



# Town of Hudson

## Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – February 26, 2016

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A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, February 26, 2016. Jeff Wood, ITC Chair and Building Commission convened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

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

John M. Blood, Fire Chief  
Lt. Richard DiPersio, Police Captain  
Max Kamel, Interim Director of Public Works  
Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner

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

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

**The following individuals were also present:**

John Henry, BETA Group  
Janie Hynson, Coordinator, MetroWest Moves  
Melissa Green, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, MassDOT  
Frank McMahon, Southern Sky Renewable Energy LLC  
David Rybost, Dave's Landscaping  
Rachel Scanlon, Assistant Principal, Farley Elementary School

## TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

**Crosswalks at the Apsley Street/Felton Street Intersection**

Janie Hynson, MetroWest Coordinator and Melissa Green, Complete streets Coordinator, MassDOT requested that the ITC consider adding crosswalk at the above –mentioned intersection. First, Ms. Hynson provided an overview of the makeup and mission of the MetroWest Moves collaborative, and pointed out that both Mr. Hunter and Ms. Johnson are members of the regional steering committee. Furthermore, she also explained that the one of the most important initiatives supported by MetroWest Moves is the Safe Routes to School Program, and as such, introduced Melissa Green, the Regional Coordinator at MassDOT for the Safe Routes to School Program. Melissa discussed the successful partnership with the Farley Elementary School to promote safe walking conditions for students; most recently a walking school bus route was developed in the vicinity of the school. Rachel Scanlon,

Assistant Principal at Farley, expressed her support and excitement for the walking school bus route, but mentioned that parents were a little scared to let their children walk to school. In particular, one of the intersections along the route—Apsley Street/Felton Street—is lacking an adequate crosswalk; therefore, Ms. Green, Ms. Hynson, and Ms. Scanlon requested that ITC consider adding a crosswalk at this location. They also requested improvements to the pedestrian signal at Lincoln and Apsley.

Max Kamel stated that the Lincoln/Apsley intersection will be completely rebuilt within the next few months with a new sidewalk, signals and handicap accessible crosswalk, in compliance with Complete Streets Policy. DPW will need to look at the Apsley /Felton crossing – a new crosswalk cannot just be painted on the road but must be handicap accessible. Ms. Hynson stated that a new crosswalk would be preferred but since there will be with adults walking with the children the proposal so can go forward without it. Captain DiPersio suggested having a crossing guard at the intersection.

## **SITE PLAN REVIEW**

### 59 Apsley Street (Continuation)

David Rybost was present for the hearing which was continued from last month so that the applicant could submit new plans addressing Committee concerns. The Committee requested full size plans and a narrative addressing issues from last meeting. Most of the issues were addressed however a few items still need to be corrected:

- The four parking spaces designated for snow storage should be removed from the plan - zoning requires that snow storage is on Open Space
- Site lighting needs to be shown on the plan
- Snow storage should be eliminated on the east end of the parking lot. All snow storage should be on the west side by the catch basin
- A MUTCO-compliant sign must be provided

Jack Hunter suggested that the applicant have the new plans in time for the Planning Board meeting. Kristina Johnson stressed that the applicant should bring his site engineer to the Planning Board meeting and stated that the Planning Board will be particularly interested in drainage and stormwater. Max Kamel reminded the applicant that he would be responsible for all drain pipes up to and including connections to catch basins.

Chief Blood moved to approve the plans contingent on the above conditions. Second by Max Kamel. Vote 4-0-0

### 34D Old Stow Road- Southern Sky Renewable Energy

Frank McMaohon and John Henry were present to discuss a proposal for a 5MW solar facility at former Hudson landfill and gravel pit. . The property is on the Hudson/Stow town line. An existing access road that loops through Stow will be used for construction, maintenance and emergency vehicles. The applicant proposes to fill pot holes in the road and has received a negative Determination of Applicability from the Stow Conservation Commission. Panels are proposed on the flat top of the capped landfill and within the former gravel pit. Storm water will be infiltrated on site

and the project meets MA Stormwater standards. There are wetlands on property including Riverfront Area and isolated wetlands. A Notice of Intent has been filed with the Hudson Conservation Commission. There will be selective tree cutting in Riverfront Area and grade changes in the gravel pit. The Conservation Commission has continued the hearing until after Planning Board meets. There is a chain link fence around portion of site which will be left intact with a lockbox at the gate. Fire and Police Departments will have keys. The construction period is projected to be 3 to 4 months, with 10-15 construction vehicles per day and 10-15 delivery vehicles per week accessing the property. Once construction is complete there will only be monthly servicing requiring one truck. Electricity will be pumped back into grid with the interconnect on the main road and transformers and inverters on site. No additional fencing is proposed. Concerns were expressed about security around the switching station. The applicant wants to leave the area accessible for hikers along the Assabet River and for wildlife access to the Riverfront Area. There is no accessible gear requiring security -the switch is aerial and mounted on a pole on the main road and all other equipment that is in locked cabinets and shuts down if there is not power from the street or any faults in the system. Pam Helinek reported that the Conservation Commission has some concern about a large number of mature trees being cut in Riverfront Area and has requested to know the number of trees being cut. The Commission is waiting to schedule a site visit and continue discussion until after they have comments from the Planning Board.

Chief Blood moved to approve the project as submitted, second by Captain DiPreso, vote 4-0-0.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chief Blood discussed an application for the use of town property for a bike race on Wednesday Aug 17. The applicant is requesting to close portions of a number of main streets in the downtown area for 7 hours, 2PM-9PM. The Chief has denied the permit and is requiring application to ITC. He is concerned that there is no alternate access to these areas, impacting restaurants and other businesses and making it impossible to respond to a fire.