



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:11 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), P. Kane (Planning), R. Mendes (Parking Clerk)
Members Absent: G. Cresta (DPW)
Others Present: Gary Lord (Police), Heather Roman (resident), Tracy Williams (resident), Steven Young (resident), JR Young (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:08a by Chair Kane. P. Kane stated the role of the committee to attendees – an advisory committee that reviews traffic requests and provides recommendations to relevant authorities/bodies.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 22 meeting. No comments.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to approve Dec 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by J. Potts, unanimously approved.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

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

#B – ONE-WAY DIRECTION REQUEST (PROSPECT AVENUE)

Heather Roman started by describing an incident that occurred on a previous morning when there was a slight amount of snow on roads. She was heading down Prospect Ave and was hit from behind when a car slid down the road. There were then a number of other cars that slid and went off the road there. She spoke with the police who suggested that the road be made one-way going up the hill. Officer Lord was working that morning. He said the storm came in real quick. There were accidents all over town. Snow started about 5:30a and then really came down in a flurry later on. He'd previously slid down that hill himself. He doesn't know if the answer is making it a one-way. He said DPW always hits the hills first. Ms. Roman said that a lot of middle school students walk up that street to go to school. Officer Lord looked up the accident database and hadn't found any other incidents than the one Ms. Roman had been in. P. Kane said he wasn't

sure that the solution was a one-way direction. There are a lot of roads in town on hills and this is specific to a certain weather event, wouldn't want to affect the traffic flow at all times just for this.

The Committee agreed the action isn't to make it one-way direction.

MOTION : by P. Kane to recommend that DPW focus on snow removal/salting on hill roads specifically Prospect Ave, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimous.

#C – ON-STREET PARKING CONCERN(GALLOUPES POINT ROAD)

P. Kane gave an overview of the current parking restrictions on Galloupes Point Road. Tracy Williams said she lives on Galloupes Point Terrace. There are now new residents on Galloupes Point Road that live opposite Galloupes Point Terrace that park on the street. She's concerned that when people park on that side, it might make it difficult for emergency vehicles. She's also seen delivery vehicles that have an issue navigating when cars are parked as well. Officer Lord asked if there were problems there before. Ms. Williams said no, there hadn't been. She believes the people have now moved because there hasn't been an issue lately. But she's still concerned about the potential of an issue since parking is allowed on that side. Officer Lord said that first, she could always call the Police Dept and the vehicles could be ticketed for impeding emergency vehicles. Second, we could change the restriction to no parking. Officer Lord doesn't feel that posting a restriction is the right method since it's rarely an issue. J. Potts would like to look into more information to see what may have happened in the past regarding Fire Dept access.

The committee decided to postpone until next meeting to see what information can be gathered from the Fire Dept.

#D – TRAFFIC LIGHT AT HIGH SCHOOL (ESSEX STREET)

Steve Young (Tara Gallagher's husband) said that he's been stuck at the light many nights when there really isn't traffic leaving the high school. He thought the light should switch to a blinking yellow for Essex St and blinking red for the high school to limit the impact on traffic during non-school hours. Officer Lord said all those traffic lights in the area are timed and interconnected. P. Kane mentioned that the high school traffic light is actually triggered and will only go through the sequence when there are vehicles waiting to exit the high school. The Committee didn't feel there was a need to change the sequencing/action of the traffic light.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to refer to DPW to look at the traffic light and make sure the sensor and timer are working correctly, seconded P. Kane, unanimous.

LOCATIONS FOR SPEED ADVISORY SIGNS

Police Chief Madigan had asked the committee to discuss and come up with potential locations for the new speed advisory signs that the Police Department had purchased. Officer Lord said they have three portable speed advisory signs (one on a trailer). He believes that the signs might be best located for a period of time (maybe a week, month, two months). JR Young was present to advocate for the signs to be located on Forest Ave due to the speeding that occurs on

the street and since it's used by lots of students to get to the middle school. P. Kane said it sounds like Forest Ave is a very good location for the sign based on the committee discussion with Mr. Young.

Office Lord said he can have the morning officer do more enforcement around the middle school to help with speeding concerns.

Officer Lord also offered up a number of other streets in town that tend to be locations for speeding tickets: Essex St, Humphrey St, Paradise Rd, Stetson Ave, Franklin Ave, Norfolk Ave, Pine St, Burpee Rd, and Puritan Rd (to a lesser degree).

R. Mendes said it might be good if the "We Love Our Kids" signs also went on the speed advisory signs.

MOTION : by P. Kane to provide the street list above and the recommendation for the "We Love Our Kids" sign, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

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

At the previous meeting, Officer Lord said he would do a site visit to look at Whelan Way and determine if there are parking restrictions on that drive already or if restrictions should be installed. Officer Lord said he and G. Cresta hadn't had a chance to visit. We're in a lull now since there aren't any sports happening up there now until April. The committee discussed that the issue only really occurs in the spring and fall during the sport season and that's limited to the weekends though some random weekday evenings have high school games.

Officer Lord/Lt. Stephens will do a site visit. Committee decided to continue the discussion to the next meeting.

The Committee then discussed possible dates for the next meeting. The next meeting was then finalized for Thursday, March 9 @ 10:00a.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to close the meeting, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous. Meeting closed at 11:11a.

S. Peter Kane

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair