

Minutes – April 1, 2010, 10:05 AM
Town Office Conference Room
Approved June 10, 2010

Committee members present: Pauline Field, Shaun O’Keefe, Dina Cutting, and Charles Ragan. Minutes recorded by Shaun O’Keefe.

A. Review of Minutes. Minutes of the following meetings were approved as written:

1. 09-10-09
2. 12-10-09
3. 03-18-10

B. Discuss Highway Safety Issues brought to the Committee:

1. Parking issues at the Dorchester & Grafton Turnpike intersection:
 - O’Keefe advised that there had been no tickets or tows related to vehicles parking on Dorchester Road or Grafton Turnpike. The only violations issued were to those parked between the “no parking” signs. Seems that motorists are finding appropriate parking.
 - Cutting reported that the Highway Department had not given any estimates related to the costs associated with creating a parking area or paving the triangle. Committee concurred that these proposals were not going to be within the scope of the recommendations to the BOS.
 - The Committee then proposed that the following recommendations be given to the BOS for consideration:
 - a. Post signs: “No Parking on Travelled Way” on the Grafton Turnpike and Dorchester Roads adjacent to this intersection. This would help educate motorists about the requirement to be off of the road.
 - b. Request that BOS send letter to Appalachian Trail and Dartmouth Outing Clubs (who are responsible for maintaining the Lyme portion of the trail) regarding the issues and request the installation of signage to direct people to parking and trail access.
2. River Road Safety Concerns:
 - A resident from River Road brought concerns about the number of bicyclists and pedestrians that use the area. He and some of his neighbors have been quite vocal about the safety issues. In the past they have sent mailings to other residents in an attempt to address some of their concerns. At this time, they are requesting additional

support of their efforts. The committee discussed and acknowledged the fact that there is a significant increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic during the spring, summer and fall. Many of the issues are a result of the conflict between users and modes of use of the way. The committee discussed various options: road signs, enforcement of existing state laws, and avenues to educate both motorists and bicyclists.

- Field advised that there are laws in place that regulate the movement and responsibilities of the motorists and bicyclists, unfortunately, perceptions of those responsibilities are distorted and most don't have a complete understanding of their roles. Field gave the example: if a bicycle is traveling on a way at a speed less than the posted speed, they must yield the right of way to a vehicle that is traveling the posted speed. ...But at the same time, a motorist that passes a bicycle must use due care when passing and allow a reasonable and prudent distance away from the bike.
 - Committee discussed a possible ordinance that would require "single-file riding" on this roadway.
 - Committee discussed holding a public education seminar about the issues and obtaining public comment.
 - Committee recommended that Police Department should continue to hold educational programs at the school and in the community.
 - Committee decided to move forward on the public forum idea. The meeting is to be held at the Town Office Meeting room on May 6, 2010 at 7:00 PM. A planning meeting was set for April 22, 2010 directly following the BOS meeting.
 - The residents of River Road that brought the concern to our attention will be notified directly by Field.
 - Field will also generate a notice for posting on Town Website and listserv.
3. Discuss the East Thetford Rd & Main Street intersection. The committee decided that they wanted to present an option at the DOT's meeting on April 21, 2010. The group reviewed the drawing made by Don Metz that was distributed by Dan Brand. The Police Department developed a sketch and Field presented the concept to the committee. The group agreed that the plan seemed to address the safety concerns and was more cost effective than the other version. The Committee decided to support the ideas developed in the Police Department's drawing. Field was to develop the plan further by requesting the assistance of the Planning & Zoning Administrator, who has mapping skills.

C. Other Business:

1. O'Keefe advised that school flashing lights are out of sync. New time change has not been adjusted. Field to contact DOT.

D. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM, The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 10, 2010 at 10:45 AM.