



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERS
GINO CRESTA, DPW
S. PETER KANE, PLANNING
GARY LORD, POLICE
RONALD MENDES, PARKING
JAMES POTTS, FIRE

DECEMBER 22, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: G. Cresta (DPW), G. Lord (Police), J. Potts (Fire), P. Kane (Planning), R. Mendes (Parking Clerk)
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Jay Catelli (resident), Tony Wyman (resident), Shermayne Colanto (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:00a by Chair Kane.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 28 meeting. Note was made to correct the spelling in one instance for J. Potts.

MOTION : by J. Potts to approve Nov 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by G. Lord, unanimously approved.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

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

#C – STOP SIGN INSTALLATION REQUEST (BUENA VISTA ST @ BURPEE RD)

G. Cresta and G. Lord did a site visit. They have some concerns. Due to the hill, it would be hard to see the stop sign and so you’d need an additional warning sign. If there’s a queue of traffic at that stop sign, other cars traveling south might not see the queue or see it too short. The stop sign coming out of Buena Vista could be moved closer to the intersection. Current sign allowed for a crosswalk that’s not there any longer. So bringing the cars closer will improve line of sight. G. Cresta was going to review his traffic control book to indicate the limited visibility of the intersection. The issues could be made worse during snow conditions. Other option is a “no left turn” out of Buena Vista. G. Lord not sure that will solve anything though due to limited traffic flow that way. There’s also no accident data for that intersection. G. Cresta concerned that the caution sign installation might cause people to park further out into the road. Jay’s accident report hadn’t been provided to the Police Department (was for insurance claim). G. Lord agrees there’s a blind spot there with an accident potential. Mr. Catelli said that as part of his accident, there were cars parked down the street that restricted

the sight line. He'd like the dangerous intersection sign as well as no-parking area. G. Lord suggested a warning sign ("T" sign) at crest of Burpee north of Buena Vista along with a "no parking here to corner" sign.

MOTION : by G. Lord to move stop sign on Buena Vista to corner and installation of warning sign at crest of Burpee along with "no parking here to corner" to Buena Vista, seconded J. Potts, unanimous.

#E – RESIDENT PARKING ONLY REQUEST (SUFFOLK AVENUE)

Request is to add resident only parking along Suffolk Ave due to train commuters parking on the street. G. Lord said the standard used for limiting this parking around the train station neighborhood is bounded by Norfolk Ave and Paradise Road and Suffolk is outside that area. We'd then be pushing the limit further and the potential parking impact further. P. Kane pointed out that nearly all the properties have driveways. Ms. Colanto said that a number of the buildings are two-families with more cars. R. Mendes pointed out that if this is done, the residents will then need to get stickers to park there or they'd get a ticket. G. Lord suggested residents using notes on cars and asking them to switch up their parking space use. R. Mendes pointed out we shouldn't be handling these on a case-by-case situation but instead a comprehensive study.

Committee decided they won't make any recommendation based on the request other than to have a comprehensive study.

#G – ON-STREET PARKING CONCERN (OVERHILL ROAD)

Mr. Wyman provided a Google Street View image. He said when there are sporting events, the parking on the street is terrible and people have even parked on his lawn. Both high school and youth sport events. He said the gate to second high school entrance is closed. P. Kane pointed out that egress is for emergency purposes. He said that with the parking, it's difficult to get up the road which could be a problem in an emergency. There are parking restrictions on The Greenway but none on Overhill. G. Lord said the police will tag cars when they're notified of an issue. G. Lord suggested that the athletic department could provide information to parents about where they could park.

G. Lord recommended that we look at this next month after doing a site visit (both Overhill and Wayland). Any recommendation for Wayland will be to School Committee since that road is actually a driveway on school property.

MOTION : by J. Potts to continue, second by P. Kane, unanimous.

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

G. Lord and G. Cresta have gone a site visit on Puritan Road to see the posted speed limit signs. They thought there was a section posted for 20 mph but it's no longer there (around Martin Way to Eiseman's Beach). So it is currently posted at 30 mph but Gary's pretty certain there is a section previously approved for 20mph. The Committee discussed the best way to handle may be to adopt the option for town-wide 25mph on thickly-settled streets.

#B – CROSSWALK VERTICAL SIGNAGE (HUMPHREY ST @ MONUMENT AVE)

P. Kane provided examples of signs that he was able to find that meet traffic code regulations. G. Cresta stated they had three in the past but had been damaged and more of a problem. The Committee discussed that we could install this one pedestrian crossing at the monument across Humphrey St but we should be prepared for more requests to then come in. G. Cresta said that the Humphrey St project still has funds which we could purchase a few. Suggested six of them. P. Kane will handle the ordering.

MOTION : by G. Cresta to purchase six of the signs via the Humphrey St project grant, seconded by G. Lord, unanimous.

#F – FLASHING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAL REQUEST

Chief Madigan requested a pedestrian flashing signal in front of St. John’s due to the recent pedestrian accident. P. Kane provided the style of light recommended by MassDOT which is solar power. The Committee agreed the signal would help out and should be installed for both directions.

MOTION : by P. Kane to install pedestrian crossing signal at St. John’s Church for both directions, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimous.

#D – ON-STREET HANDICAP PARKING SPACE REQUEST (MIDDLESEX AVE @ CLARKE SCHOOL)

The Committee received letters of support for the request from the superintendent, principal, and the Disability Commission. They discussed that there are two disabled teachers at the school as well as a student. There’re currently two handicap on-street spaces on Norfolk Ave. G. Lord discussed options of where to place a handicap space. He believes the best option is to use one of the parking spaces in the school’s driveway and make it handicap. Other option is in front of 92-94 Middlesex or on the inside curve of Ellis/Hampden.

MOTION : by G. Lord to recommend to the School Dept that they use a space in driveway and designate it for handicap and let them know there are actually two spaces on Norfolk, seconded by P. Kane, unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

CHANGES TO SPEED LIMIT REGULATIONS PER MUNICIPAL MODERNIZATION BILL

P. Kane provided FAQs from MassDOT on the act. Change can be adopted town-wide or street-by-street. The Committee discussed what should be made as a recommendation to the Selectmen.

MOTION : by R. Mendes that based on the recent requests for a few streets to reduce speed limit to 25mph that we feel the Board should pursue opting into Section 193 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

MOTION : by G. Lord to close the meeting, seconded by P. Kane, unanimous. Meeting closed at 11:45a

S. Peter Kane

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair