking routes and bussing issues and those sound like they would be best determined by the School department and School Committee perhaps in conjunction with the TAC; that way the issue is back with the stakeholders.

Jessie asked committee members to write down what concerns they remember the HSTWG discussing and what motions were made and where they went. Then these can be brought back to the committee two weeks from now. Jessie especially wanted to look at what motions were made and what they had done.

*Kate moved to create a document outlining the recommendations of the HSTWG including all unresolved concerns. Anne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

Jessie then opened up the floor to comments from residents. A resident from the corner of Goden and Concord then spoke. Bill Lovallo agreed to set up a meeting with the residents to address their concerns

Dana moved to adjourn at 6:37 PM Mary seconded

\*Minutes are as approved by Vice-Chair Anne Paulsen