

Traffic Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021
7:00PM

Approved
4/1/21

NOTES:

1. Roll Call

- a. Ms. Raffi
- b. Mr. Sipsma
- c. Mr. Horton
- d. Ms. Hein
- e. Chief Stone
- f. Chief Cassidy

Motion by Ms. Raffi to approve remote meeting. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Approved via Roll Call vote, unanimously.

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes.

- a. Postpone to next meeting so the committee has a chance to prior review notes ahead of time. Mr. Horton to send ASAP.

3. Safe Routes to School update - Task Force Recommendations

- a) Pedestrian signalization at new Woodland Street crosswalk
 - I. new crosswalk installed. Signage is installed, but requesting a pedestrian signal.
 - II. does not replace crossing guard - supplements
- b) LED Stop Signs at the intersection of Church St. and Railroad St.
 - I. Currently a crossing guard during school times, but nothing otherwise
- c) Elm Street signalization - "Entering a School Zone"
 - I. Currently, there is no way for a driver to know when turning *from* Elm onto Woodland

Motion to include all as Town Warrant Article by Mr. Horton. Seconded by Ms. Raffi
Approved unanimously by Roll Call vote.

Mr. Horton to submit 'School Safety Zone Improvements' recommendation to Chief Stone who will coordinate with Mr. Ahern.

4. Bullard Street

- a) Regulatory speed of 25 MPH discussion
- b) Review of resident petition made on January 13, 2021
 - I. Excessive speed, increased commercial vehicles that are too wide
 - II. Petition recommended diverting commercial traffic, limiting truck weight, post 25mph, conduct a study
 - A. Ms. Raffi: in favor of diverting and posting as 25mph
 - 1. Is a wider traffic study in order?
 - B. Mr. Sipsma: when limiting roadways how do we get a better lay of the land to more efficiently answer questions?
 - C. Chief Cassidy: while sympathetic to the complaints of the petitioner, the recommendations are already underway through other quarters, including other traffic studies in the works.
 - D. Mr. Horton: where can we track efforts that are currently underway?
 - 1. Chief Stone: based on approvals at Town Meeting, TAC has equipment and funding allocations for studies and tracking.
 - 2. TAC will need to determine deployment requests in order to track data
 - 3. Ms. Hein: is the equipment deployed on Bullard? When will the data be available to the Town Administrator to commission a study?
 - a. Chief Stone: currently the HPD are deploying the equipment in beta to learn the equipment
 - b. Request to TAC: can we define an appropriate period for deployment for consistent data?

- E. Ms. Hein: petitioners requested that we wait until Spring
- F. Ms. Hein: is Bullard Street an official "scenic road"? Confirmed
 - a. Confirmation raises this to another level in terms of consideration.
 - 2. 30mph sign is erroneous and needs to be taken down. MassDOT has confirmed
 - Deploy the trailer for a period of time for re-education?
- A. Ms. Hein: consider proposing a truck route sign directing heavy commercial vehicles away from Bullard
- B. Chief Cassidy: Correcting the speed limit signs may be out of scope for TAC, but in scope for DPW to assess as staff.

Motion to remove faulty 30mph and put up accurate 25mph sign by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Mr. Sipsma. Approved (4 to 2) by roll call vote.

Chief Cassidy: no
Ms. Raffi, yes
Mr. Horton, yes
Ms. Hein, yes
Mr. Sipsma, yes
Chief Stone: no

Mr. Horton to draft recommendation for Chief Stone and Mr. Ahern.

Motion to deploy the traffic counter at a time to be decided in the Spring for a period TBD by Ms. Hein for the purpose of preliminary data collection. Seconded by Ms. Raffi.

Motion to append to include a period of 7 consecutive days by Mr Sipsma. Seconded by Ms. Hein.

Motion unanimously approved, as amended, by Roll Call vote.

5. Traffic Petition Hearing 7:45PM South & Rockland Streets

- Petitioner #17 - Suzanne Adelman
- Petitioner #26 - Claudette Fowler
- Petitioner #31 - Lynn Hewes
- Petitioner #33 - Amanda Furlong
- Petitioner #35 - Thomas Furlong
- Petitioner #36 - Melissa Monahan
- a. Petitions have been consolidated and will be represented by Ms. Adelman
- b. This is a collaborative effort by many residents of South Street
- i. Watching traffic, gathering information, recording video
- c. We are regularly seeing 53ft and larger trucks that cannot pass each other.
- d. We are pursuing a truck exclusion for the safety of the street and our future
 - Right now, we'll take anything we can get to dissuade this traffic
- e. South Street and Clark run between 16 and 109. Since 495 was completed in 1969, South Street has seen increased traffic using it as a cut through.
- f. South street is residential, tree-lined. No bike lanes, no shoulder. 2 blind hills on the Holliston side. No sidewalks other than a short length at the rail trail crossing.
 - Many pics of trucks barely stopping for rail trail pedestrians/bikes
- g. Each lane is 9ft wide with a fading center line.
- h. Very poorly lit at night - 13 street lights
- i. Based on Ring video, we have seen trucks going *faster* at night
- j. We have a flooding area, which is technically a bridge that is only 2ft high
 - Bridge was never built for tractor trailers
- k. South street is not a scenic road, but we think it is an historical road
 - Fisher and Rockland are scenic
- l. South was never designed or built to accommodate the type of traffic using it recently
- m. We have the right to have our street not treated as an artery

- n. 555 Hopping Brook is also a major concern among residents
- o. Looking for an enforceable truck restriction on South
- p. Re: existing hazards:
 - Trucks taking a left turn off South onto Washington often cut across the Northbound lane
- i. Traffic moving West on 16 have a passing lane where drivers pass at speed
- ii. Eastbound traffic and traffic entering from Courtland also pose significant risk
- q. Request:
 - No left turn for trucks onto South from Washington
- i. Lower speed limit to 25mph
- ii. Truck exclusion - signs at appropriate entry points
- iii. Speed bumps and stop signs at appropriate intervals
- iv. Reflective posts (ala Front Street) at strategic positions to reinforce and clarify the lanes
- v. Town of Holliston to request tenants direct drivers to avoid South Street
- r. The Town has a duty and responsibility to act on behalf of their citizens and neighbors.
- s. Ms. Hein: can we direct Officer Grace to research options for MassDOT best practices for potential signage for presentation to TAC at next meeting? Confirmed by Chief Stone.
- t. Ms. Raffi: can we get a streetlight count of those not working to share to DPW?
 - Ms. Adelman counted 4
- i. Chief Cassidy: there is a Google Form on the Town website where residents can report streetlight outages
- u. Ms. Adelman: what about the 4 poles recommendation?
 - Ms. Hein: Mr. Reese isn't on tonight, but procedurally, we will discuss at the next meeting. In the meantime, we will request Mr. Reese to investigate requirements for such and speak at the next meeting
- v. MassDot walk-through in October 2020. Ms. Hein will connect with Ms. Adelman offline to communicate results
- w. Ms. Marra: 2 deaths, plus 1 child who was hit (which is why we have the stop signs)
- x. Mr. Mnich: both the Holliston and Medway Police have done an exemplary job with policing on Summer Road. Suggest shifting some resources to South St.
- y. Mr. Adelman: re: no left turn to South Street, is it possible to put up enforceable "Do Not Enter" signs or to make South Street one-way?
 - Chief Stone: that is outside the scope of the existing petition
- z. Mr. Cooper: there is a baseball diamond where kids play with a backstop close to the road. If we put a no left turn on South, will people just move up to Rockland? Can we include Rockland intersection equally to South?
 - Ms. Hein: Truck Exclusion would be submitted to MassDOT by the Town of Holliston. All due diligence is being done to ensure requests go forward
- aa. Ms. Fowler: is there an option near Washington/South for signage to encourage drivers that 495 is ahead?
- 6. Sign replacement - "Windshield Study"
 - a) Create Google Doc with list of sign replacement needs
- i. Chief Cassidy: leery of directing other departments. Requests are appropriate, but it is out of scope to direct.
- II. Ms. Hein: is the Google Doc intended to be internal or available to residents?
 - A. Chief Cassidy: internal
- III. Chief Stone: reminder that TAC is for long-term advisory projects. Immediate safety concerns can be quickly routed to the appropriate department.
- IV. Ms. Hein: there is a significant amount of money currently budgeted for signage, so Town Meeting is not necessary
- V. Chief Cassidy: there are 3 budgets at play
 - FY21 DPW Sign budget
 - A. TAC Sign appropriation
 - B. New appropriation for a Sign budget for FY22 to the DPW

Motion to request to the Town Administrator that a sign audit program to be completed by the end of Summer, 2021 by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Horton to include in TAC recommendation.

7. One year review of TAC
 - a) Recommendations/suggestions for future TAC hearings/petitioners
- I. Mr. Horton: we're only just now hitting our stride with meetings and equipment
- II. Ms. Raffi: is too much falling on Chief Stone for coordination and administration? Is there a way to spread the effort?
- III. Chief Cassidy: also concerned about the administrative load on Chief Stone. Is there a screening process we can implement?
- IV. Ms. Hein: tweaks made to the Google Doc? Definitely like the one month between hearing and recommendation. Keeps it fresh and reassures petitioners.
 - A. Re: admin load, the Town Administrator office is in flux, but once that settles, we may be able to request admin aid.
 - B. Re: setting precedent. Currently, no concern with this
 - C. Mr. Sipsma: I don't believe we have set any precedents that are lasting as we're just starting up.
- V. Chief Stone:
 - We don't want to be the Sign Committee, nor a community of signs
 - A. We see an issue, we address it and propose to Town Meeting. This is how TAC should work.
 - B. Getting our equipment and the rollout of 25mph is a great success
- VI. Mr. Sipsma: we've done a good job of establishing our team dynamic and determining how we'll contribute to the town. Year 2 should show greater efficiency
- VII. Chief Stone: can we revisit and reevaluate our strategic goals and mission in the next meeting or the one after?
 - Chief Cassidy: we may also use that as an opportunity to revisit organization
 - A. Ms. Raffi: can we have a conversation about the philosophy of signage? Is there data available from the Chiefs to support more or less signs?
 1. Chief Stone: this is very relevant to the audit and recommendations from that. Signage does not always get updated to reflect changes in patterns, etc.
- VIII. Mr. Lindros: what is the backlog of applications? Do we have enough petitions?
 - Chief Stone: we've been averaging 3 petitions
 1. Tonight, 2 of the 3 pulled out based on a resolution
 - A. Total of ~50 in the backlog. We are on #24.

8. Any other items

- a. How is the Scenic Road designation attained?
 - i. In Holliston, the Planning Board determines
 1. Ms. Raffi will follow up with Mr. Cooper with information
 - ii. Chief Cassidy has a list of scenic roads in the town:

Holliston Planning Board

Scenic Road Regulations

Appendix A List of Scenic Roads

Adams Street
Brook Street
Bullard Street
Bullard Lane
Central Street
Courtland Street
Fisher Street
Fiske Street
Gorwin Drive

Hanlon Road
High Street
Highland Street
Hill Street
Locust Street
Marshall Street
Mellen Street
Mill Street
Jennings Road
Linden Street

Norfolk Street
Oak Street
Prentice Street
Rockland Street
Underwood Street
Wilson Street
Winter Street

- iii. Mr. Sipsma: Is "Scenic Road" something that is the entirety of a street? Or is it sections?
- iv. Chief Cassidy: List is available for inspection at the Town Clerk office and more information may be available

- v. Ms. Hein: Scenic designation appears to be a function of trees, stone walls, etc. with proximity to the road.
- b. Mr. Horton: 555 Hopping Brook?
- i. Ms. Hein: in original charge, TAC should consider Complete Streets Policy, which is underway. If we were to address it, we should through the lens of the Complete Streets Policy
- ii. Chief Stone: there is a procedural requirement for any discussion of 555 Hopping Brook
- iii. Chief Cassidy: there are other boards and committees in town that may be better positioned to make a recommendation
- c. Chief Stone: Washington Street: anything from Pine Street to the Milford town line is State responsibility. Anything on private property (trees, etc) would be examined at the plot level to determine ownership between the state, the town or the private owner.
- . Mr. Sipsma will contact Mr. Reese to follow up
- i. Chief Cassidy: historically, the town has id'd certain trees on private property and worked with owners. Mr. Reese has the contacts to address.
- d. Chief Stone will reply to 13 new petitions on 2/25

Next Steps:

- 1. Petition options for next meeting:
 - a. Murphy - 1432 Washington re: high traffic volume (Hopping Brook related?)
 - b. Henderson - 1028 Washington Re: jake-breaking and traffic volume.
 - i. Combine Murphy and Henderson? Chief Stone will reach out
 - c. Bochner, 21 Concord Street re: jake-break, motorcycle noise
 - d. Zawol, 49 Hill Street: high traffic speed and volume
- 2. Recommendation for next meeting date?
- . 4/1 @ 9am

Motion to adjourn at 9:25pm by Ms. Raffi. Seconded by Ms. Hein. Approved unanimously by Roll Call vote.