



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard J. White, Town Manager

FROM: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

DATE: Wednesday, November 29, 2006

SUBJECT: **TSAC Minutes from November 16, 2006**

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 16, 2006 @ 8AM to discuss the following issues brought before us:

Resident interesting reinstalling Bus Stop sign at the corner of Revere and Hutchinson Streets

Toby Sugarman a resident of Golden Drive requested that a Bus Stop Sign be reinstalled at the corner of Revere and Hutchinson Streets. She stated that she has spoken to many area residents and it is a common belief that this location has been a Bus Stop for over fifty years. She also stated that the sign is necessary because there may be some people, especially residents who are new to the area who may not know where the Bus Stops are located. While she was addressing the committee, she also asked who is responsible for shoveling Bus Stops. DPW Director Dave Hickey stated that the stops with shelters, such as those on Housing Authority or School Department property are shoveled by those agencies, but the town does not clear others. Ms. Sugarman stated that she feels residents should be advised to shovel Bus Stops that abut their property.

Recommendation:

The list of Bus Stops previously approved by The Board of Selectmen does not list the corner of Revere and Hutchinson Streets as a Bus Stop. It is the feeling of the committee that posting a Bus Stop at this location would pose a traffic hazard, especially in the winter months due to the hill on Revere Street. This condition has caused accidents and close calls in the past, which have resulted in a steel guardrail being installed on this corner to protect area residences. The corner is not currently posted as a Bus Stop, but Bus Drivers are known to stop there as a courtesy.

The committee does not recommend installing a Bus Stop Sign at this location. The committee does recommend that a letter be sent to Paul Revere Bus Company to inform their drivers to only stop at designated Bus Stops, and to invite the company to come to a future meeting of this committee in order to ensure that their list of Bus Stops is the same as the town's list. The committee also recommends that the responsibility of installing Bus Stop signs revert back to the Paul Revere Bus Company as it has been in the past.

“No Parking Here To Corner” sign on Hillside Avenue

John Floyd of 41 Hillside Avenue Requested that a “No Parking Here To Corner” sign be installed before the Stop Sign at Hillside Avenue and that a white line be painted to designate the spot for vehicles to stop. He showed the committee photos of the area with a vehicle parked near the stop sign, as well as some video he took showing several vehicles failing to come to a complete stop at this location. There are two stop signs posted at the intersection in an effort to make sure drivers see the sign and stop. He hopes that the line will tell drivers to stop before entering the intersection. He also passed along comments to the committee from Ms. Linda Driscoll, an area resident who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Driscoll has a day care in the area and notes the lack of crosswalks in the area. She cited an incident in which a car failed to stop at the Stop Sign and nearly struck her while she was walking with a baby carriage. Mr. Floyd also states that there have been many close calls with car accidents and that having a car parked close to the Stop Sign causes a lane reduction on an already narrow street. He also cites the fact that cars must speed up to get up the hill in the winter due to slick road conditions, and that there is a School Bus Stop nearby at Massa Playground. He is concerned for the safety of people in the area, and feels that this measure will solve at least 25% of the problem.

Recommendation:

The Committee does not recommend the painting of a Stop Line, but does recommend that the town bylaws be amended as follows to allow for the installation of a “No Parking Here To Corner” Sign to be installed:

No parking on the east side of Hillside Ave from the intersection with Crystal Cove to a point located 10' southerly of and directly across from utility pole # 381

The committee would also like to recommend that the following town bylaw be reviewed and amended if necessary to reflect the current Massachusetts General Laws regarding stop signs.

§ 275-43. Obedience to stop signs and signals.

Every driver of a vehicle, railway car or other conveyance approaching an intersection of ways where there exists facing him an official sign bearing the word "stop" or a flashing red signal indication, such sign or signal having, apart from these rules and orders, the written approval of the State Department of Public Works, and such approval being in effect, shall, before proceeding through the intersection, bring such vehicle, railway car or other conveyance to a complete stop at such point as may be clearly marked by a sign or line, or if a point is not so marked, then at the nearer line of the crosswalk of said intersection. In the case of a line of two or more vehicles approaching such stop sign or

flashing red signal indication, the drivers of the second and third vehicles in any group shall not be required to stop more than once before proceeding through the intersection.

This section shall not apply when the traffic is otherwise directed by an officer or by a lawful traffic-regulating sign, signal or device.

Old Business: Atlantis Marina, 550 Pleasant Street

Michael Croft, the new Town Building Inspector addressed the committee regarding neighborhood parking concerns near Atlantis Marina. He stated that he visited the site and spoke to the contractor working on the job. He was assured that parking had been provided in two lots what were shown to him by the contractor. There was more than ample signage to instruct workers where to park, however he is not surprised at the complaints of workers parking on the street due to the large size of the job and the number of people working there. He also noticed many vehicles with out of state plates. Mr. Croft feels that the issue has been addressed, and has asked the contractor to remind their workers about the parking restrictions during their weekly meetings. Dave Hickey asked Mr. Croft if the contractor issued warning tickets as mentioned in the contract. Mr. Croft said he told the contractor that it is their responsibility to do so, and also noted that the number of complaints from neighbors has dropped. Mr. Croft also believes that things will change soon once the construction of the parking lot on site is finished and workers can park on site. Chief Goldstein noted that parking in Winthrop is a major issue, and that the complaints stemmed from the construction workers parking on the streets in the area, forcing area residents to walk longer distances from their cars to their homes.

Recommendation:

After hearing the remarks of the Building Inspector, the committee feels that the issues have been resolved, or will resolve themselves in the near future, and no further action is necessary at this time. The committee did notice that the Board of Appeals decision on the project mentions some traffic restrictions once the project is completed, that do not appear anywhere in the town bylaws. The committee would like to suggest that once the Atlantis Marina project is completed, the town bylaws be modified to reflect the traffic restrictions in the Board of Appeals decision on the project.