



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
Tel: (978) 562-9963 Fax: (978) 568-9641

Minutes of Meeting – November 17, 2017

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, November 17, 2017 at Hudson Town Hall 2nd floor conference room. Jeff Wood, ITC Chair and Building Commissioner convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Michael D. Burks, Sr., Police Chief
Steve Geldart Deputy Fire Chief
Eric Ryder, 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

Causeway Street- southbound speeding traffic

Chairman Wood recused himself from the discussion, as he is a resident of the neighborhood.

Selectman John Parent provided an overview of some of the past transportation issues on Causeway Street addressed by ITC. He reminded the Board of the speeding traffic occurring between Superior Drive and Marlboro Street, and how the neighborhood hired a private company to conduct traffic counts on Causeway Street back in 2016. Data revealed that the 85% percentile speed was higher than the speed limit, so pursuing a lowering of the speed limit was off the table. The DPW installed new signage displaying "slow," "Children," and "Radar Strictly Enforced." Furthermore, the Police Department stepped up speed enforcement along Causeway Street throughout last summer.

Selectman Parent thanked ITC for its efforts and noted that signage seem to be curtailing the speeding on his end of Causeway Street. He mentioned, however, that speeding has now become an issue on the portion of Causeway Street between Superior Drive and Marlboro Street. He mentioned that the 35 MPH speed limit on the straightaway portion of Causeway Street before the drop to 25 MPH. Selectmen Parent then invited two residents, Mr. Michael Scafidu (108 Causeway Street) and Mr. Norman Marshall (107) Causeway Street to address the ITC Board.

Mr. Scafidì described the traffic conditions immediately in front of his house—noting what he believed were speeds in excess of 40 MPH and high volumes. In particular, stated his belief that these conditions are further exacerbated by the quick changes in the speed limit from 35 MPH down to 25 MPH. He pointed out that there is a bus stop across the street at 107 Causeway Street, and because the previous mentioned conditions, he stated that it is extremely dangerous for his children (and others) to cross the street. He inquired about what options are available to mitigate this condition.

Mr. Marshall reiterated the information provided by his neighbor, and stressed that the blind spot coupled by with the S curve cause dangerous conditions along their section of Causeway Street. He also acknowledged that these are long-standing conditions, and that the Hudson Police Department has taken steps over the years to target enforcement activities. Chief Burks indicated that in 2016 officers issued 101 citations and in 2017 officers issued 56 citations.

Eric Ryder discussed the speed control devices and traffic calming measures brought up by the residents of Causeway Street. Mr. Ryder indicated that illuminated speed signs cost approximately \$4,000-\$5,000, and speed tables, humps, and curb extensions can pose maintenance and snow removal challenges. Mr. Ryder offered to have the Department of Public Works install a sign with the message “reduced speed—curve ahead.”

Chief Burks moved to approve the installation of the “reduced speed—curve ahead” sign at the appropriate location on Causeway Street by the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Deputy Chief Geldart. 3-0-0. Unanimous

Robinson’s Hardware- Driveway Striping

Chairman Wood re-joined the meeting.

Kim Underwood noted that Robinson’s Hardware has been in business for over 47 years, and traffic has increased dramatically during this time period. He described the ingress and egress challenges to and from the parking lot from Washington Street and Park Street, especially since the widening of the Route 85 several years ago and most recently with the reconstruction of the Washington Street Bridge. With all the geometry changes, lane striping, and new traffic control devices, Mr. Underwood stated that traffic is consistently blocking the entrances to his business. After considerable discussion, Eric Ryder offered to furnish and install a “do not block entrance” sign.

Eric moved to furnish and install a “do not block entrance” sign at the entrance of Robinson’s Hardware. Seconded by Chief Burks. 4-0-0.

Hudson Elks- Truck Show

Kim Gutheil, Club Manager for the Hudson Elks discussed a proposed Truck Show to be held at the Elks in the spring. She noted that the parking and access was for the recently-held balloon festival was confusing and problematic; therefore, she hoped that she could brainstorm ideas to alleviate those issues for the truck show. Chief Burks emphasized that Town would prefer not to ticket and tow, but to have a sound parking plan in place prior to the event.

Kim and representatives from the Truck Show association described the event in detail (including a request to have the truck rigs park overnight on the grass) and presented ideas for how to better manage parking and access to show, including running a shuttle from the Grace Baptist Church to the Elks. Chief Burks underscore the necessity of putting a solid plan into to place prior to the even and working closely with public safety officials. Once plans are finalized, Chief Burks stated that he will be able to provide the number officer details for the event.

Steven Santos, Park and Recreation Director noted that in May many youth sports games and practices take place throughout the day on the adjacent fields, and also stated that the parking lots adjacent to the High School are under the jurisdiction of the School Department.

Chairman Wood recommended that the event planning team return to ITC in March to discuss the event logistics in more detail, based on the application to use Town property that will be submitted. Jack Hunter recommended that Kim touch base with Kristina Johnson in early March to ensure a place on the agenda for the March meeting.

Minutes

Chief Burks moved to accept the minutes from the September 22, 2017 meeting. Second by Eric Ryder, vote 4-0-0. Unanimous

Other Business

Eric Ryder discussed a call from a resident to have a “limit engine braking” installed along the stretch of Marlborough Street to Forest Avenue. This resident expressed concerns about the loud noise emitted from the truck’s Jake braking system. All ITC members agreed that the geometry and slopes on Marlborough Street, truck drivers should not be prohibited from using their jake braking systems. All believed that installing a “limit engine braking” sign could pose a significant safety issue for the truckers. As such, Chief Burks moved to not take any action on this item. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0. Unanimous