



MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard J. White, Town Manager

FROM: Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

DATE: Monday, May 19, 2008

SUBJECT: **TSAC Minutes from February 21, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 8:10AM.

Members Present:

- Fire Chief Larry Powers
- Michele Karas, Parking Clerk/MIS Director
- David Hickey, DPW Director
- Michael Diluiso, Resident Representative

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met on February 21, 2008 at 8AM to discuss the following issues brought before us:

Item 1 - A resident has requested discussing the possibility of parking on both sides of Cottage Park Road leading to the Center.

Jean Coughlin of 23 Cottage Park Road was the first to be heard regarding this request. She is against it. There is no parking on her side, worried about children in the neighborhood, and driveways always blocked others having limited access to driveways.

Shirley Donovan of 70 Cottage Park Road stated it is very difficult to get in and out of her driveway, clearly impossible when there is snow on the ground during winter seasons. Too congested for parking, the parking regulations were changed back in the 60's because of the issues they found. She is very against the proposed change.

Diane Macken of 40 Cottage Park Road stated there are many cars that park illegal making it difficult to get in and out of her driveway. Snow and snow banks make it even more difficult to get out of her driveway. She asked for a review of the area, stating that a resident took down signage illegally and would like it replaced. Changing the ordinance will be a big mistake.

Judy Rutherford of 61 Cottage Park Road who has lived there for forty-nine years is in attendance; she raised the issue of residents not using their driveways adds to the problem as well as landlords not allowing their tenants to use an empty driveway. She stated that the petitioner has a driveway; they should be able to use it.

Pat Brogna of 68 Cottage Park Road stated that the parking on one side works for the residents. Safety will be a problem if the proposed change is adopted. She would like the police to take action on the speeders and the motorists that go up the one way the wrong way. Chief Larry Powers, acting chair for this meeting, asked, "Is any one in attendance in favor of this proposed change?" Audience voiced, "No, no one."

Recommendation:

The TSAC members fully agree to leave it "as is." The TSAC members voted unanimously AGAINST the proposal of changing the parking regulations for Cottage Park.

Item 2 - Discuss the possibility of prohibiting trucks from using Lincoln Street.

Karen Chavis of 63 Lincoln Street stated that the streets are in deplorable condition. She understands that a full study was done of the area, that the hospital has sat vacant for too long and raised concerns of construction in the Ingleside/Enfield Rd area where trucks go up and down Lincoln Street for access routes to these sites. She asks the TSAC to reconsider.

A resident states that there are many pot holes, especially one that is right in front of the hospital on Lincoln Street – they need to be fixed. Also there are eighteen wheelers coming and going all times of day. They believe one is from Coastal that delivers blue board to Anderson.

David Hickey, DPW Director agrees that the area discussed today is the worst in the community. Repair to the water/sewer infrastructure is top on our list which will include the paving of the streets. To pave now to later have to re-pave to fix the infrastructure underneath is not cost effective for the Town or its citizens.

Recommendation:

The TSAC members voted unanimously AGAINST the proposal of prohibiting trucks from using Lincoln Street, and that the original finding stands. Many streets within Winthrop are narrow and many are traveled by trucks; the members feel if adopted this will only set a precedence in the future for other areas in town feeling that they don't want trucks to travel on their streets either.

10:00AM general public left and Mr. Michael R. Abend of Abend Associates was welcomed to speak on his proposal, item number three on the agenda.

Item 3 - Discuss the Traffic Safety pertaining to the impact of traffic-flow after the completion of renovations at the former Winthrop Hospital.

Mr. Michael R. Abend of Abend Associates made his study report available to members of the TSAC and was available to discuss them in fuller detail. Tina Brin as well as, attorney representing the owner of property, James Cipoletta was also in attendance.

Recommendation:

The TSAC brought up concerns of the report regarding parking, delays in traffic flows and safety issues. The TSAC has requested that Mr. Abend address these issues and recommendations are to be a part of the final report.