

Minutes
Traffic Management Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 15, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Charles River Room
Public Services Administration Building
500 Dedham Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
Livestreamed on Zoom Meeting ID #879-0218-5871
Approved October 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin McCullen, Chair; Donna Mullin; Barry McNeilly; Thomas Ryder, Town Engineer; Rebecca Tarantino; Rhain Hoyland, Highway Superintendent; Lt. John McGrath; Bob Ciccolo

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Wilson, Engineer; Tyler Gabrielski, Financial Analyst; Daphne Collins, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT: KumRae Lee; Carolyn Walsh; Ted Ballard; Charlie Nascimben and see Sign-In Form attached

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

Justin McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

Bob Ciccolo, the newly appointed member, was introduced to the Committee. Mr. Ciccolo is a long-time Needham resident and works with the Boston Police Department.

2. MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2022

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to accept the Minutes of August 10, 2022. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. BROAD MEADOW ROAD – NO PARKING DURING PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF HOURS

PETITIONER: KumRae Lee, 349 Great Plain Avenue

Ms. Lee reported that there are traffic issues during school drop-off and pick-off on Broad Meadow Road. She noted that construction workers and landscapers associated with properties on Broad Meadow Road park 5-6 cars deep along Broad Meadow Road making it difficult for drop-off and pick-up and for children pedestrians who are difficult to see when having to navigate between the cars. Occasionally these vehicles park on the sidewalks exacerbating the challenge for pedestrians who must walk in the street. She noted that it is difficult for emergency vehicles to navigate the road during peak hours. Ms. Lee proposes that both sides of Broad Meadow Road from Bird to Tudor Streets be No Parking during 7:30a.m. and 8:30a.m, and 2:30pm and 3:30p.m. during the school year between September 1-June 30.

Ms. Lee surveyed the neighborhood. She collected 116 signatures and 73 on-line in support of the parking restriction. She noted that the survey was limited to the Broad Meadow neighborhood. Dr. Andy Galick, Principal and Chanit List, Assistant Principal, submitted a letter in support of the parking restriction. Lynn Palmatier, the Crossing Guard, agreed about the safety challenges of handling hundreds of student pedestrians and the drop-off and pick-up vehicular queue of over 100 cars.

Lt. McGrath felt it was a multi-faceted issue which required all stakeholders – school, police, parents and neighborhood - to be engaged. He cautioned that ticketing was not a sole solution. He suggested that buses use the back loop. He thought the area was saturated with signs installed by the former generation of parents; and new parents need to be brought on board rather than creating a new set of signs.

Ms. Lee argued that parents can park on both side of the street currently which would create a bottle neck along the street.

Mr. Ciccolo suggested that construction workers be educated and restricted through their building permits issued by the Building Department.

Ms. Tarantino noted that the drop-off and pick-up lines are longer than they were in the past, and the school was not designed for the volume of children driven to school.

Mr. Hoyland noted that only 5 signers of the petition were residents of Broad Meadow Road. The Committee requires over 50% of the residents of the street to be supportive of parking limitations. Ms. Lee insisted that the parking issue was not the parents but the contractors and landscapers.

Mr. Ciccolo noted that congestion works in favor of safety. Opening the road leads to speed issues.

Lt. McGrath suggested that the principal revisit the Traffic Plan for the school; the school traffic be moved on the school property roads; and to get the PTC and parent community involved.

The Committee was not in favor of imposing a parking ban along Broad Meadow Road.

Arthur Elson, 62 Dawson Drive and 164 Broad Meadow Road, reported that his property on Broad Meadow was under construction. He had three children in the Broadmeadow School, a kindergartener, third grader and a recent graduate. He did not support a parking limitation on the street. He suggested alternatives such as opening the school earlier and using some of the green space for traffic alleviation measures. He noted that contractors do not want to linger and are motivated to complete their projects. However, they sometimes cannot control the time of deliveries.

The Committee agreed there were traffic issues but a wholistic approach was required engaging all the stakeholders. Lt. McGrath will be assigning police presence.

4. GREENDALE AVENUE AND TOWER ROAD– CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Carolyn Walsh, 202 Greendale Avenue

Ms. Walsh noted that is very difficult for her children to cross Greendale Avenue to catch the bus to the Mitchell School. There is a curve with poor visibility and cars speed along Greendale Avenue. There is no place for her children to cross safely nor are there any school bus stops on Greendale Avenue, obligating her children to cross the street to catch the closest bus.

A crosswalk at Tower Road is problematic as the Warrant does not allow crosswalks at an asymmetrical corner.

Lt. McGrath and members of the Committee recommended she contact Shane Marchand, the Director of School Transportation and insist on a bus stop on the north side of Greendale Avenue for safety and walkability.

It was agreed that the Greendale Avenue needed a crosswalk. The question was its location.

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to locate a school bus stop for safety reasons and that the Engineering Department study a location for a safe crosswalk to be installed on Greendale Avenue. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. COUNTRY WAY SPLIT– CROSSWALK

PETITIONER: Ted Ballard, 69 Country Way

Mr. Ballard reported that as a longtime resident he has witnessed an increase in pedestrians, bikers and people walking with strollers on Country Way. He noted there is speeding problem along Country Way and there are a lot of children in the neighborhood. He requested that an additional **Stop** sign be installed.

Mr. McCullen said that stop signs can only be located at intersections that meet the Warrant criteria.

Mr. Wilson reported that based on a 2014 study, there were 500 vehicles per day each way on Country Way.

The speed limit is 30mph on Country Way. However, the Committee did not recommend that a 30mph Speed Sign be installed because drivers will go faster than the limit.

Jess Zelfand Munroe, 80 Country Way, noted that it was dangerous for the school bus to stop and that cars still speed by. Lt. McGrath suggested she speak to the bus driver to park in such a way that it take the entire road.

Mr. Hoyland said a painted island could be done and the current *Stop* sign and stop line could be moved. Later a raised island could be installed.

Vote: Ms. Tarantino moved to paint an island at the Country Way split, that the *Stop* sign and stop line be moved to be made more visible. Location details to be determined by the Highway Department and that a Traffic Study be conducted. Lt. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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6. SOUTH STREET AND HIGH ROCK STREET - POOR VISIBILITY

PETITIONER: Charlie Nascimben, 580 South Street

Luigno Nascimben reported that the blind driveway, the curve on South Street, the lack of sidewalk or berm and the speed on South Street make it difficult and unsafe to get out of the driveway. He'd like a mirror installed.

Mr. McCullen reported that mirrors are not allowed in Town because of the liability to the Town. Lt. McGrath suggested that Mr. Nascimben asked his neighbor to remove or adjust a section of the fence to improve site lines. Mr. Hoyland wondered if the fence was on Town property.

7. GREAT PLAIN AVENUE AND GLEENDOO ROAD AND MAPLE STREET – CROSSWALK

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Ms. Tarantino reported that the crosswalk at Great Plain Avenue and Gleendoon Road (Comella's) and Maple Street is unsafe for pedestrians. Both pedestrians and vehicles have poor visibility. Lt. McGrath reported that there had been a fatality at the location.

Suggestions were to move the crosswalk to the west side of the intersection, remove two car spaces, improve the lighting by installing a spotlight, relocating the pedestrian sign, and double backing the pedestrian signs.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved to relocate the pedestrian sign; raise the pedestrian sign; remove the ballard; double back the pedestrian signs and install spot lighting. Mr. Hoyland seconded the motion. **Ayes:** 7; **Abstention:** Ms. Tarantiono.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Cefalo and Sunset Roads - No Parking Informational Sandwich Board Sign

Lt. McGrath reported that the Sunita Williams Elementary School's No Pick-up and Drop-Off Parking on Cefalo and Sunset Road informational sandwich board sign could not be located.

Vote: Lt. McGrath moved that the Committee purchase a sandwich board sign for traffic control at the Sunita Williams School. Language to be determined by the Police Department. Ms. Tarantino seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.