

Town of Needham
Traffic Management Advisory Committee

Minutes: April 12, 2023

Location: Forbes/McLeod Community Room, Public Safety Building
88 Chestnut Street

Zoom Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=waR5HVCBckU>

ADOPTED JUNE 21, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Justin McCullen; Bob Ciccolo, Guus Driessen, Rhain Hoyland, Lt. John McGrath, Barry McNeilly, Donna Mullin, Tom Ryder, Rebecca Tarantino

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Gabrielski, Management Analyst; Robert Wilson, Traffic Engineer

PUBLIC PRESENT: Catherine Parnell, 1189 GPA; Valerie von Rosenvinge, 78 Marshall Street

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023 AND MARCH 8, 2023

MOTION: **R. Tarantino moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2023.**

SECONDED: Lt. McGrath

ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIES: 9-0

MOTION: **T. Ryder moved to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2023.**

SECONDED: G. Driessen

ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye.

ABSTAINED: R. Tarantino, R. Hoyland

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0-2

3. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT

R. Wilson provided status updates from the TMAC meeting of 2/8/23:

- Warren Street traffic count is being collected this week.
- DPW Highway Division has installed LED signs.

HILLSIDE AVENUE AT CRICKET FIELD - SPEED (TMAC MEETING OF 1/11/23)

- A Speed Study on Hillside Ave. is presently underway and will be resulted next week.
- School zones and speed zones will be discussed later in this meeting.
- Posts were installed on Hillside Ave.

MAPLE STREET CROSSWALK - INSTALLATION OF A LIGHT

- T. Ryder reported the contractor will not be continuing. Put the contract out for future bid.
- Find a solar pilot possibility, funding opportunities, and the ability to connect.

- Look at what other towns have done with solar.
- Visibility entering the crosswalk has been identified as a problem.
 - The eastbound side has two lanes; the crosswalk is occluded by cars in the other lane.
- There will be urgency to install lighting before daylight savings time returns in October.

4. TERESA COMBS - TRUCKS ON UTICA ROAD

The petitioner was not present.

5. CATHERINE PARNELL - PARKING/VISIBILITY ON MARSHALL STREET

- Three concerns at the corner of Great Plain Ave. and Marshall St.
 1. Parking - Residents park on both sides.
 2. Safety - Leaving no room for approaching school buses
 3. Accessibility - When people park on both sides, buses have to back up.
- She advocates enforcement of restricted parking to one side of Marshall St. with signage.
- Drivers speed up to turn into neighboring driveways then zip over the berm and dig it up.
- Children ride bicycles into the road because tree roots have bumped up the sidewalks.
- Ms. Parnell suggested a 40 foot setback be considered to allow school buses to get through.

Members discussed the 2 hour parking on the left side of Marshall St. from Monday through Friday.

Members asked who is parking on Marshall Street.

- Once church construction was completed, residents quickly turn around in Marshall St. driveways.
- Create distance on Marshall St. approaching Great Plain Ave. with parking on one side of Marshall.

Parking prohibitions should include a petition by affected residents on both sides of Marshall Street.

Valerie von Rosenvinge of 78 Marshall St. suggested a sign which reads, "*No Parking Here to Corner*" placed on the opposite side of Marshall St. and seen from Great Plain Ave.

Members discussed prohibiting parking on both sides at the end of Marshall St. before the crosswalk entering Great Plain Ave. and whether to begin 20, 25, or 30 feet from the intersection.

MOTION: **T. McGrath motioned to remove the current parking signs on Marshall Street before the intersection of Great Plain Avenue and install signs which read "*No Parking Here to Corner*" on the northwest side of Marshall Street 20 feet from the intersection of Great Plain Avenue.**

SECONDED: R. Ciccolo

ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIES: 9-0

The Chair recommended that within the month Ms. Parnell and Ms. von Rosenvinge obtain petition approval signatures from the Marshall St. residents affected by the "*No Parking*" signs.

6. JENNIFER BERRIOS - SIGNAGE FOR HAZEL LANE/WOODBINE CIRCLE

The petitioner was not present.

7. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - SCHOOL ZONE ON HIGHLAND AVENUE

Mr. McNeilly described a grant for School Zone signs:

- We are looking at Highland Ave. in front of Memorial Park as a School Zone.
 - Since the lot has changed, it is better to have a School Zone in front of Memorial Field.
- Webster Street is a possible location for a Safety Zone.

School Zones versus Safety Zones were described:

- Speeds are posted at a 20 mph limit.
- Fines are enforced at different amounts.
- Safety Zone is a 24 hour/7 day weekly zone for a quarter mile.
- School Zone is for a predetermined time which is posted in front of the school.

Members discussed whether there are markings on the ground.

- There is usually notice of a school across the street indicated by flashing lights half an hour before and after school with no flashing lights when school is in session.

Lt. McGrath was asked for a recommendation to use School or Safety Zone between Webster and Highland.

- School Zone on the Highland Ave. side on the strip by Dunkin Donuts.
- Safety Zone on the Webster St. side due to a quarter mile stretch in front of residents' properties.
- Members agreed there is a bigger problem on Webster St. than on Highland Ave.

One Safety Zone at Clary Park - We haven't done directed controls for speeding there.

Members discussed the intent of Safety Zones:

- You can do certain streets, recommend near playgrounds, areas near children, higher traffic areas.
- School Zone on Webster St. isn't enough if only reducing speed during certain hours.
- You can't call it a School Zone 24 hours per day/7 days weekly
- We can still do raised crosswalks.
- A Safety Zone is only a pre-determined speed limit for a specified length of time.
- If the Safety Zone is the only enforceable one, that is how it should be.

Lt. McGrath suggested we will need grant funds to proceed.

- The gas company is working on Webster St. and will give us funding to upgrade when they finish.
- Safety Zone is one-quarter mile long with a sign at the end of the Safety Zone.
- R. Ciccolo will have a draft regulation ready for Select Board review as a condition of the grant.

Chair McCullen suggested to go with the Safety Zone on Webster St. with traffic controls.

MOTION:	R. Ciccolo motioned to endorse the "School Zone Ahead" sign on Highland Avenue and formally recommend the "School Zone" to the Select Board for the regulation change.
SECONDED:	R. Tarantino
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	9-0

At 7:55 p.m., Donna Mullin left the meeting.

8. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - SPEED REGULATION ON DEDHAM AVENUE

T. Ryder led the discussion:

- Sections of Dedham Ave are 40 mph zones.
- The requirement is to change the speed limit back to 30 mph.
- If the Select Board chooses to accept this, they must document it is in the best interests of the Town, certify that, and send it to the State for approval.
- T. Ryder to follow up via e-mail to his State contact to learn the process.

MOTION: **J. McCullen motioned to recommend to the Select Board to remove the 40 mph speed limit and default back to the defacto, thickly settled speed limit of 30 mph from the river to Bradford Street which is consistent with the regulation in Massachusetts.**

SECONDED: R. Tarantino

ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; T. Ryder, aye; R. Tarantino, aye.
Unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIES: 8-0

At 8:24 p.m., R. Tarantino left the meeting.

MOTION: **R. Ciccolo motioned to accept the proposal as written for the change from 35 mph to 30 mph in that section.**

SECONDED: J. McCullen

ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved

MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

9. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - SPEED REGULATIONS ON CENTRAL AVENUE

T. Ryder reported that some sections of Central Ave. are 25, 30, or 35 mph.

- Safety mechanisms are being explored in front of North Hill that has caused problems for residents.
 - Traffic calming measures and line striping.
 - North Hill has to do some work on their property.
 - Have one lane exit instead of two lane exits.
 - People cannot see when entering the road to Forest St.
- Dropping the speed limit to 30 mph will come back to this committee for approval.

R. Hoyland said Mass DOT has a pavement maintenance program for numbered groups.

- The speed limit is 35 mph for the entire stretch.
- The proposal was to mill and pave Dedham Ave. in 2023 but it's construction season.
- It is mandatory that we put in 20 to 30 wheelchair chair curb cuts along the whole stretch.
- Mass. DOT prefers to give the Town the funds.
- We could do other enhancements they would not do such as traffic calming enhancements.
- We think DPW will recommend they had over reimbursement if they meet certain targets.
- If we take the money, we'll do so in 10 foot lengths.
 - Mass DOT 's policy is still 11 feet which is problematic going under the railroad bridge.

- We would have better coordination if they give us the money.
- Mill and pave it next year as Eversource will do the road this year.

We could do the curbing, ramps, and sidewalk improvements first. Next year, mill and pave it, stripe it, going under the bridge, with a wider sidewalk.

R. Tarantino propose:

- Reducing the speed to 20 mph everywhere once you enter a certain circumference.
- There are crosswalks everywhere in Concord. Drivers stop every 10 feet - so pedestrian safe.

R. Hoyland called this a village concept. It may be a Safety Zone.

T. Ryder suggested we approach several consultants to ask for a selection of concept plans.

10. UPDATE RE: REDESIGN OF SOUTH STREET AT WEBSTER STREET

R. Hoyland summarized recommendations:

- Pull in intersection on 3 sides to tighten the sidewalk; create a shorter distance with better visibility.
- Slow vehicle turning movements and recreate sidewalk to get down to Fox Hill and cross South St.
- Where there is sidewalk there is several hundred feet opposite the subdivision beyond house #531.
- Move the sidewalk forward along with the new edge of road which is all curved.
- Propose to make Webster Street about 30 feet wide which allows parking for the school bus stop.
- Reconstruct the sidewalk which the Town does not plow as it doesn't meet ADA. In the future, the Town would plow down to Fox Hill once visibility is improved and the area is ADA compliant.
- A mailing will go out announcing a site visit, April 27, 6:00-7:00 p.m. The rally point would be Webster Street to Fox Hill. Have a plan discussion. We hope the route will be marked.

MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE

- Student cars exit the High School parking lot onto one-way Rosemary Street and cut off traffic.
- The Chair will learn which municipal body has jurisdiction for that juncture.
- This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

THE ROGUE DOG PARK ON PINE STREET WITH THE ONE-WAY SAGA.

- Is there any way we could paint "do not enter" on the pavement so people can see the sign?
- What if we use cones to create a temporary island and take away one lane with cones?
- If it works, we can talk about something more permanent (markings, flex posts).

Report back in 2 months at next meeting, go from there.

11. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION: R. Hoyland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.
SECONDED: T. McGrath
ROLL-CALL VOTE: R. Ciccolo, aye; G. Driessen, aye, R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; Tom Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved
MOTION CARRIES: 7-0

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary