

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 10, 2011 Meeting

PSAB, Needham, MA 02492

DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE: TMAC Members: Thomas Stokes, Lt. John Kraemer, Anthony DelGaizo, Robert Wilson, Glen Schneider, Donna Mullin, Richard Merson

Guests: Liz Sutcliffe, Kathleen Leahy, Henry Haff, Christine Cooney

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by Mr. Stokes.

I. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON NEHOIDEN STREET

Ms. Leahy returned after her original presentation in April to review the results of the traffic study conducted on two sections on Nehoiden. Bob Wilson briefly reviewed the preliminary results that logged approximately 5000 vehicles between Parish and Central (7% trucks) and 5800 vehicles between Parish and May (5.2% trucks). The average speed at the 85th percentile was 37 MPH. Ms. Leahy reiterated her desire for the Committee to consider speed reduction or calming options as well as a ban on large trucks that use the residential street as a “cut through”. Lt Kraemer noted that since the results of the study had to be reviewed by the State, it may actually result in an increase in the speed limit to 35 MPH to reflect the 85th percentile results. Nonetheless, the **Committee agreed** that the recorded volume of truck traffic (which must exceed 5%) was sufficient to identify and proceed with steps required to apply to the State for a truck exclusion on Nehoiden.

II. TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT GREAT PLAIN AND CHESTNUT STREET

Ms. Cooney summarized her concerns about the light sequence at Great Plain and Chestnut Street. These concerns had been submitted in a “letter of formal complaint” to Chief Thomas Leary of the Needham Police Department. Her primary point involves the uncertainty facing westbound drivers on Great Plain who are making a left turn on to Chestnut. As currently sequenced the driver has approximately five seconds to get through but is never certain when the “window” will close and eastbound traffic will start up. The result is uncertainty, risk taking and “drafting” behind the lead car. Mr. Merson explained why a dedicated arrow was not feasible. Ms. Cooney then suggested that the light cycle include a quick “yellow to red back to green” sequence to indicate when opposing traffic is about to start up. The committee acknowledged the legitimacy of the concern and noted that a “Delayed Green” sign had been installed on the signal arm overhanging the street. Mr. Merson further noted that this specific light sequence is part of a larger set of traffic and “street scape” issues being addressed by a long term plan for the center of town.

III. POLLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL SIGNS

Mr. Haff from the Needham Public Facilities Department summarized a package of materials that he had submitted to the Committee regarding new signage near the Pollard Middle School. In response to the upcoming inclusion of Newman K and Pre-K students, the petitioner is seeking to have TMAC approve “No Parking” signs on one side of Bradford as well as “School” signs at two points on Dedham Ave. The Committee reviewed several of the temporary and permanent changes to accommodate expanded parking, student drop-off and bus traffic at Pollard. As part of the discussion it was widely agreed that parking restrictions on Bradford were warranted to ensure safe passage of busses. The Committee also understood Mr. Haff’s suggestion to make minor adjustments to the “School” sign locations on Dedham Ave that are prescribed to be 175 feet before the entrance. **The Committee passed a motion** to accept the petitioner’s application for the two signage actions and forward it for consideration by the Board of Selectmen.

IV. SIGNAGE ON HIGH ROCK STREET

Ms. Sutcliffe provided an update on a case that had been discussed in April regarding parking habits of those dropping off or attending baseball practices/games at Cusick field. Specifically, she was responding to the Committee’s previous request to demonstrate support for “No Parking” signage from residents on both sides of High Rock near Central. Ms. Sutcliffe presented the updated petition to the Committee. At the same time she acknowledged that the immediacy of her concern had temporarily abated since there is no summer activity at the field due to the construction at Newman. The Committee expressed support for the signage and agreed to present it for review and approval to the Board of Selectman. To gauge the timing of this next step the Committee recommended that Ms. Sutcliffe contact Patty Carey at Park and Recreation to learn about plans to the use of the fields this fall. This will also help determine the exact days of week and times of day specified on the “No Parking” signs.

V, INTERSECTION OF TILLOTSON/TANGLEWOOD AND TILLOTSON/DAMON

The petitioner did not show up and the discussion was tabled for continuation at a later time.

VI. OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

- The Committee was reminded that West Street at Hillside would be closed for regrading of the railroad crossing from August 27th (6:00 AM) through August 29th (6:00 AM)
- The minutes from the June, 2011 meeting were approved
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

