

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 14, 2017 Meeting, 7pm
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Donna Mullin, Suzanne Stein, Kara Holmquist, Stephen DeLisi, Lt. John Kraemer, Tom Ryder (for Anthony De Gaizo), Seth Bauer.

Technical advisor: Bob Wilson (arrived 7:30)

Guests: David Eisan-Smith, Joan Feeney, Jim Galovski, Lana Ostroskaya, Marianne Connaughton, Patricia Carey, Ryan Murphy, Chris Gerstel, Jeff Sirlin.

CALL TO ORDER

Stephen described the Committee make up and how the TMAC meeting works.

I. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON CENTRAL AVE BY THE WALKER SCHOOL (FOLLOW-UP)

David Eisan-Smith summarized the discussion at the last meeting when he presented the issue. David appeared with the neighbor of the Walker School, Ryan Murphy. Ryan let the TMAC know that he is in agreement with where the speed sign will go; he and David have walked the site and agreed on where specifically it would be placed. He also suggested some additional tree trimming would help to make better visibility on the road.

David asked for an updated traffic survey. The last one was done in 2006. He would like to get a sense of the volume and speed of traffic. Lt. Kraemer said that the speed is posted, so that the purpose of the study would not be to change that, but understand how traffic flows. It shouldn't happen until September because the data will be skewed because school is out and people are on vacation.

The next step is for this to go before the Board of Selectmen meeting after TMAC's recommendation. Lt. Kraemer suggested to do the study before the installation.

The Walker school would be installing the sign, but then it would become property of the Town to manage. The speed signs are programmable. Bob Wilson will look at the space.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made that a traffic study be conducted at the beginning of September prior to installation of signage. The motion was passed unanimously.

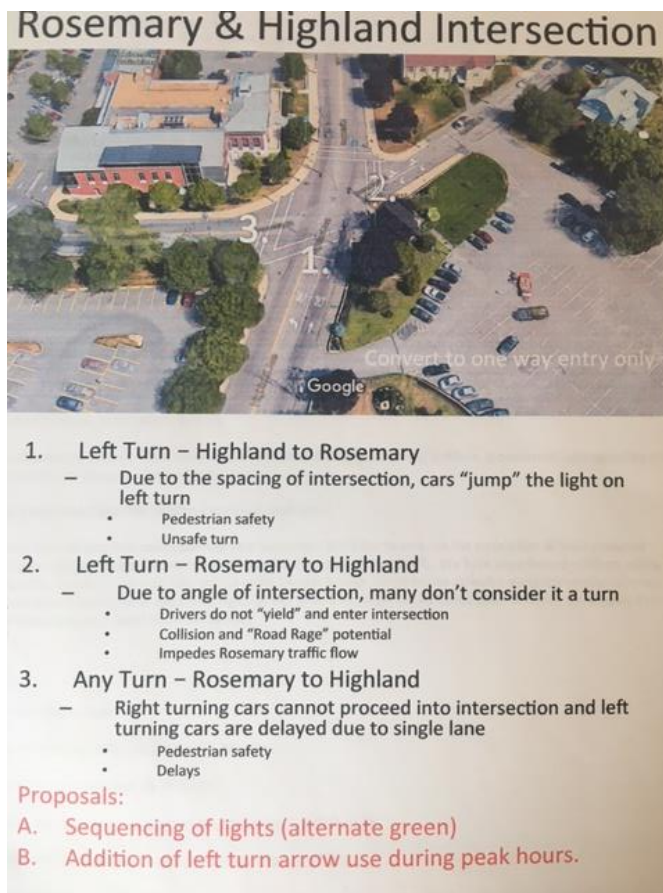
II. INTERSECTION, STREET LIGHT AT ROSEMARY STREET/HIGHLAND AVENUE

Jim Galovski appeared to discuss the intersection at Rosemary St. and Highland Ave. He distributed a map (below) to demonstrate the issues he presented with the intersection. He lives at the bottom of Rosemary Street and goes through this intersection several times/day. Due to the angles of the road, some cars do not yield when they should and he believes it makes a dangerous intersection. He discussed possibly putting the signals on alternate cycles. However, Lt. Kraemer mentioned this could push traffic back on Highland.

There was also a discussion about making the entry to the Memorial Park parking lot one way off of Highland, so cars don't exit onto Highland.

Lt. Kraemer said there are some accidents at the intersection, but it isn't one with high numbers. He said that if the width of Highland Avenue from the High School to Dunkin Donuts is wide enough, it might be possible to put hash marks (like on May St.) that would lead traffic to one side – to merge into one lane before the driveway of Sudbury Farms.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made that a traffic study be conducted in September to get accurate data on the movement at the intersection. The motion was passed unanimously.



III. CROSSWALK ON CHAPEL STREET OUTSIDE OF TOWN HALL

Joan Feeney expressed a concern about the crosswalk on Highland Ave. by Town Hall. Ms. Feeney said this has been a problem since they rebuilt that building. She said that cars cannot see people at the beginning of the crosswalk because there are cars parked on each side right up to the crosswalk. She suggested removing one spot in each side. She said this is compounded by the crosswalk ramp that lowers the height of people so that it is hard to see them.

Members of the TMAC said that this came up a year or so and that it is very difficult to do away with parking spaces, due to business and the customers who want them. Town meeting members adopted a state law re: 25 mile/hour speed limit; the Town is now doing a regulation for that.

Lt. Kraemer said there were no accidents there and that this might need an enforcement campaign. The idea of advanced warning signals was discussed and where they would go. Some signs would make it difficult for ambulances to pass through and this is a main route to the hospital. The lines might need to be repainted.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made to request the town engineers do an investigation into signage to make the crosswalk more visible. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. SIGNAGE AT MILLS FIELD

Patty Carey and Chris Gerstel appeared to discuss the parking on Ellis Street. Parking is allowed on Ellis St. for 3 hours to use the field. Last year, some indented parking on Hampton Street was made, creating room some more parking spaces. There are more businesses in the area now. Some people are parking all day in the spots that don't have signs. There are times when there is nobody in the park, but the spaces full.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made that signs be installed that permit 2 hour parking only M-F, 9 – 3, from Beach Street to Ellis Street. These would be on the right side of the road closest to the field. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. SIGNAGE AT DEFAZIO PARK

Patty Carey and Chris Gersel discussed the new driving pattern in the Park and how it is now more uniform. They want to put up a speed monitor to note the speed of cars and how fast people are going in and out (at least for a few weeks for people see how fast they are going and change their behavior). The suggested location is by the tot lot, though the speed monitor is a full size trailer and may be too big. A traffic officer will go down and look.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made to install two advisory playground signs (one in and one out - 2 signs on one pole) at the entrance and exit of DeFazio Park. The location is to be determined after consultation on the exact location and guidance from Bob Wilson. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. SIGNAGE AT HILLCREST RD BETWEEN INGLESIDE ROAD AND GREAT PLAIN AVE

This item was withdrawn before the meeting.

VII. SIGNAGE/CALMING MEASURE ON ANDREA CIRCLE

Jeff Serlin presented a speed issue on Andrea Circle, which is a cul-de-sac off of Hunnewell St. Cars speed up and down the street. There are many kids who live on the street.

Lt. Kraemer referenced the 25 mile hour speed limit that was adopted at town meeting, but the speed can't go down further.

Mr. Serlin also mentioned that the hedges at the house on the corner block the visibility at the corner. These likely need to be cut back to comply with the town bylaw, as they are likely a corner clearance violation based on the photo. Bob will look at it to see if a violation exists and the town engineer and DPW can send a letter to the home owner asking them to trim the hedge back.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was made and unanimously approved to install “children playing” signs, as well as 20 mph speed tabs, pending a signed petition from the neighborhood including signatures in the affirmative from the property owners in front of whose property the sign will be placed.

Mr. Serlin should get back on the agenda once he has the petition.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

PARKING ON WEXFORD STREET

Lana Ostroskaya appeared in response to John Negosian’s appearance at the last meeting requesting the “no parking” signs that he placed without permission many years ago be made official no public parking signs. This street has a lot of businesses; they all have parking, but sometimes need to use more. She feels this is an extension of his private territory and that he parks trailers where these no parking signs are all day.

Because this issue was not on the agenda at the last meeting or this one, this needs to be on the agenda for the meeting on August 9 (Lana cannot attend July 12). The TMAC asked her to make sure she fills out the form to get it on the agenda.

IX. APPROVE FY2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

After a full discussion of the issues, a motion was made and passed unanimously to install:

July 12, 2017 (in the Great Plain Room at Town Hall)

August 9, 2017

September 13, 2017

October 11, 2017

November 8, 2017

December 13, 2017

January 10, 2018

February 14, 2018

March 14, 2018

April 11, 2018

June 13, 2018

X. MINUTES FROM APRIL 12, 2017 MEETING

The Minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, pending correction of the word “taps” to “tabs”.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00p.m.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Kara Holmquist