



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard J. White, Town Manager

FROM: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2007

SUBJECT: **TSAC Minutes from February 15, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 8:10AM.

Chief Goldstein explained the advisory role of the committee to the public in attendance. He also explained that due to another meeting he had scheduled, he would need to leave this meeting at 9AM. When he did so, he turned control of the meeting over to Michele Karas who was acting chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Members Present:

- Police Chief David Goldstein, Chair
- Michele Karas, Municipal Hearing Officer
- David Hickey, DPW Director
- Ed Cox, Resident Representative
- Michael Diluiso, Resident Representative
- Fire Chief Larry Powers (Joined the meeting at 8:30)

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met on February 15, 2007 at 8AM to discuss the following issues brought before us:

Resident request – discuss the possibility of installing a 4-Way Stop Sign at the intersections of Winthrop/Hermon/Pauline Streets

Robert Laveque, an area resident, stated that he felt the problem with this intersection is that there is too much traffic flowing through it. He also stated that he felt that moving the bus route so that it ran along Walden Street instead of Hermon Street would solve some of the traffic issues, since the buses would no longer be traveling through such a congested intersection. Lastly, he stated that he has observed that “nobody” stops at the stop sign at the police station.

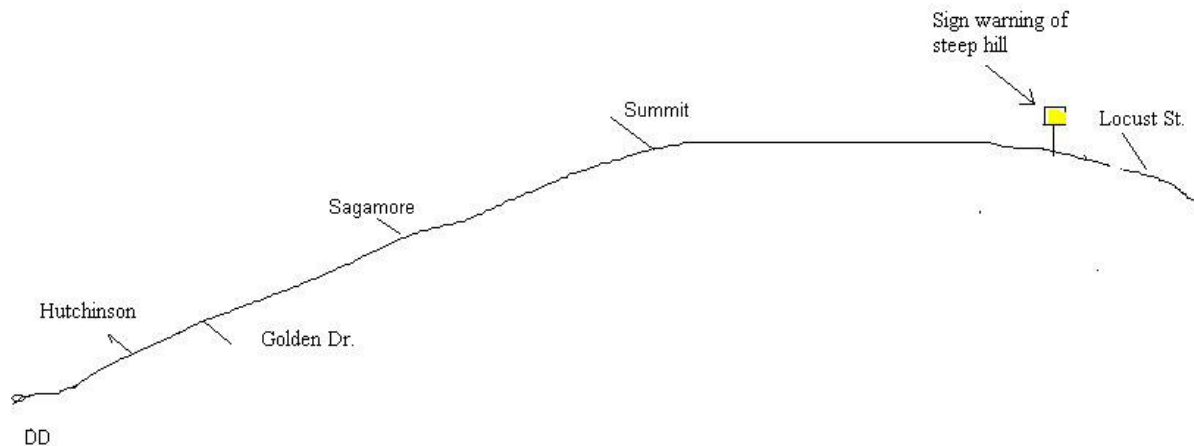
Mr. Chiulli, another area resident, said that he would be in favor of installing the additional stop signs.

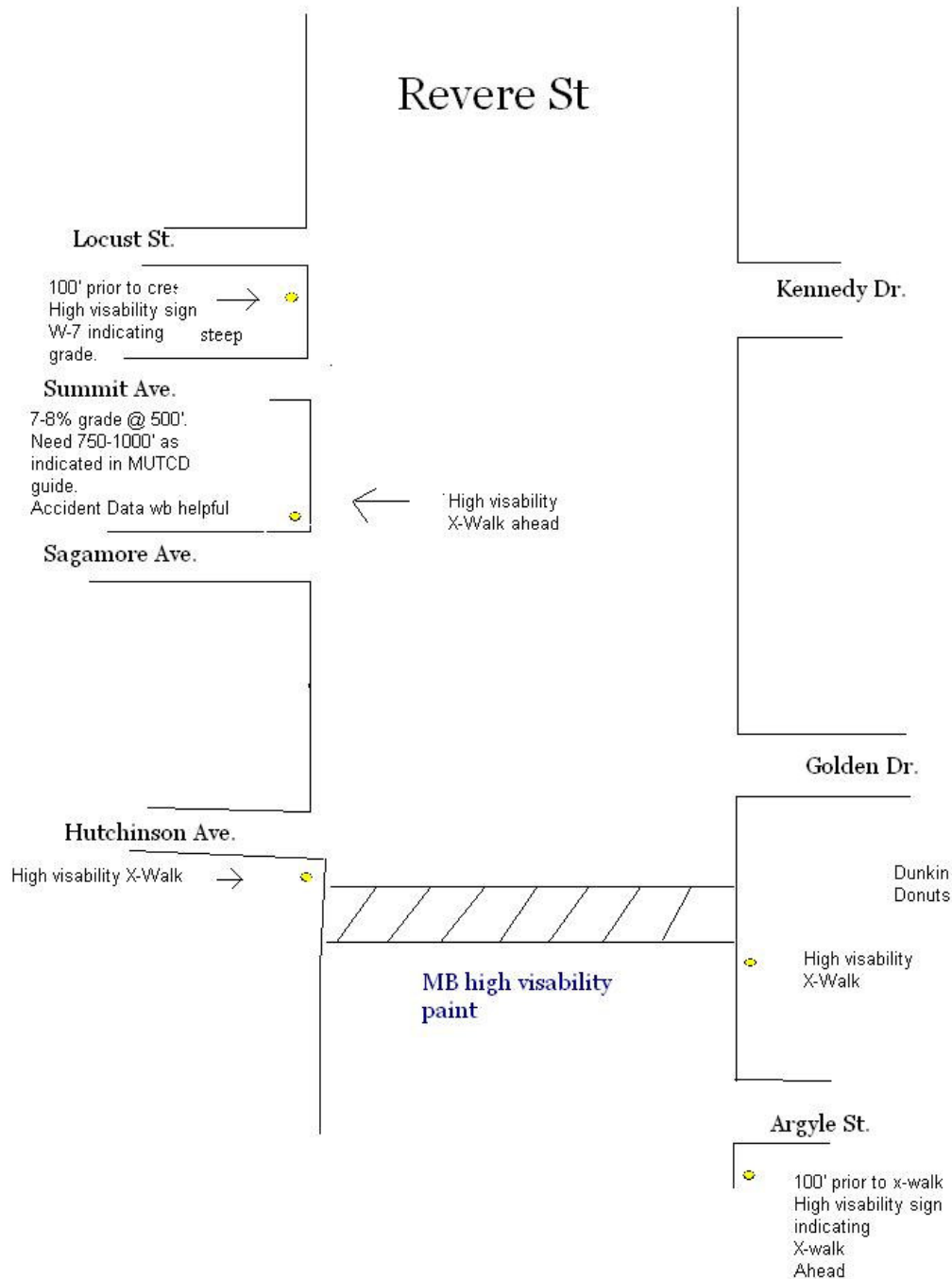
Recommendation:

Dave Hickey will contact an engineer to look into the possibility of conducting a traffic study of the intersection to see if a 4-Way Stop or possibly even Traffic Lights are justified. It will also be helpful if he can get any history of accidents at the intersection from the Police Department. The committee will postpone action on this item until its next meeting.

Motion for a formal vote for signage for Golden Drive

Dave Hickey presented the committee with the following diagrams for proposed signage on Revere Street in the area of Golden Drive. They show recommended locations for high visibility signage at the crosswalk near the intersection of Revere Street and Golden Drive, as well as advance notice signs to alert motorists and hopefully slow them down. Dave is also recommending repainting the "SLOW" markings on the road in the spring. Dave also looked into the possibility of installing a sign as you come down Revere Street from Summit Ave. heading toward Crest Ave. to classify the hill as a steep grade. The slope of the hill does not meet the Mass. Highway standards, but it is close to them. Ed Cox mentioned that the law does provide for installing the sign even though the grade does not quite meet the standards.





Recommendation:

The Committee unanimously voted 5-0 to accept Dave Hickey's recommendations as laid out in the diagrams. This could be completed by the end of March, weather permitting. A letter is also

being drafted to the director of the Housing Authority regarding the traffic issues in the Golden Drive area.

Resident request – discuss the possibility of the Town painting a striped line along Main Street from approximately the Mobil Mart to the curb cut/entrance of the Dunkin' Donuts facility

Dave Hickey started by stating that the Town is being asked to stripe a street for a business. He feels this is not a good practice and that if it were to be done, it would need to be engineered. It may eliminate the problem with traffic in the area in the mornings, but that is not our responsibility, it is the responsibility of the business that is impacting the area, in this case, Dunkin' Donuts.

The Manager from Wyatt's Mobil spoke to say that the Police detail concentrates on the traffic exiting Dunkin' Donuts, and not keeping the driveway to Wyatt's accessible. She also states that there is an existing agreement with Dunkin' Donuts that their line is supposed to be limited to seven cars. She also stated that she has problems with Dunkin' Donuts customers parking in Wyatt's lot. She is willing to help the town, but she does not want to hurt her customers. The TSAC members are aware of the problems with traffic in the area.

It sounds like the petitioner wants to expedite the trip out of town. The Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals may need to review the conditions which were put in place when Dunkin' Donuts opened. It is also possible that they may want to limit the hours of the Drive Through.

Nick Cimino, a resident present, agrees that The Zoning Board of Appeals or the Planning Board may need to hold a hearing on the issue of traffic around this establishment. He also points out that there is a lot of traffic on the East Boston Side as well.

Dave Hickey mentioned that we might want to get traffic data from the City of Boston and see if we can re-time the light at Orient Heights. Mike Diluiso mentioned that a previous Board of Selectmen did this at one point, however he is not sure if the change in timing was kept.

Michele Karas mentioned the committee should look into the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals decisions regarding the business. She also recommends a special meeting to look at this issue, and feels that the Zoning Board of Appeals should have the business owner in for a meeting. She also suggests having the building inspector look at the issue and getting some recommendations from him. Michele said she would look at the issue further.

Jack Dowd, a resident in attendance stated he would like to see a traffic study done, for example, to see how long the trip from Hermon Street to Orient Heights takes, and include in that study what effect adding cars in fifty unit increments would have on traffic. Chief Goldstein stated that such a study would need to be ongoing.

Recommendation:

Dave Hickey stated that the issue of traffic in the area of Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street is worth investigating, and made a motion to ask the Town Manager to request the owner of Dunkin' Donuts appear before the Town regarding an assessment as to whether or not traffic is working

due to the concern about the high level of traffic in the area, and that the Town send a request to The Department of Public Works in the City of Boston for an explanation of the traffic controls at Orient Heights in East Boston. The motion was seconded. The committee accepted the motion by a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Old Business: Motion for a formal vote re: installation of additional streetlight on Mugford Street/Taft Avenue

Mrs. Stern appeared before the committee as the proponent of installing the additional streetlight. She stated that after the last time the committee took up this issue, she was notified by the Town Manager that a light survey would be conducted but was never told when it would be done, or who would conduct it. She also restated her concerns about burglaries in the area, and that she is older, lives alone, and does not want to be scared. She cannot understand why it has not been done since she has done much for the town over the years and has never asked for anything in return before now.

Dave Hickey told Mrs. Stern that the committee did take this item up before, and that he did conduct the light analysis and compared it to the standards for street lighting, which is ambient lighting between 2 and 4 foot-candles at the center of the road. The results were average at just over 2 foot-candles, which meets the standard.

Mrs. Stern countered that trees darken the lighting near houses, and that in case of an emergency; an ambulance may not be able to find her house because it is very dark near her house. She lives five houses from the entrance to Deer Island and there are a lot of non-residents who travel through the area. She stated that no neighbors objected to the request. She is also concerned about how she will be notified of the committee's decision. Chief Goldstein told her that the Town Manager would notify her of the decision.

Dave Hickey clarified that her request is to have a light installed on pole number 11 and also informed her that the committee had received written correspondence objecting to adding the light.

Recommendation:

The committee recommends sending a request to National Grid to increase the wattage of the existing streetlights in the area.

General Business

Mr. Hudd of Billows Street appeared before the committee to once again express his concerns about parking on Billows Street. He told the committee about various things that have gone on in the neighborhood over the years, and after a lengthy discussion and history lesson of the area, gave the committee an outline of some suggestions he would like to see implemented to bring Billows Street in line with the way he feels the other roads in the area were set up.

Michele Karas, at this time the chair of the meeting, told Mr. Hudd he would have to submit this outline to the Town Manager to have it placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Hudd again expressed his feeling that laws are not being enforced on Billows Street.

Chief Powers again explained the process of having the item placed on the agenda to Mr. Hudd by stating that the Town Manager sets our agenda and that we advise him, and he will, if necessary bring an item to the Town Council for a formal vote.

Mr. Hudd finished his comments by stating that he can't take his boat out of the driveway in the back of his house, and that he should have access to his legal driveway at all times.

Jack Dowd addressed the committee and reiterated his request earlier in the meeting for a traffic study. He then took up the subject of angle parking at Lewis Lake. He stated that he can appreciate the need for new parking for snow emergencies, but he says that there is a town bylaw that states cars should not back out of stalls. He is also concerned about added information that was included about angle parking in the minutes of the TSAC meeting from Thursday, January 25, 2007. He stated that there is additional information in the minutes that he did not bring up when he discussed angle parking at the meeting.

Michele Karas explained that the additional information was included so that the Town Manager would have all of the information on angle parking.

Mr. Dowd continued by saying that the bylaw allowing angle parking pertained to the center area, and was discontinued due to safety concerns. He then stated that the purpose of the article prohibiting angle parking was to promote health and safety, not convenience. He lastly referenced a statement he said Dave Hickey said to him that the Town does not need a building permit. Mr. Dowd said he researched this through the Attorney General's Office, and that office told him that if the town does not have to abide by zoning, it should say so in the codebook, which it does not. Mr. Dowd was informed that he would have an opportunity to voice his concerns about the angle parking at Lewis Lake at the Conservation Commission Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, at 7:30PM in the Harvey Hearing room.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25AM.