



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard J. White, Town Manager

FROM: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 09, 2007

SUBJECT: **TSAC Minutes from Thursday, June 21, 2007**

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 8AM to discuss the following issues brought before us:

Meeting called to order at 8:06AM.

Resident Request: Discuss the possibility of installing a blinking red light at the corner of Putnam and Jefferson Streets.

Anthony Iantosca, a resident at 39 Buchanan Street, described problems when entering or exiting into the intersection of Putnam Street and Jefferson Street due to drivers ignoring the stop signs and exiting Winthrop Center or tuning onto Putnam from Jefferson. Mr. Iantosca expressed that this was too frequent of an occurrence to let it go.

David Hickey, Jr., Director of Public Works for the Town of Winthrop, discussed and outlined points regarding State Warrants required for justification regarding four-way stops as well as traffic signal lights.

Recommendation:

Unanimous Vote-OPPOSED: to erecting a signal at the corner of Putnam and Jefferson Streets based on existing STOP sign is present and a blinking light does not meet the MUTCD State Warrant. The Police Department will continue ongoing traffic enforcement in the area.

Resident Request: Discuss the possibility of alternating parking on the opposite side of River Road during snowstorms.

Erma Levy, a resident at 230 River Road, requests for the Town to reconsider an alternative program for parking on River Road during winter months. She expressed her concerns of the ability to properly remove snow from her sidewalks as well as the Town's snowplowing program. She is against parking on one side of River Road during a snowstorm. Her proposed solution is alternating parking on the other side each year.

No residents were present at the Public Meeting to discuss this agenda item.

Recommendation:

Unanimous Vote – OPPOSED: to changing the winter regulations program for River Road due to the inability or effective manner to properly enforce at the time of a snow ban and safety concerns raised by the Public Safety Departments.

Resident Request: Discuss the possibility of painting crosswalk lines on Brookfield Road [approximately 122 Brookfield Road] leading to the entrance of Ingleside Park and to include pedestrian signage.

James Letterie, a resident at 114 Brookfield Road, requests for the Town to consider painting crosswalks to address safety concerns raised by residents and park goers. There are no crosswalks around the majority of the area of the park. Mr. Letterie provided pictures for the members to review. Mr. Letterie also raised concerns of traffic speeds of motorists at times at increased levels. He also pointed out that there is no curbing on Brookfield Road and this should be looked at when deciding placement of crosswalks.

A resident from the area voiced his support for this request, adding, “It is a good idea.”

David Hickey, Jr., Director of Public Works for the Town of Winthrop, discussed and outlined points regarding State Warrants required for justification regarding mid-block crosswalks as well as traffic volume of motorists and pedestrians. He agrees that crosswalks should be placed in “safe” places because of the placement of the park and the high activity levels of park goers, as well as the ‘school zone.’

Recommendation:

Unanimous Vote – FOR: painting of crosswalks and erecting of signage, subject to engineering study and a sketch of proposed plan is conducted by the Department of Public Works. [See Appendix A]

In addition, the Police Department will continue ongoing traffic enforcement in the area.

Resident Request: Discuss the possibility of making Tileston Road a one-way street.

A request of 30 residents as well as a signed petition was received, by the Town Manager’s Office, to make Tileston Road a one-way from Marshall Street to Pleasant Street. [See Appendix B]

James ‘Jim’ Malloy, a resident at 44-46 Tileston Road, expressed concerns of increased motorist traffic and parking in the area due to the increased development in the area. He expressed his support of the petition.

James Letterie, resident and Town Council member representative of Precinct 2, voiced his support on this request.

Marci Hamilton, a resident at 18 Tileston Road, amplified her support with the proposal but questioned which direction would be the best alternative.

Recommendation:

Unanimous Vote – FOR: making Tileston Road a one-way from Marshall Street to Pleasant Street.

The following would be sent by the Town Manager to the Town Council as a recommendation for an ordinance change:

ARTICLE VI, One-Way Streets**§ 275-45. Schedule of one-way streets.**

Upon the following streets or parts of streets, vehicular travel shall move only in the direction indicated below:

Name of Street	Location
[ADD]: Tileston Road	From Marshall Street to Pleasant Street

Discuss the width of Hermon Street as it relates to the Paul Revere buses.

Sandra Scarfo, a resident at 174 Lincoln Street [corner of Hermon/Lincoln], discusses her concerns with the width of the new buses that Paul Revere has. She states that motorists have had difficulty in the past with the old buses and the ability to pass them on Hermon Street and stresses the new width of the buses is going to make it more difficult, especially during the winter months. A concern of exhaust entering into her home and the inability to open her windows in the nice spring, summer and fall months was raised.

Mrs. Flaherty, a resident of 85 Hermon Street, amplified her concerns with the buses driving up onto the sidewalks to make it around motorists and parked vehicles sometimes going up onto her lawn.

Mr. Varone, a resident of 100 Hermon Street of fourteen (14) years, also expressed his views on the safety issues, especially Hermon Street being “too narrow a street to allow a bus to travel on.”

Mr. Allan Ferrullo, a resident at 171 Lincoln Street [opposite corner to the Scarfo residence] of twenty (20) years, also expressed concerns of the safety issues and how dangerous it is with the new buses traveling on Hermon Street. Winter months will even be worse. The corner of Nick’s Place with its delivery trucks and patrons regarding parking also increases the issues of the ability of the bus drivers to be able to safely make the turns at the top of Herman at Pauline Street. Mr. Ferrullo requests a resolution to review the possibility of moving the bus route to Walden Street.

Per David Hickey, Jr., Director of Public Works, noted:

- Hermon Street is 24 feet wide with 6 foot sidewalks
- Walden Street is 27 to 35 feet wide with 7 foot sidewalks

Recommendation:

Unanimous Vote – OPPOSED: to change the current bus route on Hermon Street.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee [TSAC] is sympathetic to the neighborhood's request to change the bus route from Hermon Street to Walden Street. With stating this, the TSAC would like to outline its concerns. We have serious concerns that such a move on the surface would make perfect sense but due to density becomes problematic. This is due to the basic services that already exist, such as, accessibility and ease to travel to and fro municipal buildings: police department, town hall, fire department, schools in the Metcalf Square area that the Hermon Street bus service currently provides. If moved to Walden Street, the bus patrons would then have to walk blocks to catch the bus. Overall public service to the Town's municipal buildings: Town Hall, Police, Fire, Schools should not be interrupted.

General Comment Discussion:

Mr. Roger Hathaway, a resident at 119 River Road, wanted to comment that currently there is 'no problem' with the current winter regulations as regarding parking. In addition, he added the area currently adopted has a total run of curbing for parking that is satisfactory. If changed, there would be less parking available during the winter parking program. He counted the following:

- Buchanan to Washington [ODD SIDE of ROAD] - 19 driveway openings and 7 side streets.
- Buchanan to Washington [EVEN SIDE of ROAD] – 33 driveway openings, 1 side street/dead end.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10AM.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Karas, Municipal Hearing Officer