

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting August 11, 2010

Stephen Palmer Senior Center, Needham, MA 02492

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

David Callaghan, Lt. John Kraemer, Tony Del Gaizo, Richard Merson, Glenn Schneider, Sarah Smith, Thomas Stokes, Rebecca Turner

Guests:

David Naim, David Kajmo, Jennifer Cohen, Christopher Nowicki, Linda Gotthelf, Rebecca Tarantino, and Patty Carey

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:06 pm.

I. CROSSWALK AT CORNER OF ROSEMARY ST. AND HILLSIDE AVE.

Mr. Naim expressed concerns about pedestrian safety in the area of Rosemary Street and Hillside Avenue. Mr. Naim lives on the north side of Rosemary Street and would like to be able to walk to Rosemary Pool and to the library but there is no close crosswalk and, in addition, the sidewalks are narrow and overgrown with bushes or nonexistent. Any new crosswalk is required to have handicap accessible curbing. Mr. Del Gaizo indicated that adding sidewalk to the north side of Rosemary Street from Hillside Avenue to the library or installing a crosswalk with handicap curbing/ramps at Tillotson and Rosemary Street would both have significant costs and would take years to finish.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the corners of Tillotson and Rosemary and Concannon and Rosemary be investigated for handicap ramps and if ramps exist at either location that a crosswalk be installed across Rosemary. The motion was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

II. PARKING ISSUES AT DeFAZIO

Ms. Carey spoke to the Committee about parking issues in the neighborhoods around DeFazio.

Action: It was moved and seconded that a letter from the TMAC be drafted and sent to the Needham Little League indicating that the Committee had heard the concerns of the neighbors of DeFazio Park. The motion was called a vote and passed unanimously.

In addition, it was suggested that the Little League hire a parking monitor to patrol the neighborhoods and that the Little League email parents to make them aware of the situation and to encourage them to park in the DeFazio lot instead of in neighborhoods.

III. NEWMAN SIGNAGE CAMPAIGN

The Newman Elementary signage campaign was discussed. Newman Elementary won a Safe Routes to School mini-grant which will purchase 20 Walking School Bus meeting point signs and 4 "Make This a Safe Route to School" signs.

Action: It was moved and seconded that Ms. Hayek work with DPW on sign installation locations. The motion was called a vote and passed unanimously.

IV. DWIGHT FIELD CONCERNS

Ms. Cohen expressed concerns about pedestrian safety around Dwight Field on Dwight Street.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the TMAC draft a letter regarding Dwight Field to be sent to Needham Little League. This was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

In addition, Parks and Forestry will look at the property line and see if there are trees that can be cleared to improve visibility for traffic heading down Dwight Road toward Central Avenue. It was also suggested that Little League put out “Ball Game in Progress” stanchions during baseball games.

V. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK, SPEED, SIGNAGE AT MARKED TREE & OAK STREETS

Ms. Tarantino expressed concerns about pedestrian safety, vehicle speed, and visibility at Marked Tree and Oak Streets and presented a petition with 38 signatures in support of installing crosswalks and stop signs in that location.

Action: It was moved and seconded that a traffic study and sight line study be performed at Marked Tree Road and Oak Street and that speed tags be added. This was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nowicki expressed concerns about traffic and congestion on Oakland Ave., Pickering St., Warren St., May St. and Kingsbury St. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic is heavy around both St. Joseph’s School and Needham High School. Neighbors are concerned that any development of the Emery Grover Building, the Steven Palmer Center, St. Joseph’s School and Parish, or Greene’s Field would worsen safety and congestion problems.

Action: It was moved and seconded that a traffic study be performed at Oakland Ave. and May St. and at Pickering St. and May St. This was called to a vote and passed unanimously.

In addition, the Committee suggested that Mr. Nowicki reach out to the St. Joseph’s School principal about encouraging school drop-off and pick-up procedures that are respectful of the neighbors.

VII. FOLLOW UP REPORTS

From the 6/9/2010 meeting: the traffic study at the Crescent Road/Union Street intersection has been completed.

From the 8/11/2010 meeting: the investigation of the crosswalk locations (at Tillotson Road and Concannon Circle) are ongoing. The traffic study at the intersection of Marked Tree Road and Oak Street should be commencing the week of 9/6 or 9/13. The traffic study at the intersection of Oak Street and Maple Street was completed on 5/17/10.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

One overnight parking request was presented.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the overnight parking request for one vehicle at 26 William Street be granted. The motion was called to a vote and was passed unanimously.

The minutes from the June 9, 2010 TMAC meeting were accepted.

Action: It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the June 2010 meeting be accepted. The motion was called a vote and was passed unanimously.

Two items on the agenda were tabled until the next meeting.

Action: It was moved and seconded that Agenda Items 6 and 7 (Street Light at Greendale Ave abutting St. Sebastian's and Crosswalk, Speed on 206 A Street) be tabled until the next meeting. The motion was called to a vote and was passed unanimously.

Chairman David Callaghan told the Committee that he was moving out of town and would no longer be able to serve on TMAC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

These minutes are intended to convey the general content of the discussions at the TMAC meeting.
Minutes compiled by: Rebecca Turner