



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

OCTOBER 11, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: G. Cresta (DPW), R. Mendes (Parking Clerk), G. Lord (Police), J. Potts (Fire), P. Kane (Planning)
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Laurence Guelfo (resident), Beth Isler (resident), Joe Taverna (resident), Berl Winston (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:04a by Chair Kane.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the September meeting haven’t been drafted yet. This will be taken up next month.

Berl Winston asked for a copy of the minutes from the April 14, 2016 meeting. P. Kane will follow up with the request.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

The Committee agreed to take items out of order based on residents in attendance interested in each item.

#D - RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY ON ANDREW ROAD

G. Lord explained that at present, Paradise Road is used as the delineation for limiting parking on-street parking to limit commuters using the train station. Laurence Guelfo said the end of Andrew Road close to Paradise Road is being parked on (some by residents from Paradise Road). They see a number of people parking there and walking to the train station. G. Lord explained that if we limit it there, then commuters will just move to another street who will then ask for the same restriction. R. Mendes pointed out that requesting it means that the residents will then need a permit and if they don’t, they’ll then get a ticket. Mr. Guelfo said he was just curious what imposing the restriction would be and if it might help. He then decided that he realizes the limitations and rescinded his request.

#C - SAFETY ZONE DESIGNATION REQUEST FOR STETSON AVE

Beth Isler was present and stated she has lived on Stetson Ave for a few years. There’re a lot of commuters, pedestrians, and students walking to school. The residents see a lot of drivers speeding through the neighborhood. Given the

proximity of the high school, Clarke School, and day care center, she feels the safety zone designation makes the most sense. G. Cresta stated that in the spring, Stetson Ave will be repaved and that drivers tend to speed after a road is repaved. G. Lord said that the Town had actually changed the speed to 20mph but the state never approved it. He explained that the 85-percentile method is no longer used which Ms. Isler is aware of. He said the street is currently posted for 30mph. With the Municipal Modernization Bill, the Town will be able to make the determination on speed reduction outside of state review (come early November when it goes into effect). R. Mendes wondered if the Selectmen would actually want a comprehensive study of that area before making the change to determine what the impact will be on surrounding streets. G. Lord feels that 20mph is too slow for that road, but 30mph is too fast. He thinks that 25mph is reasonable given the design of the street. With the day care and the schools, it makes sense to go to 25mph. He believes that drivers if traveling at 20mph will feel like they're traveling at a snail's pace. P. Kane asked about installing stop signs at some of the intersections to help slow the traffic. G. Lord explained that you don't want to use stop signs as a speed suppressant (drivers may ignore, shouldn't be used if it doesn't actually need it, adds a maintenance element). Ms. Isler thinks changing the design may help - the curve radius is much too wide (@ Franklin and Norfolk), curb bump outs (J. Potts was apprehensive), and maybe raised crosswalks. G. Lord suggested a traffic island design as well. G. Cresta said that since the repavement is happening in the spring, we could incorporate some design changes. Ms. Isler offered to help with that.

MOTION - by P. Kane to recommend reduction to 25mph on Stetson Ave to the Selectmen and that Ms. Isler, P. Kane, and G. Cresta will look into design modifications as part of the repavement of the road for the spring. Seconded by G. Lord. Unanimous.

#E - CURVED ROAD SIGNAGE ON WALKER ROAD @ MOUNTWOOD ROAD

Joe Taverna (160 Walker Road) said there's an issue with the curve on the road which includes a fire hydrant on that curve that has been hit a number of times. A telephone pole has also been hit. Residents there want additional signage including the obscured sign (heading toward Paradise Road). The existing sign is located too late on the approach. He says there are two utility poles earlier on the road that could be used. He thinks the sign should say something like "slow curve", "slow winding road" or more than just the curved line on the sign.

MOTION - by G. Lord to replace the existing sign and use new sign with additional warning on telephone poles prior to curve for both sides, seconded by P. Kane, unanimous.

#A - 30-MINUTE PARKING @ 128-140 HUMPHREY STREET

G. Lord stated that the Police Dept is in support of changing the on-street spaces to the west of the bus stop on the north side of Humphrey St to 30-minutes but keep the ones directly in front of the building as is to keep the parking restrictions consistent. Related to that, G. Lord asked to look into adding an additional parking space on Burrill St just west of the north side bus stop at Humphrey St intersection.

MOTION - by G. Lord to change spaces west of bus stop to 30-minute parking and look into adding one more space here if the width and stop sign distance allows, seconded by Jim, unanimous.

#B - REDUCE SPEED LIMIT TO 25MPH ON PURITAN ROAD

G. Cresta stated that the Selectmen had previously discussed adding gore marks along the side of the street to emphasize “no parking”. P. Kane noted that visual elements help to reduce some drivers’ willingness to speed. But Selectmen decided against adding the painted lines. G. Lord said that part of Puritan Road is 25 mph (from Fish House to about Johnson Park, due to the curve in the road) but then remaining portion is 30 mph.

MOTION - by G. Lord to table the item in order to check out the street and find where the change in speed currently exists, seconded by G. Cresta, unanimous. To be brought up at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Humphrey St – G. Lord asked about reposting the speed limit signs along Humphrey St. There are three different speed limits along the length of the road - 20, 25, 30 mph.

Meeting closed at 11:01a

S. Peter Kane

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair