

Traffic Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2021
9:00AM

Approved
9/1/2021
on

NOTES

1. Roll Call

- Cassidy
- Horton
- Hein
- Reese
- Dellicker
- Raffi
- Sipsma
- Stone

Motion to approve remote participation by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Ms. Raffi.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Ms. Hein will compile notes for 5/18 as Mr. Horton was absent.

3. Review and discuss the traffic petition that was heard on May 18, 2021 from Mr. Zawol, 49 Hill Street

- Traffic counter has been deployed since last meeting
 - Over 11 days, 725 complied over 18,145
 - Counter was deployed with a 25mph requirement. There may have been more compliant drivers based on possible posted speed limit
- Resident recommendation was additional signage (Children at Play, Dangerous Curve)
- Posted speed limit is 30mph and study found speeds in excess of 30mph
 - Hill should be 25mph per 17c
 - 30mph signage should come down upon confirmation
- Mr. Zawol indicated that Hill is a scenic road, but Chief Stone suggested we should confirm
 - Chief Cassidy has confirmed that Hill Street is a scenic route
- Mr. Sipsma: part of Hill is in Medway - will this complicate enforcement and communication?

- Ms. Hein: when we reviewed Bullard, we discussed not being in the business of over-signage.
- Chief Stone questioned whether the Child at Play and Dangerous Curve signs would change behaviors. Mr. Horton agreed
- Mr. Sipsma: what about suggested speed limits in the curve? The yellow cautionary signs of 15mph
 - Chief Stone: it would need to be from both directions
- Ms. Hein: is the location of the dangerous curve clear to the committee?
 - Mr. Sipsma: there is an S Curve right in the middle
 - Chief Cassidy: there are chevrons indicating the curve
 - Mr. Dellicker: is there already a 25mph town-wide side in the area?
 - Chief Stone: yes
- Ms. Raffi: how are we changing driver behavior? Is signage enough? Personally, enforcement is the ideal. What can we do to change?
- Ms. Hein: per All Traffic Solution report, you can see when the times are worse. Does that drive enforcement decisions?
 - Chief Stone: HPD has always attempted to enforce in key times. The counter is a validation of such.
- Chief Stone: enforcement has a huge impact on behavior, but it comes down to staffing
- Chief Cassidy: do we know exactly where the 30mph sign is? Per StreetView, there is a 25mph sign on Hill off Norfolk... where is the 30mph that needs to come down?
 - Ms. Hein: can we add that to the sign audit?
- Ms. Hein: there are a number of incorrect 30mph signs that need to come down. That should come up under Agenda Item #6, an attempt through the sign audit to identify any incorrect 30mph signs to come down.
 - Ms. Hein to provide the list of all regulatory limits from DOT and summarize for Chief Stone
- Ms. Hein: how are we communicating back?
 - Mr. Dellicker: should come from the Select Board, in case they do not agree with the TAC recommendation.
- Chief Cassidy: what are the ramifications of a recommended speed sign? If it is not enforceable, will this create further frustration from the residents?
 - Chief Stone: maybe we use "slow" signage and not include a numerical statement
 - Ms. Hein: a "Dangerous Curve" will also presumably alert walkers/bikers, not just drivers, in order to cue that this is an area to be more aware
 - While a recommended speed is not enforceable, we never go wrong in suggesting people make the right decision

Motion to recommend to the Select Board that we add a "Dangerous Curve Ahead" sign at both ends of the S Curve by Ms. Hein. Seconded by Mr. Dellicker. Motion carries by role call vote of 7-1

- Mr. Horton to draft recommendation for Select Board report

4. Traffic Petition Hearing

Mr. Stuart Primus, 811 Highland Street

- Mr. Primus is not on the call as of 9:37AM - moving on and will return to this agenda point if he joins

5. Traffic Advisory Committee - Working Group Discussion

- Working Group:
 - Mr. Dellicker
 - Mr. Sipsma
 - Mr. Emery
 - HPD representative
- Idea is to get through the list of petitioners and determine which need a full petition in TAC meetings
- There are still a number of petitioners that need to be heard
- Chief Stone to confirm the working group has access to the petition list and indicate where the working group should start
 - Ms. Hein has already consolidated the list and can confirm access
- Mr. Sipsma: we need to make sure we are considering the NIMBY issue vs. what is best for the town
- Ms. Hein: we have ways in which to verify the petitioner complaints. When the data shows there is a problem, we need to act.
 - Additionally, TAC's existence helps us better work with MassDOT to advocate for the town
- Chief Cassidy: in regards to the fact that we used data on Hill Street to make a Hill Street decision, we own the equipment and we are gathering more and more data sets to make informed decisions to understand what is typical. What is endemic and what is an anomaly? The data sets will help us form a more holistic view of what is going on in town
- Ms. Hein: in putting the heavy truck exclusion on South Street, it will move traffic to Washington, a state route. That will move the issue to a MassDOT responsibility, which means we can go to them

to ask for assistance in funding repairs on Washington, we will have more accurate data, rather than having traffic "hidden" on local roads

- Chief Stone: how many petitions are feasible for the working group in any given month?
 - Mr. Horton: what are the rules for the working group? Can they email, do they need to host open meetings?
 - Chief Cassidy: we will need to confirm with the Town Clerk
 - Ms. Hein will check with Town Clerk, but the assumption is that since there will be no formal recommendation, it will not need open meetings, etc.
 - Consolidation will then be brought to TAC to generate a recommendation
 - Chief Stone: the goal is to streamline and move things along or it won't make sense
 - Chief Cassidy: the State rules draw a distinction between a working group and a subcommittee. Working groups should not have to adhere to stringent meeting requirements

6. Traffic Sign Audit

- Goal was to inventory signs and make a list of replacements/repairs by end of summer and price it out
- Mr. Reese had indicated that DPW could handle this, but Chief Stone wants to share the work.
 - Mr. Reese has been doing the audit, but requests that we email him signs that we see
 - Should be complete by end of July
 - Ms. Raffi: if we fill out a Google form, it will dump it into a spreadsheet for you - would that be more helpful than email?
 - Mr. Reese: email is still easier for him based on his method
 - Chief Stone: can each committee member compile their own spreadsheet?
 - Mr. Reese: yes, but since the inventory will already be complete, please just note where things need to be replaced or if there are visibility concerns.

- Chief Cassidy: in addition to the “other” has the sign moved (whether by tree limb or vandalism, etc)
 - Chief Stone to generate the spreadsheet and share.
 - Mr. Reese will need input by 8/25/21 to complete by 9/15/21
 - Warrant closes on 9/20/21
 - Upon completion of the inventory, we will need to cross-reference with the 30mph audit and keep/remove from the list accordingly
7. Set future meeting date
- Wednesday, 9/1/21 @ 7pm
8. TAC summary report for presentation to Select Board
- Ms. Hein: goal is to have report on Select Board meeting on 8/2
 - This is the first formal written report, which should be twice, yearly
 - One change: need to update Hill Street recommendation
 - Chief Stone to present.
 - Chief Cassidy as back up
 - Chief Stone: include next steps on Working Group and Sign Audit

Motion to approve report, with amendments for Hill Street and next steps, by Mr. Horton. Seconded by Ms. Raffi. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 10:20AM by Ms. Raffi Seconded by Mr. Horton. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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09. Adjourn