



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – November 18, 2016

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, November 18, 2016. Jeff Wood, Chair convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

John Blood, Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Burks, Police Chief
Eric Ryder, Director, Public Works
Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Kristina Johnson, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development

The following individuals were also present:

Rachel Bolanger- Pine Street Resident
Roland Bolanger – Pine Street Resident
Martin Pillsbury, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Transportation and Parking Issues

Pine Street- Excessive Speeding

Rachel Belanger and her husband Roland Belanger expressed concerns about the speeding along Pine Street and the poor condition. In particular, Ms. Belanger noted that the garbage trucks appear to be the worst offenders—speeding down Pine Street. For everyone's benefit, Chief Blood provided some geographical context of Pine Street and how it connects the trailer park with River Street. Speeding and cut through traffic have been persistent issues on Pine Street and River Street; Chief Blood mentioned that there have been serious accidents in the past, and believes that this location would be ideal for traffic calming measures, such as speed humps. Chairman Wood added this neighborhood has been used historically as a cut through for traffic heading to the Solomon Pond Mall.

Chief Burks asked at what time of the day and in which direction the speeding occurs; to which, Ms. Belanger responded that the speeding occurs all hours of the day from River Street into the neighborhood. Chief Burks agreed to assign officers to the neighborhood for speed enforcement, and will flag down any speeding garbage collection trucks to inform them that they are driving in a thickly settled neighborhood. Eric Ryder also committed to take a look at the sidewalk conditions.

Town Hall Employee Parking

On behalf of the Town Administrator's Office, Kristina Johnson brought forth a request to address the lack of Town Hall employee parking. Ms. Johnson explained that there not enough parking spaces to accommodate the number of employees working at Town Hall. She cited Article IV, Section 10 of the Traffic Rules and Orders designates 27 spaces for employee parking, but stated that there are 33 employees. Furthermore, Avidia Bank has begun construction (see attached email) in their back parking lot, which has constrained employee parking even more. To help the parking situation, Ms. Johnson

explained that Town Administrator's office has requested that the two spaces in front of Town Hall on the east side (see attached picture) that are currently designated as 15-minute parking be re-designated and signed for Town Hall employee parking between 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM.

Chief Burks believes that doing business at Town Hall use the two spaces on the east side of the building for quick "in and out" transactions. Eric Ryder stated that he would be more comfortable with designating the last two spots on Church Street for employee parking and keep the spaces at Town Hall reserved for quick in and out transactions. All agreed that the last two diagonal spaces on the West Side of Church Street be designated for employee parking Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM and signed accordingly. Ms. Johnson reminded the ITC board that this will require an amendment to the Town of Hudson's Traffic Rules and Orders.

Eric Ryder moved to take the two diagonal spaces on the West Side of Church Street for employee parking and signed Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. Seconded by Chief Burks. 4-0-0.

Signal Timing at the Brigham Street/Washington Street Intersection

ITC members acknowledged that the signal timing at this location has been discussed at prior meetings, and the Eric Ryder has been out at the location to check out the issue. Mr. Ryder stated that the traffic signal timing and phasing appears to be working as designed. Kristina Johnson mentioned that this issue was raised recently at a Board of Selectmen's meeting, and was directed to bring it to the ITC Board.

Chief Blood moved to stick with the ITC Board's original interpretation that the traffic signals at the Washington Street/Brigham Street intersection are working as designed. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0

Grove Street

The ITC Board continued the discussion about truck traffic causing noise and safety issue on Grove Street. Chief Blood explained that Grove Street and several other adjacent streets are experiencing excessive cut-through truck traffic starting as earlier as 5:00 AM. Chief Blood further explained that the trucks cause a safety concern and even property damage, as they have difficulty making the tight-turning radius. He stated that the implementation of a truck exclusion would be appropriate for this location.

Kristina Johnson reminded the ITC Board that—per Section 10-A9 of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Device/ Massachusetts Standard Traffic Code states that an alternate route must be available and in good condition, and that the alternate route meet one of the following conditions:

- 1) Lie wholly within the community submitting the application;
- 2) Lie partially in an adjacent community but only on State Highway; or
- 3) Lie partially in an adjacent community but must have the adjacent community's written approval.

Ms. Johnson added that the municipality is responsible for completing the engineering analysis that gets submitted to MassDOT for their review. She was questioned by the ITC Board about the cost to complete such analysis, to which Ms. Johnson responded that she would provide a scope and estimated cost at December's meeting. No vote was taken.

Other Business

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Martin Pillsbury, Environmental Director at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council presented the Town of Hudson's Hazard Mitigation plan. He noted that the Planning for the Hazard Mitigation was led by the local Hudson Hazard mitigation team, composed of Town Staff from pertinent departments, and met several times between August 2015 and September 2016. Mr. Pillsbury described in detail that the

purpose of the plan is to 1) identify where the impacts of natural hazards most affect the Town; 2) goals for addressing these impacts; 3) update the Town's existing mitigation measures; and 4) introduce mitigation measures that would benefit the Town.

A copy of the presentation is located on the Town of Hudson's website. Chief Blood commended the planning process, and thanked MAPC for helping the Town with this important effort.

No vote was required.

Minutes

Chief Blood moved to approve the minutes from August 26, 2016. Second by Jeff Wood, vote 4-0-0.

Adjournment

Eric Ryder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Chief Burks, vote 4-0-0.