

Historic District Commission Meeting
September 20, 2012

Present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Chris Hagger, George Ives, Kathie Steinberg

Public Comment – there was none.

Minutes of June 21, 2012 were approved (4-0-0); and (after Chris Hagger arrived) minutes of August 16, 2012 were accepted as amended (4-0-1)

Discussion of remaining issues at first phase of Town Center intersection reconstruction – Routes 126/27 Area.

Regarding the traffic lights:

- (1) Specific Condition #11 states that “traffic signal is to be flat lens and non-glare light.” Instead, regular lenses were used and louvers were used on the lights facing west (toward the Depot). Louvers were not used on the other traffic lights in this intersection. Currently there is much light spillage. Residents at 2 Old Sudbury Road (Ged and Jennifer Rice) have reported that the green, red and orange glare makes some rooms unusable and seeps in around the edges of darkening shades. The consensus on the HDC was that the use of louvers on all of the traffic lights in the intersection could help to mitigate the light spillage (which may be due in large part to the lack of flat lenses and non-glare light).
- (2) The HDC felt the next issue (though not under the jurisdiction of the HDC) could be brought to the attention of the developer as a current safety issue. There is an almost constant green arrow for cars traveling north on 27 and turning north onto 126. The only time the green arrow goes “off” (and a red light remains “on”) is when the crosswalk light has been activated or a car going south on 27 turns left (north) on 126. Because the green arrow is “on” most all the time, motorists are only expecting to see a green arrow; and there have been a number of near-misses. This could perhaps be mitigated with a small sign “No Turn On Red” just under the green arrow – to alert motorists that there *are times* when they need to stop. Another way to alert motorists turning onto 126 that they may have to stop would be to have the green arrow turned off intermittently (as when the lights for 27 turn from green to red).
- (3) Cars exiting the Depot parking lot need to stop at a white line that is 17 feet from the edge of the road in order to trigger the “smart” traffic light. (The

stop-line is set this far back so that cars will not be stopped on the sidewalk.) The sign is not clear that is supposed to inform motorists that they need to stop at the white line to activate the light. It reads: To request green, wait on (and there is an image of a bicyclist on a broken white line). Perhaps the white line should be changed to a broken line? This is another issue that is not under the jurisdiction of the HDC, but is negatively impacting the HD.

Regarding the sidewalk:

- (4) “Pink” bricks have been used in an area just north of the Depot entrance driveway. They are on the left of the sidewalk, rather than on the right, where Cochituate Road transitions to Old Sudbury. This patch of pink bricks is superfluous and should be removed and replaced with grass. There are additional “pink” bricks near the entrance and exit driveways to the Depot. It was the HDC’s understanding that replacement bricks would be of a similar color to the existing. These replacement bricks are substantially different.

Roadway drainage:

- (5) The driveway at 2 Old Sudbury Road had originally been gravel before the construction project. There is now an asphalt apron, but it does not have a lip or built-up edge. Water currently drains down Old Sudbury Road into their driveway, creating standing water and potholes in the gravel. This is another issue that is not under the HDC jurisdiction – but does have a negative impact on an HD resident.

Chris Hagger added some items under HDC jurisdiction on Route 20:

- (1) The stone wall near the Hagger property is under HDC jurisdiction and it was supposed to be protected during road (and sidewalk) construction. Chris distributed photos showing that gravel that was used during the sidewalk construction covered part of this rock wall – and some of the rocks have been re-arranged. The temporary security fence is currently leaning against Chris’s fence.
- (2) Some of bricks used in the construction of the original sidewalk were tossed into a pile. Some of the reused bricks from the pile are now chipped or broken.

Under safety:

- (3) Chris asked about the safety of cars turning left out of the First Parish Route 20 driveway – or about that same safety as he turns left out of his

driveway. Will there be a NO TURN ON RED sign at corner 20 and 27? This would provide for gaps in the traffic, allowing for safer left-turns onto Route 20.

There was some discussion as to whom the list of HDC traffic mitigation concerns should be addressed. There appeared to be consensus on the HDC that the list of concerns should be sent to Wayland 20 (Frank Dougherty) and Selectmen with a copy to the Planning Board and the DPW and Police. There could be follow-up letters to the Depot, the Historical Society and the Library.

Schedule joint meeting with Wayland Historical Commission and Historical Society. This meeting would be to see where the paths of the two commissions intersect. Gretchen asked if Monday, October 15th, would work. There was general agreement that this date would work. An agenda will be worked up and there may even be a hearing. (A Bow Road resident has inquired about enclosing a breezeway.) Chris asked about recommending Community Preservation Act projects. There was also discussion about the first high school which is owned by the Trinitarian Congregational Church.

375th Celebration – Participation of WHDC – Walking Tour Brochure? There was a brief discussion of a walking tour brochure that the HDC might do for the 375th celebration. Kathie spoke of a scavenger hunt that could be fun using the walking tour and some GPS type guidance. The Historical Society will help with a house tour. There will be 5 houses involved – one from each century.

Tour of historic Wayland Center on Sunday, September 30 at 2 pm. The Historical Society has asked Gretchen to give a walking tour of historic Wayland Center. The tour will start at the Grout Heard House Museum; it will include the First Parish area, a part of Concord Road up to and including part of Bow Road.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 15 when there will be a joint meeting with the Historical Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston