

Thursday, September 24, 2020
Traffic Advisory Committee

APPROVED
12/9/20

1. Call to Order @ 12:03pm with Chief Stone's recitation of the online rules
2. Roll Call
 - a. Chief Stone
 - b. Chief Cassidy
 - c. Ms. Hein
 - d. Mr. Horton
 - e. Ms. Raffi
 - f. Mr. Sipsma
 - g. Mr. Reese
3. Motion to approve remote by Ms. Hein, seconded by Ms. Raffi. Unanimously approved
4. Review and discuss the three Traffic Petition Hearings from the 9/3/2020 meeting
 - a. Mr. Robert McKee, 114 Juniper Road
 - i. Mr. Horton has submitted to Google Maps and Open Street

Map

1. Mr. Horton to write up instructions for above
 - ii. Options for discussion:
 1. Signage
 - a. Mr. Ahern has researched and this might be a solution (painting or adding Do Not Enter signage)
 - b. Currently has "No Access. Emergency & Authorized Vehicles Only" sign
 - c. Different signage does not change the punitive action
 - i. Warning vs. Fine is at
2. Town communication
 - a. Ms. Hein is for this
3. Police enforcement

Motion to recommend a "Do Not Enter" sign on top of current signage at both ends and town communication by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Mr. Horton. Vote carries after roll call vote.

- b. Ms. Nancy Deutsch, 484 Marshall Street
 - i. Petitioned for improvements on Marshall Street re: speeding.
 - ii. Requested 2 4-way stops
 - iii. Chief Stone pulled data on accidents (responded to by

HPD)

1. YTD 2020, 3 accidents
2. Jan 2019-Jan 2020, 3 accidents
3. Last 5 years, total of 17 accidents
 - iv. Chief Cassidy noted that stop signs often create haphazard stops and rapid acceleration, in practice

v. Ms. Hein noted that crash data on low volume roads is often superseded by resident concern

vi. Recommendation to conduct a study?

Motion to make no recommendation following hearing pending a traffic study and pending a Select Board decision regarding 25mph by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Ms. Raffi. Vote carries following roll call vote

c. Ms. Hanna Roy, 235 Mellen Street

i. Petitioned for signage to indicate that street is not a through way.

ii. Question for Mr. Reese about moving the existing signage. There is currently a sign, but we could potentially move to a more visible position further up Winter Street.

1. Signage on Winter Street is less visible. Does it need the yellow diamond signage as on Hollis?

Motion to move the signage to a more visible position on Winter Street and add the Yellow Diamond by Mr. Horton. Seconded by Ms. Raffi. Vote carries following roll call vote.

5. Mr. Horton to draft 3 recommendations to the Select Board, to be presented by Chief Stone, as Chair. Coordinate via Mr. Ahern for vote as Board Business as individual items.

6. Review the updated Traffic Petition list

a. Per Chief Stone's list, all petitioners prior to 8/10/20 have received communication

b. From 8/20-9/14, we have received 11 new petitions

c. Chief Stone recommends a letter similar to prior that indicates receipt

d. Ms. Hein recommends a letter that states we are actively working on the issues that these petitioners have raised. Notify petitioners that a hearing will be considered for schedule after Town Meeting to take advantage of the decisions made there.

e. Chief Cassidy: from a procedural standpoint, do we want to commit to a hearing? If the concern is handled elsewhere, can we screen?

f. Chief Stone will modify the existing letter and send to petitioners who have not yet received a communication

7. Update on the FFY2020 Community Traffic Safety Projects Grant

a. Program was postponed. New determination was made to cancel the program due to ongoing COVID concerns.

b. We had applied for a grant that is no longer available.

8. Special Town Meeting in October 26, 2020

a. Chief Stone has quotes from original grant.

i. Data collector/volume counter + 36mos of software

1. \$6700

ii. Radar message signboard that captures speed, displays and records data + 36 mos of software

1. \$18,700

iii. Variable message sign board to alert drivers

1. \$22,600

b. Mr. Reese confirmed that signage budget is ~\$1,081

i. Scope is maintenance and replacement, not new

- c. Capital Request from the TAC
 - i. 1 article with 2 requests
 - 1. Equipment (stealth radar, traffic counter, etc.)
 - 2. Supplies (signage, etc)
- d. Mr. Ahern: we need to be clear in what we want to purchase
- e. Ms. Hein: we should apply at least \$4500 to restore what was cut from Highway Dept
 - i. Chief Stone noted:
 - 1. Street signs w. poles range from \$100-\$120 for standard signs
 - 2. LED signs are ~\$1600/sign
 - 3. \$4500 would be ~30 signs, which is unlikely to be enough
- f. Mr. Maxwell: when proposals are made without an understanding of the life-cycle, or when a larger budget impact is unclear, this raises yellow flags
- g. Chief Cassidy: should we research rental vs. purchase with assumptions about total cost per year?
- h. Chief Stone will confirm with Mr. Ahern on details of the Capital Request
- Motion to request the Select Board include article for \$52,500 for the purposes of equipment, software and signage for Special Town Meeting, October 2020. Seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Vote carries after roll call vote
- 9. Discussion of the Select Board's adoption of M.G.L. c.90 s.17C
 - a. "Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business district in city or town"
 - b. Ms. Hein: May 2019, Town Meeting approved adoption of state laws:
 - i. 25mph
 - ii. Special safety zones
 - c. Holliston has 265 named roads. 16 are posted. 2 are posted at 25mph. 3 are posted at 35mph+. Remaining are posted at 30mph
 - d. When not posted, statutory speed is 30mph. Town Meeting gave permission to 25mph.
 - i. Question: road-by-road? Or town-wide?
 - ii. MassDOT preferred approach is to go town-wide
 - 1. This would mean lowering ~250 roads by 5mph
 - 2. Would mean communication and a period of enforcement
 - iii. Ms. Hein supports town-wide 25mph
 - iv. Mr. Horton: how would we message the town-wide?
 - 1. Ms. Hein: post signage on major in/out roads
 - v. Chief Cassidy: although it may seem simpler, concern is that it goes against one of the principals of the committee: Make data-driven decisions
 - 1. Is town-wide an overly broad brush?
 - 2. Ms. Hein: the data comes nationally from trends in traffic issues. Nationally, regionally, state-wide.
- Motion to adopt c.90 s.17C on town-wide basis, contingent upon approval of the Select Board by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Vote carries following roll call vote with one Abstain and one No.

10. Next Meeting Date:

- a. Chief Stone recommends post Town Meeting
- b. Ms. Hein: middle to end of November
- c. November 10, 2020 @ 10am, pending Town Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 1:40pm by Mr. Sipsma. Seconded by Mr. Horton. Vote carries after roll call vote.