

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of October 19, 2016 Meeting  
Public Services Administration Building  
Needham, MA  
DRAFT

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

TMAC Members: Jeff MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Ford Peckham, Tony DelGaizo, Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi, Bob Wilson

Guests: Scott Levingston, Susan Tanner, Stephen Tanner, Tammy Macherides, Horst Kloss, Stephanie Novak, Edward Devereux, Joseph Kambourakin, Sevdalena Lazarova, Phyllis Mays

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Mr. MacMann

### **I. SPEED/SIGNAGE ON HIGH ROCK STREET/GAY STREET AND HIGH ROCK STREET/TOLMAN STREET (f/u)**

Mr. Levingston has appeared before the TMAC previously, including last month, to report what he describes as an “inundation of speeding traffic cutting through our neighborhood during morning rush hour,” apparently to avoid backed up traffic on Central Ave, heading toward the intersection with Great Plain Ave. At our last meeting, Mr. Levingston requested that a sign be placed on High Rock Street at Tolman, to prevent right turns onto Tolman between 7-9am. He was informed last month by the Board that this restriction, if approved, would also apply to residents of the neighborhood; not having discussed this with his neighbors, Mr. Levingston requested to return to the TMAC after getting feedback from neighbors to see if they would support signage given that residents of the neighborhood would not be exempt. He reported today that there is still support for the sign despite the lack of a neighborhood exemption. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the sign prohibiting right turns would need to be placed on High Rock before Tolman. Following discussion of the importance of keeping traffic on “larger” roads for the safety of children, the Committee agreed with the proposal to divert traffic from the neighborhood in the mornings and passed a Motion to install a No Right Turn sign between 7am-9am, assuming agreement from the homeowner/abutter where the sign would need to be placed. Mr. Levingston informed the Board he would speak with that homeowner/abutter and email the result of that conversation to Mr. Wilson.

### **II. SIGNAGE/PARKING ON GREAT PLAIN AVE**

The issue of cars parking for extended periods of time in front of 1186 Great Plain Ave and other nearby home has previously come to the attention of the Board. Today, the Tanners, from 1186 Great Plain and others (from 1194 and 1200 Great Plain) presented concerns that cars are parked there “all day,” and that the cars park so close to their driveways that backing out onto Great Plain is dangerous. Lt. Kraemer explained that legally, cars can park right up to the end of a

driveway. Following discussion, a request was made by the petitioners that signage be placed in the vicinity of their homes, limiting parking to no more than 2 hours. They reported that nearby streets (not on Great Plain) have such signage. The Committee passed a Motion to install signs on the even side of Great Plain Ave, from its intersections with Marshall to Marked Tree, limiting parking to 2 hours on Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am-3pm, but only after receipt of acquiescence from homeowners at 1206, 1214, and 1218 Great Plain Ave.

### **III. INTERSECTION OF DELL AVE AND HOLMES STREET**

Ms. Novak reported to the Board that “a lot of children” cross this intersection, near the Mitchell Elementary School, either on foot or on bikes on their way to and from school. She reported that there have been “several near accidents” there, “especially when kids ride their bikes down the Dell hill to cross over Holmes St.” She requested of the Board that a crosswalk be placed on Holmes at that intersection. Mr. DelGaizo explained that crosswalks themselves do not create a safe crossing, and instead should be placed where it is already safe to cross. The Board passed a Motion to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Holmes and Dell, to assess the volume of traffic as a way to guide decisions on how to move forward with addressing the safety concerns.

### **IV. SPEED/SIGNAGE ON FOREST STREET BETWEEN E. MILITIA HEIGHTS AND BROOKSIDE ROAD**

Mr. Devereux expressed concern about vehicles traveling too fast on Forest Street, especially during rush hour and during school pick up times, and added that several conditions exacerbate the concern including the lack of shoulders for on street parking, lack of sidewalks, hidden driveways, inadequate lighting in the evening, and the high level of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. He requested of the Board that signage be placed on the road to slow down traffic. Mr. DelGaizo reported that the state just passed legislation allowing towns the option of stipulating to a 25mph speed limit in thickly settled districts. If adopted by Needham, this would reduce the speed from 30 to 25; adopting a speed limit lower than that is not allowable. It was also reported by Mr. DelGaizo and Mr. Wilson that a consultant is assessing sidewalks and handicapped ramps town-wide. There was also a discussion about installing chevrons. The Board passed a motion to change existing speed tabs to 25 mph, and for the DPW to consider adding another chevron or two on Forest Street.

### **V. STREET LIGHTS ON FOREST ST. BETWEEN VOLANTE FARMS AND WELLESLEY TOWN LINE**

Mr. Devereux reported that there are only 7 street lights on this stretch on Forest, and that it is a “dark, winding stretch” without sidewalks despite commuters to Volante and to Babson. Mr. DelGaizo informed the Board that the town is currently conducting a pilot program on Great Plain Ave to assess the effectiveness of using 3000 vs 4000 kelvin street lamps, and no action will be taken on Forest Street until this pilot program is completed.

## **VI. SIGNAGE ON BIRCH STREET**

Ms. Lazarova told the Board that Birch Street is used for parking by parents who pick up their children from nearby Hillside School, and that these cars sometimes partially or completely block the driveways of the homes on Birch. She requested of the Board that signs be placed on the street, restricting parking during certain hours. Following discussion, the petitioner was asked to gather signatures from her neighbors regarding a parking restriction, and to discuss with them the hours of the restriction and if it would pertain to one or both sides of the street.

## **VII. CROSSWALK AT INTERSECTION OF HILLSIDE AND WEST STREETS**

Ms. Mays expressed concern about the safety of accessing the Senior Center at Hillside and West because of the lack of a crosswalk at the intersection. Following a discussion of similar, difficult crossings in Town, and the Town's ongoing project to improve curbing and increase the walk time at intersections where there are traffic signals, it was explained to Ms. Mays that a crosswalk at this intersection was not put in because it is unsafe to do; too many vehicles travel on this road above the speed limit. It was also suggested that a safer crossing might exist by walking further up West, past the railroad tracks.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Steve DeLisi