



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
Tel: (978) 562-2989 Fax: (978) 568-9641

Minutes of Meeting – May 27, 2016

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, May 27, 2016. John Blood, Fire Chief, convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

John M. Blood, Fire Chief
Michael Burks, Police Chief
Eric Ryder, Director, 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

The following individuals were also present:

Sam Wong, Commissioner, Public Health
Tom DiPersio, Tom DiPersio engineering
Pamela Grimes, Hudson resident (River Street)
Lurdes Melo, Portuguese Club
Fernando Melo, Portuguese Club
Rita (did not state her last name), Floripa Productions
Marcelo (did not state his last names), friend of Rita

CITIZEN REQUESTS

Pam Grimes- Speed Limit on River Street

Ms. Grimes expressed concerns about the existing speed limit along River Street and provided some historical context about the speed limit being lowered to 25 MPH due to a fatality back in the 1970s. Chief Blood explained that the lowering of the speed limit was done without the approval of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and was subsequently raised to 35 MPH. Eric Ryder and Kristina Johnson explained the process by which municipalities can go about lowering the speed limit. Ms. Johnson did provide all members with the MassDOT guidebook for regulating speed limits in municipalities.

Ms. Grimes asked how to go about initiating the process with MassDOT, to which Chief Blood responded that it would need to be the Town. Chief Blood moved to initiate the process with MassDOT to lower the speed limit on River Street, seconded by Chief Burks. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Grimes asked with whom she could follow up on the status of the process; Ms. Johnson said to keep in contact with the Planning Department and to be patient with the timeliness of the process.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

74 Cox Street- Thomas DiPersio

Tom DiPersio, site engineer for the applicant provided an overview of the proposed project at 74 Cox Street. The applicant is proposing to construct 16 condominium units at the corner of the Cox Street/Manning Street intersection. The project is located in a C-4 zoning district whereby multifamily is allowed in the commercial district via a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. DiPersio explained that the proposed site layout is due to wetland constraints (there is a perennial stream behind the property), and noted the following: 1) a 30-foot driveway is being proposed; 2) water and sewer will be provided via Manning Street; and 3) the existing three curb cuts will be consolidated into one ingress/egress.

Both Chief Blood and Eric expressed concerns about having one, single access driveway, especially with respect to the circulation of emergency vehicles and fire apparatus. Chief Blood requested that he would support a second 15-foot exit away from the intersection so apparatus can turn around. Eric Ryder suggested that this be configured as a right-turn only lane with a median and signage. Chief Blood also noted that a fire flow test will be required.

Eric Ryder moved to approve the site plan and Chief Burks seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. DiPersio will submit revised site plans prior to appearing before the planning board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Portuguese Club- Lordes Melo

Lordes Mulo, President of the Portuguese Club provided an overview of the proposed concert to be held on the soccer fields adjacent to the club. Ms. Melo reviewed the plans (which have been presented to other boards) for parking and street closures. In conjunction with Floripa Productions, the Portuguese Club has proposed to host a concert featuring a famous Brazilian pop star. She indicated the following: 1) the maximum amount of tickets to be sold is 3,500; 2) the event is being promoted by Florida Productions; and 3) the concert will be an all ages event—with those patrons 21+ being properly ID'd and braceleted.

Ms. Melo then provided details regarding the proposed event layout on-site. She explained that the Portuguese parking lot will be reserved for employee parking, event staging, and emergency and public safety personnel. Ms. Melo discussed the concert layout plans that had been furnished to the ITC. Both fields in back of the Club will be where the concert will take place, with all patrons required to stay on the field during the duration of the event. No re-entry will be allowed. Check-in and ticket scanning will occur just outside the fields; all tickets will be scanned with bar codes. Once the 3,500 tickets are sold, there will be no further sales.

Marcelo followed up and noted that it is desired to have all tickets sold in advance, and that the tickets will be numbered to alleviate counterfeiting. Chief Burks asked a number of questions regarding the advanced marketing and promotion of this event. He inquired if any tickets have already been sold, to which Marcelo responded no. Chief Burks followed up and asked if this event is being actively promoted; although Marcelo indicated that the event is not being promoted, Chief Burks noted for the record that the event is listed on Floripa Productions' website. Marcelo said that no ticket sales have

occurred (Chief Burks did mention that ticket prices were listed on the website), and explained in detail the process for getting the event booked. He stated if the event does not occur in Hudson it will be held somewhere else due to Floripa's contractual obligations with the artist.

To clarify who is representing whom for the event planning, Chief Burks asked Marcelo to explain his relationship to Rita from Florida Productions. Marcelo indicated that he just helps out with production logistics, but does not work for Rita, nor does he get any money for the promotion of this event.

Chief Blood suggested that ITC address issues relative to the field logistics, parking, and public safety one by one—starting with the setup with the field. Chief Blood inquired how many staff members are the event planners requiring—general event staff, security, and vendors. Lordes Melo gave her best guess estimate of 70 people from the club would be staffing the event, and Floripa will be providing 60 more event staff for a total of 120. Chief Blood also inquired about the width of the entrances and exits to ensure that crowds can be handled in a safe fashion, especially in the event of an emergency. Based on the schematic provided to the ITC, the Portuguese Club still needs to acquire 20 feet of exit width. Ms. Melo said that she will investigate an alternative (s) to provide the required exit width.

Eric Ryder initiated the discussion relative to parking logistics, and inquired about the number of spaces secured to park 1,700 cars. Chief Burks also asked how many parking spaces have been secured. Ms. Melo indicated that they have 200 spaces secured at the Elks Club and are looking into to parking at the Riverside Lot across from the High School and possibly the Grace Baptist Church. Both Chief Burks and Chief Blood expressed concerns that the lot may not be able to safely park 200 vehicles. It was noted that even if the Portuguese Club secured the Church and the Riverside Lot, there is still a significant shortage of parking spaces. Eric Ryder and Chief Burks underscored that event organizers must deter all on-street event parking in the neighborhoods. No parking/resident only parking signs in English and Portuguese must be furnished at a cost to the event organizers and posted in the neighborhoods the Friday before the event. Marcelo indicated that they can work with a graphic design team to create the signs with the desired text.

Chief Blood reminded the event organizers that pursuant to M.G.L the event must provide at least 14 certified crowd control managers, which does not offset the number of required public safety personnel. Moreover, Chief Burks reminded the event organizers that 100% of the security logistics will be handled by the event staff. Public safety officials or EMS personnel will step in as needed/or directed by event staff in the event of an emergency or incident. And finally, Chief Burks said that police officers will be posted at the parking lots to deter tailgating and keep the peace and posted at the fields.

Before providing the requirements for the EMS personnel during the event, Chief Blood asked the Floripa Productions if the band would be employing any pyrotechnics; Marcelo said no. Chief Blood said the event organizers would be required to pay for the following: 1) one stand-by paramedic ambulance stationed outside of the field with two EMTs; 2) two EMTs equipped with a medical gator; 3) one EMT supervisor. Chief Blood indicated that the EMS personnel would be stationed at the existing concession stand, which would function as an emergency command center. And finally, Chief Blood stated that he will require that the event organizers and the crowd control individuals meets with the Town public safety officials two weeks prior to develop a communication plan for the event.

Kristina Johnson asked the ITC members if they would like to have the Portuguese Club and the event organizers provide an update at next month's ITC meeting. After some discussion, Jeff Wood agreed that the event organizers should come back to the June ITC meeting and present an update on where they stand with parking and public safety issues. After the June meeting, the event organizers do not need to be in front of the ITC; smaller meetings outside of the ITC forum can take place with appropriate Town officials.

Ms. Melo asked if there were any issues that, if not resolved, would keep the Portuguese Club from holding the event. ITC members are extremely concerned that the event organizers have not provided adequate parking; around 900 spots were estimated to be needed for the event patrons. Chief Burks asked if the event organizers had looked into using the Intel parking lot as a centralized parking option, and provide shuttle buses to the concert venue at the Portuguese Club. Board members all agreed that providing parking at Intel could be a solution to deterring overflow parking into the neighborhood, and easier for patron to access directly from the highway. Should Intel agree to host the event parking, Eric Ryder suggested that concert promotional materials could indicate the location of the parking directly off of Interstate-290. Event organizers agreed to reach out to Intel to see if this would be possible.

A discussion ensued about prohibiting certain types of bags into the venue, and if the event organizers would be prepared to search bags. Event organizers agreed that all backpacks will be banned from the concert venue, and all that promotional material would explicitly state that all backpacks will be banned. Event organizers indicated that other types of bags (purses, diaper bags) would be properly searched by their own personnel prior to entry.

Chief Burks provided the event organizers with the required number of police personnel. Twenty-five police officers need to be provided for the event. Two police officers will be required at each of the parking lots—one hour prior and one hour after the event, with the remaining officer (s) to be stationed at the event. Event organizers asked if they could use just one police officer combined with the event security; Chief Burks responded no.

Jeff Wood asked if there were any comments from the public. Pam Grimes, a resident of River Street inquired about the hours of the event, which will be held from 1:00-8:00 PM. Music will stop at 8:00 PM, but cleanup/breakdown would occur until 9:00 PM. She asked about the overflow parking into the neighborhoods, to which Eric Ryder stated that all adjacent neighborhood streets would be posted for "resident only" parking. And finally Jeff Wood asked Sam Wong, the Public Health Commissioner if he had any comments. Sam Wong indicated that he was been in communication with the Portuguese Club about public health permits, etc.

Kristina Johnson stated that the next ITC meeting will be held on June 24th, and Chief Blood indicated that cost estimates for the public safety and EMS personnel would be provided within two weeks. Ms. Johnson also said that the list of requirements would be outlined in the minutes, which will be posted on the Town's website.

Washington Street Bridge Update

Kristina Johnson provided an update on the status of the Washington Street Bridge replacement. Ms. Johnson provided an overview of a meeting that took place at the MassDOT District 3 Office in January. In attendance at this meeting were Tom Moses, Jack Hunter, and Kristina Johnson. During that meeting, MassDOT indicated that the project will be advertised for construction in late August/early September, and that they anticipate construction commencing in spring of 2017. MassDOT anticipates that the three-month closure of the bridge would occur in spring of 2018. ITC members expressed serious concerns about the closure of the bridge, and have had past experiences with State transportation projects not being completed on time. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Hunter offered to reach back out to the MassDOT District 3 office and set up another project logistics meeting, and have the Town's public safety officials attend.

OTHER BUSINESS (not on agenda, but brought up by ITC members or members of the public)

Excessive Traffic on Brigham Street – Anthony Albertini, 299 Brigham Street

ITC members requested an update on the traffic issue on Brigham Street brought before the ITC board in April. At that meeting, Mr. Albertini expressed concerns about the proliferation of traffic along Brigham Street due to the high volumes generated by the New England Sports Complex and the Solomon Pond mall in Marlborough. He noted that the traffic is particularly problematic during the weekends, and that the sports complex and mall generate significant bus and truck traffic along Brigham Street. He also indicated that speeding and cut through traffic makes it difficult for him to back out of his driveway.

Jack Hunter explained that both him and Ms. Johnson had discussed this issue at length post-ITC meeting in April, and were at a loss as to an appropriate solution. However, Mr. Hunter indicated that the sports complex is undergoing an expansion, and now would be a good time to have a conversation with the City of Marlborough. He explained that he reached out to the City of Marlborough's attorney—Arthur Vincent to address the issue and discuss the possibility of the sports complex furnishing a speed board sign for Brigham Street.