

Town of Needham
Traffic Management Advisory Committee

Minutes: June 21, 2023

Location: Forbes/McLeod Community Room, Public Safety Building
88 Chestnut Street

Livestreamed on Zoom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuA9rJwM0w4>

ADOPTED JULY 12, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Justin McCullen; Guus Driessen, Rhain Hoyland,
Lt. John McGrath, Barry McNeilly, Donna Mullin, Tom Ryder
MEMBERS ABSENT: Rebecca Tarantino
STAFF PRESENT: Tyler Gabrielski, Management Analyst; Robert Wilson, Engineer
PUBLIC PRESENT: Jennifer Berrios, Mary Strogell

1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chair McCullen called the meeting to order, took roll call, and disclosed the video recording.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2023

MOTION:	G. Driessen moved to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2023.
SECONDED:	D. Mullin
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

3. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT

From the January agenda, R. Wilson provided an update for the Hillside Avenue Speed Study.

- Members discussed signage ("children playing" versus "children slow").
- Speeds were tracked in both directions as well as vehicle types and the volume of traffic.
- Members discussed posting a speed limit with LED lighting for a populated area.
- Members discussed establishing a Safety Zone near playgrounds and sporting fields.

MOTION:	J. McMullen moved to establish a 25 mile per hour yellow speed tab under the Playground sign on Hillside Avenue.
SECONDED:	Lt. McGrath
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

MOTION:	T. Ryder moved to have the DPW Department of Public Works determine whether the length of Hillside Avenue from Avery Street to Webster Street or Sunnyside Road meets the criteria for a speed zone, and, if so, the DPW will move forward to establish the speed limit for the speed zone.
SECONDED:	R. Hoyland
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye;

	Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

From the April agenda, R. Wilson provided an update for **Marshall Street, no parking here to corner.**

- Signs were installed in May to indicate "no parking zone here to corner."

From the February agenda, R. Wilson provided the speed limit data tracked on Warren Street.

- Speeds were tracked in both directions as well as vehicle types and the volume of traffic.

Members discussed short and long-term traffic calming measures for the narrow road (painted lines indicating intersection, road hump versus speed bump, speed table).

MOTION:	J. McCullen moved to have the DPW evaluate short- and long-term traffic calming for Warren Street and report results at the next meeting of the TSC Traffic Safety Committee and work with the MCC Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee.
SECONDED:	R. Hoyland
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

R. Wilson provided an update on the Fair Oaks Park at Great Plain Ave. intersection.

- Lt. McGrath discussed crash data for the last five years.

Members discussed traffic patterns and driver behavior at the intersection. Data will be collected on how many drivers are stopping at the stop sign. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. JENNIFER BERRIOS - SIGNAGE FOR HAZEL LANE/WOODBINE CIRCLE

J. Berrios presented the case for signage and invited committee recommendations.

- Sidewalks are in disrepair. Cars park on both sides of the street. The view of children on skateboards is obstructed by parked cars. There is no signage at the end of Hazel or Woodbine.
- The problem area includes traveling from Hazel Lane onto Fay Lane.

Members discussed the area does qualify as a no outlet street. Cars parked on both sides does create traffic calming. Speeding vehicles may be delivery or service vehicles or neighbors. The committee could not endorse "drive like your kids live here" signage.

Action: J. Berrios is to gather as many resident signatures as possible for a petition to the Town to add a yellow "slow" sign to be placed at a designated address agreed to by the neighbor abutting the sign.

MOTION:	Lt. McGrath moved to place a no outlet sign at Hazel Lane/Woodbine Circle.
SECONDED:	D. Mullin
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved.
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

5. SHIVA KRUPA - PEDESTRIANS CROSSING OVER GPA NEAR MARY CHILTON ROAD

The petitioner was not present. This item will be discussed at the July meeting.

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - RIGHT TURNS AT HIGHLAND AVE. AT WEBSTER STREET

- The State redid the signal and restored the right turn on red condition done previously.
- Members discussed "exclude pedestrian phasing" along with the bike lane.
- Members discussed placing a new tab to indicate the new signal timing, 24/7 no turn on red.

7. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION - IDLING ON HARRIS AVE. NEAR POLLARD

Mary Strogell of 76 Wilshire Park

- Drivers waiting for their children are idling their vehicles creating an environmental hazard.
- She suggested "no idling" signage.

Members discussed unnecessary idling is a State law and whether it is enforceable. Community education should be spearheaded by the school. Signage on Harris Ave. would need to be approved by resident petition to place the sign in front of a home. Members discussed placing the sign in the median.

Action: TMAC will initiate communication with the school principal to initiate a design contest/project.

8. MATTERS NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MEETING

- The intensity of streetlights was increased on West Street. Feedback will be considered.
- The Select Board approved decreasing speed limits for sections of Dedham Ave. and Central Ave. The speed limit documents are ready to be certified and advertised; new tabs to be installed.
- There will be a new contractor on board beginning July 1, 2023.
- The topic of Hillside and West intersection will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- A crosswalk at Highland Ave. across from the high school is in the Engineering queue.
- A crosswalk at the school stairs across from Dunkin' Donuts is in the Engineering queue as well as engineering to make this a school zone.
- The topic of a Chapel Street crosswalk at the back side of Town Hall parking lot will be discussed.
- Resident, J. Berrios, will submit a request for a crosswalk on Fourth Ave by the Goldfish School.
- Longer term solutions were discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT - ROLL CALL VOTE

MOTION:	R. Hoyland motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.
SECONDED:	G. Driessen
ROLL-CALL VOTE:	G. Driessen, aye; R. Hoyland, aye; J. McCullen, aye; Lt. McGrath, aye; B. McNeilly, aye; D. Mullin, aye; T. Ryder, aye. Unanimously approved
MOTION CARRIES:	7-0

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Michaud
Recording Secretary