



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard J. White, Town Manager

FROM: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

DATE: September 20, 2007

SUBJECT: **TSAC Minutes from August 16, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 8:10AM.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met on August 16, 2007 at 8AM to discuss the following issues brought before us:

Item 1- A resident has requested discussing the possibility of installing “No Trucks Allowed” signs on Lincoln Street between Pleasant and Walden Streets.

Mr. Robert Pucillo of 57 Lincoln Street provided pictures for the committee to review. He explained that Lincoln Street has become a cut-through; safety is a major concern because of the park in the area and amount of activity it has. In addition, the street is eroding from various factors: utility workers, water. Furthermore, the trucks that travel Lincoln Street shake the neighborhood and the homes during their travels. Many neighbors fear that their foundations are cracking. As well, there are a number of delivery trucks that park and travel that route all hours of the day. The activity starts early in the morning; they are trucks from out-of-state with little concern for Winthrop's community. These trucks continue through the neighborhood to late night, sometimes 2 to 3 AM. Mr. Pucillo stated, just today at 6:15AM there was an 18-wheeler, Coastal Forrest Products.

Ms. Karin Chavis spoke in agreement with Mr. Pucillo. She has been a resident for 47 years. The traffic is not what it use to be. The streets are in need of repair. The water/sewer repairs on Read, Walden and parts of Lincoln Street have disrupted the streets. She voiced her concern of the children in the area.

Recommendation:

The TSAC voted unanimously, to DEFER this item until which time the area can be evaluated due to recent and future construction. The TSAC will revisit this agenda item after Atlantis is done, and other construction designs/proposals for up and coming projects, such as the hospital are more defined.

Item 2 – A resident has requested discussing the possibility of installing “No Parking Here to Corner” signs at the top of Somerset Avenue.

The proponent, Mr. Tom Simitjis, explained that he concerned with the parking on Somerset, specifically at the corner of Pleasant Street heading toward the Center. He added, there are currently no parking restriction signs at this corner, and cars are parking on both sides of Somerset all the way to the corner of Pleasant. This has created traffic flow and safety issues. Tom voiced, at the meeting, his concerns of public safety vehicles not being able to make it through that area in an emergency. Also, the trash trucks have difficulty and have to back up the street sometimes to get out of Somerset.

Mr. Harry Darian of 233 Pleasant Street voiced that he is concerned about taking parking away. Ed H. of 95 Somerset also spoke on favor of the proposal. He stated it is difficult to take the corner and would be especially harder for fire apparatus. The beer trucks can't make the swing either.

Recommendation:

The TSAC voted unanimously to increase enforcement in the area particularly the State Law regarding parking is prohibited no less than 20 ft from a corner. In addition, a review of the area will be done by the Director of public works, which at that time take in consideration the law of a min. of 20' and the fire apparatus turning radius. The Director of public works will recommend a determination for the approximate footage for the sign to the Town Manager. If other than 20', a recommendation would then have to be proposed for Town Council review to adopt an ordinance change.

Item 3 – A resident has requested discussing the possibility of installing Jersey barriers in the area of 3-5 Crest Avenue

Ms. Bridgette Mulkerrin of 5 Crest Avenue was first to be heard on this agenda item. She stated the area has a large driveway area.

Mr. Hal Abrams is against the proposal of installing jersey barriers in that area.

Public Works Director, David Hickey, mentioned the footage that is allowable for driveway openings under our town ordinances: max. of 30' commercial and 24' residential areas. In addition, there is a safety issue there. This was a gas station in the past. Parking needs to be organized.

Recommendation:

The TSAC voted unanimously AGAINST the installation of jersey barriers. The TSAC recommend to the Department of public works to review the area, and work to create a work plan that addresses “improved safety” and is in compliance with the Planning Board's Rules and Regulations.

New Business

During the open session portion of the meeting a resident voiced their concerns of the school in regards to parking and having the ability to drop off their child/children.

The Chair stated that a letter was sent out in which stated the doors of the school are locked until five minutes until eight a.m.

It was also mentioned that there is a new principal and this was her decision. They are addressing the safety of the children. A plan is in place that will help mitigate the problems faced in the past. School personnel and teachers will be assigned outside to supervise the drop off areas where parents are expected to drop their children and go. This also eliminates safety issues of parents or other people entering/exiting the premises. Police will also be present to administer traffic flow and enforce parking regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40AM.

Minutes scribe: Michele N. Karas