

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of October 17, 2018 Meeting, 7pm

Public Services Administration Building

Needham, MA

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

TMAC Members: Kara Holmquist, Stephen DeLisi, Lt. John Kraemer, Tom Ryder, Justin McClellan, Suzanne Stein, Rhain Hoyland, Seth Bauer

Technical advisor: Bob Wilson

Guests: Jeff Sirlin, Bill Lenahan, Joyce McCafferty, Clare Currie, Richard & Mary Bono, Jan Cohen

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **I. PETITION TO INSTALL “DRIVE SLOW, WATCH FOR CHILDREN” SIGNS ON ANDREA CIRCLE**

Jeff returned to TMAC after getting signatures on the petition for a sign and getting approval from the people in front of whose homes the sign would go.

Bob said it might need to be a “children playing” sign or something similar. Because it’s a cul de sac, Jeff asked if the sign could have two sides. They were hoping for one sign even if it is on the opposite side of the road when driving one direction. Rhain said the sign should be up 2 weeks or so at most. Bob and Jeff are to communicate about the exact language on sign. Bob asked about what the speed tab would be and the answer was 20mph.

Jeff also mentioned the ongoing issue with hedges blocking the view onto Hunnewell St. The owner has cut it back, but the only way to really remedy it is to remove one of the hedges. There is nothing else TMAC can do if hedges are in compliance. Tom said he will re-check.

#### **II. INTERSECTION OF BRADFORD ROAD AND GLENWOOD ROAD**

No one in attendance.

#### **III. INTERSECTION, SIGNAGE AT OAK STREET/CHESTNUT STREET**

No one in attendance.

We had a discussion about replacing the white sign that showed two lanes with arrows on Chestnut St headed north toward Oak St. This would be on the even number side of the street attached to a concrete light post.

#### **IV. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALKS, SPEED, SIGNAGE AT INTERSECTION OF MEADOWBROOK ROAD/NEHOIDEN STREET/ROSEMARY STREET/PARISH STREET/PARISH ROAD**

Signs have gone up to help. The intersection is problematic. Truck coming on Parish St hit a car on Nehoiden St. Lt Kramer said it was speed and failure to stop issues.

Residents are concerned about the speed on Nehoiden St. and are looking for suggestions on how to make the complicated intersection better.

Lt Kraemer said a speed study down the street on Sept 12 showed 85% was 32mph northbound; southbound 34mph. Southbound traveling faster. *Advisory* speed tap 25mph.

Rhain said perhaps a sign with graphics about curve in road would help; will talk to Tony. Regardless of signs, people traveling too fast the residents said. Tom said we are nine months away from a possible town-wide speed limit of 25 mph. He said the traffic study the town is doing will be done next year; should go to the Select Board.

The biggest problem is during commuter traffic. Road is used as a cut-through by people using waze, etc. Is a 4-way stop possible? Rhain said that engineering would have to be equal traffic going both ways. Nehoiden is the main street – wouldn't likely be possible because of unbalanced volumes.

Signs at crosswalks are helping. Residents ask if the bushes in the triangle can be removed. Rhain said those can be taken out.

Rhain said that they may be able to do something with the stop sign to make more visible/flashing.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to put two warning signs on Nehoiden St and an improved stop sign on Parish St at Nehoiden. These will replace the current road narrows signs.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT**

The Oak St and Linden St 4-way stop signs have some signage missing. Some say "all way" but others are missing. Brookline St and Manning St have some missing too. Need to be replaced.

#### **VI. APPROVE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2018 AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Notes take by Kara Holmquist

### **Concerns about Nehoiden/ Meadowbrook/ Parish/ Rosemary Intersection**

1. Speed of vehicles traveling on/ from Nehoiden Road
2. Reduced visibility of vehicles traveling on Nehoiden Road
  - from Great Plain towards Central - slight uphill
  - from Central towards Great Plain - slight bend in road across from the cemetery
  - Exacerbated during inclement weather and winter (snowbanks)
3. Confusion re: right of way at intersection of Nehoiden and Meadowbrook/ Parish
4. Confusion re: right of way when vehicles from Rosemary/ Parish have to merge/ yield to oncoming traffic on Nehoiden
5. Vehicles traveling on Nehoiden not yielding to pedestrians, even with crossing guard present
  - Request that crossing guard be present until 8:15 am on school days
6. Poor lighting at pedestrian crosswalk at intersection of Nehoiden and Lewis Street
7. *Poor signage re: pedestrian crosswalk located at intersection of Nehoiden and Meadowbrook*
  - *New signs have been installed (early October)*

**Specific request: Traffic study to evaluate/ improve intersection to make it safer for all**

### **Suggestions**

1. Reduce confusion re: right of way/ traffic flow at intersection
  - Sign that indicates "cross traffic does not stop" on Nehoiden/ Parish STOP sign
  - Flashing STOP sign at Nehoiden/ Parish intersection
  - Reconsider position of STOP sign at Nehoiden/ Parish (too high/ not close enough to junction)
  - 4-way stop (ie. require vehicles on Nehoiden to STOP at intersection)
  - Rotary? Remove road?
2. Speed control
  - Speed bumps along Nehoiden
  - Signs that light up/ flash when speed limit of 25 mph is exceeded
3. Active enforcement
  - Speed limit (25 mph)
  - Pedestrian right of way

**Additional notes:**

- The combination of speed, confusion regarding the right of way, reduced visibility and poor signage make this intersection prone to accidents. This intersection is often used by pedestrians, especially Hillside Elementary School students. Additionally, there is a bus stop located at this location (along Nehoiden, just outside 3 Meadowbrook Road).
- Exacerbated by rush hour traffic (~ 8 am, ~5 pm)

**History**

1. 20 September 2018:
  - Black truck colliding into Toyota Sequoia, resulting in the Toyota flipping over
  - 2 drivers, 7 passengers
2. ~ 2010: Cohen fence
3. ~ 2010: Dunphy car accident
4. ~ 2006: Car on lawn (Nehoiden and Parish)
5. Date unknown: 3 MB fence (Wilkerson)

**Layout of Nehoiden/ Meadowbrook/ Parish/ Rosemary Intersection**

