



# Town of Hudson

## Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – March 25, 2016

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A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, March 25, 2016. John Blood, Fire Chief, convened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

**The following ITC voting members were in attendance:**

John M. Blood, Fire Chief  
Michael Burks, Police Chief  
Eric Ryder, Director of Public Works  
Mark Bertonassi, Deputy Building Commissioner  
Max Kamel, Assistant Director of Public Works

**The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:**

Kristina Johnson, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development  
Pam Helinek, Conservation Agent and Planner

**The following individuals were also present:**

Brian Bush, Heritage Properties  
Jerry DeZutter, 545 Velo Cycling Club  
Ben Olendnski  
Thomas DiPersio,  
Yar Zar Moe Htet  
Jan Wright, Friends of Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge  
Natalie Illsley

### **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Name Change, Madison Place to Matrix Way

Brian Bush of Heritage Properties presented a request to change the name of Madison Place to Matrix Way. The road numbering and unit numbering will not change. This is to reflect the new name of the project as approved by the ZBA to Matrix Hudson on February 11, 2016. The Committee had no issues with the request and approved 5-0-0

Application for Use of Town Property, Criterium Bicycle Race

Jerry De Zutter, a Hudson resident and member of 545 Velo Cycling Club, was present to discuss his application for use of town property to host a bicycle race in Downtown Hudson. The Downtown area would be closed from 2PM – 9PM on Wednesday, August 17. USA Cycling would control many aspects of the event. Similar events have been held in other towns – in particular, Beverly has held a number of very successful Criterium Races. The Hudson event will be modeled on the Beverly races. The course will be approximately one kilometer and will start and finish at the corner of Pope and

Main streets. There will be staging at that location for scoring, timing, and an announcer. The race area will need to be fenced and appropriate signage displayed.

Chief Blood expressed concern with shutting down the entire downtown in terms of traffic, safety, and impact to local businesses. Closing the rotary makes it very complex to route traffic. Kristina Johnson asked if there was a traffic management plan, and suggested that the applicant meet with the Hudson Business Association. She also suggested scheduling the race on a weekend. Jerry De Zutter stated that he has spoken with a number of local business owners and that they have been very supportive of his plan. There was discussion of alternate race routes such as using the rail trail, using side streets to avoid closing the rotary, and moving the race location away from downtown. The bikers go at very high speeds making use of the rail trail dangerous to the public and turning corners to side streets dangerous to racers. The downtown venue is desired for generating interest in the race. There was further discussion of holding the race on a weekend morning when it would be less disruptive. Chief Blood stated that closing the rotary and scheduling the race on a weekday afternoon would require more town staffing and therefore cost more money.

The Committee concluded that the applicant would need to work individually with the Police, Fire Department to work out the details of the plan and then they would need a joint meeting to discuss it again.

#### Library/Fire Station Parking

Chief Blood presented a plan to free up three parking spaces presently restricted for Library Employees Only for use as 2-hour Public Parking. This will require new signs, some restriping, and minor changes to the Traffic Rules and Orders. Chief Burke motioned to approve the change, second by Eric Ryder, vote 5-0-0.

#### Traffic Signal Timing Issues

Chief Burke stated that although DPW has corrected the timing cycles of the traffic signals at Washington Street/Park Street/School Street, Washington Street/Brigham Street and Washington Street/RK Hudson Town Plaza, these signals have been bouncing back randomly and need to be adjusted. Eric Ryder said that DPW will address the problems.

#### Blind Corners at Fort Meadow/Marlborough Road/Reed Road

Hudson resident Ben Olendzki reported speed issues, one accident, and many near misses at the above intersections. Chief Blood said that he knew the intersections and that it was a difficult problem to solve. Chief Burke said he would review the stats and increase patrols in the area. Mark Bertonassi suggested that a speed indicator and warning signs might help. Eric Ryder said that a grant would be required to buy a speed indicator.

### **SITE PLAN REVIEW**

#### 161 Broad Street

Thomas DiPersio presented plans for a complex of ten condominiums. Mark Bertonassi requested the dumpsters be moved to allow room for snow plows. Eric Ryder requested a new manhole be added at the connection to the sewer main, to allow for access and for directional change. Max Kamel stated

that the existing sewer line is under the sidewalk and should be inspected. Chief Blood moved to approve the plans with the requested changes, vote 5-0-0.

#### 304 Cox Street (continued)

Yar Zar (YZ) Moe Htet presented revised plans for a 40'x60' storage facility on existing pavement. The plans include a catch basin with an oil/water separator. Kristina Johnson confirmed that the plans were now in compliance with the site plan check list. The Committee approved the plans 5-0-0.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Directional Signs to Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

Jan Wright from the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge presented a plan to install five directional signs through Hudson leading to the Refuge. Chief Blood suggested using existing Department of Fire Services' sign posts. Eric Ryder agreed that this would be better than installing new posts and stated that the bottom of the signs must be at least three feet above the ground so that they don't block drivers' line of sight. He said that the height of existing signs or poles could be adjusted if necessary. The Committee voted to approve the installation of the directional signs and the use of existing poles 5-0-0.

#### Speeding cars and trucks at River Road

Hudson Resident Natalie Illsey reported problems with cars and particularly trucks speeding along River Road and Port Street. Chief Burke said he has had a cruiser patrolling the area but that most of the trucks have been within the speed limit and there have been few stops; however he will continue to patrol the area.

#### Central Street Striping

Mark Bertonassi suggested that when restriping Central Street, the line be shifted to allow for parking in front of Central Street Market and Tighe-Hamilton Funeral Home. He said that it is necessary to drive over the current line to avoid parked cars. Eric Ryder said there are certain legal limits to the placement of the lines and that there may be concerns about traffic shifts, but that he will look into it.