

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting April 13, 2011

PSA Building Webster Room, Needham, MA 02492

MINUTES- Draft

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Thomas Stokes, Lt. John Kraemer, Tony DelGaizo, Robert Wilson, Sarah Smith, Glen Schneider, Donna Mullin, Jeff McMann, Richard Merson, Thomas Ryder.

Guests: Peter Nawrocki, Liz Sutcliffe, Barry Levine, Kathleen Leahy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by Ms. Smith who served as chair until arrival of Mr. Stokes

I. INTERSECTION, SIGNAGE, SPEED ON NEHOIDEN STREET

Ms. Leahy summarized multiple issues regarding the increased volume and speed of traffic on Nehoiden Street. Of particular concern, is the increased amount of vehicles (including a significant number of large 18 wheel trucks) using the street as a “cut through” to down town. She was seeking to explore the possibility of some signage or exclusions to calm traffic on this residential street, including the possibility of restoring the “no trucks allowed” sign that used to be near corner at Central Ave. While not an immediate solution, Mr. Del Gaizo noted that several sections of Nehoiden were slated for new curbing which serves to slow traffic by creating a sense of narrowness in the road. The **Committee passed a motion** that the Department of Engineering update a 2001 traffic study to examine overall volume as well as to determine if the threshold level of truck traffic (5%) is met to warrant considering some type of exclusion. The motion further recommended that the traffic study be conducted on two sections of Nehoiden between Parish and May and Parish and Central.

II. SPEED AND SIGNAGE ON MARKED TREE

Ms. Simonini who submitted the complaint was not present at the meeting. Nonetheless, the committee briefly discussed the situation including its 10/10 decision to install a speed tab near Oakcrest. Lt. Kramer updated the committee on a recent phone conversation with Ms. Simonini who remains concerned about the speed of vehicles making the right turn from Central on to Marked Tree. As an interim measure, the NPD will assign a motorcycle officer to monitor speed near Barrett and Gilbert. The **Committee agreed to a continuation** and will discuss the situation at the next meeting when Ms. Simonini is present.

III. NO PARKING SIGNS AT INTERSECTION OF CAROL RD. AND GT. PLAIN AVE

Mr. Nawrocki presented a prepared statement to the Committee summarizing the situation on Carol Road which serves as a parking, drop off and turn around point for a day care center on Great Plain Ave. He emphasized two main points. First, TMAC had, in essence, tried to fix a situation that was “not broken” by recently installing “no parking” signs on the north side of Carol Road at the intersection of Rt. 135. By doing so, he and petitioners felt they created additional safety and congestion problems on Great Plain Avenue. Second, the TMAC (in his

and petitioners estimation) had acted inappropriately and prematurely by previously only listening to a single complainant who does not even live on Carol Road. The situation was reviewed including a summary of the rationale for installing the no parking signs. Specifically, this was to ensure that there was sufficient road width available to accommodate cars exiting and entering Carol road at the same time. It was also pointed out that the proposed change in regulations passed by the Selectman was included for public review in the legal notices section of the Needham Times. Nonetheless, the TMAC did acknowledge the unanticipated consequences of the parking ban on the north side of Carol Road and discussed the viability of modifying the signage to more visibly mark the existing ban on parking within 20 feet of the intersection. The **Committee passed a motion** to take the discussion under advisement until next meeting. In the interim, the DPW will take the appropriate measurements to determine the viability of, and location for repositioning one of the no parking signs.

IV. SPEED AT BEND ON GREAT PLAIN NEAR WILSHIRE PARK

Case not represented or discussed

V. PARKING ON HIGH ROCK AT INTERSECTION WITH CENTRAL

Ms. Sutcliffe provided an update on a case that had been discussed in February regarding parking habits of those dropping off or attending baseball practices/games at Cusick field. Concerns raised in February have been magnified now that field is in full spring use. Ms. Sutcliffe read a petition signed by four residents on High Rock (between Central and Tolman) to prohibit parking on that stretch of road. The Committee was concerned that the petition was not precise enough and wanted to be sure that residents fully understood that this was a year- around (24/7) ban that applied to both sides of the street. The **Committee passed a motion** to confirm with Needham Park and Recreation that they were actively reminding the league to continue to remind parents to park at Newman. In addition, the motion requested that Ms. Sutcliffe clarify the petition (as noted above) and return it to the Committee. Pending these changes, the town would proceed with the installation of “no parking” signs on the specified stretch of High Rock.

VI. OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

- The minutes from the March, 2011 meeting were approved
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider