

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 10, 2014 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA
DRAFT

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeffrey MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Rick Merson
Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Mark Rosen, Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi

Guests: John Wiesman, Laura Wiesman, Sam Wiesman, Walt Woo, Mary Ann Savrin, Neil Baron, Ruth Kolbe, Maggie Shapiro, Andrew Allen

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. TRAVELING ON WRONG SIDE OF HARRIS AVE

Ms. Mercer reported two instances of a car traveling on the wrong side of the median on Harris Ave. In addition to reporting the incidents to NPD, she also brought her concern to TMAC to discuss the need for additional signage. The Committee reviewed the configuration of cross streets near Pollard Middle School and determined that the most likely source of potential confusion was Coulton Park Road and the exit from the school driveway. **The Committee passed a motion** to post “One Way” advisory signs on the median at Coulton Park and at the driveway exit across from Pinewood.

II. SIGNAGE ON HELEN/WOODLEDGE/HIGHGATE (FOLLOW-UP)

Ms. Shapiro returned as a follow up to her presentation in December, 2013. At that time, she presented the neighborhood concerns over the need for additional signage at this intersection. A previous traffic study indicated that warrants were not met that would allow for stop signs to be installed on Highgate. Warrants were met however, for the installation of stop signs on Helen and Woodledge. At the time, the TMAC agreed that these stop signs could be considered if there was adequate neighborhood support. Ms. Shapiro returned to the 12/14 meeting with a petition signed by over 40 neighbors and reported only one (partially) dissenting opinion. **The Committee passed a motion** to install two stop signs on Helen and Woodledge as they intersect Highgate.

III. SIGNAGE ON WEBSTER BETWEEN SOUTH STREET AND DEDHAM AVE.

Mr. Allen reported numerous instances of trucks having to back away from the underpass on Webster Street due to a vehicle height that exceeds 11 feet. His concern is that there is no advanced warning to truck drivers approaching either from South Street or Dedham Ave. He was told that advisory signage was the only option since the road does not meet the criteria for a truck exclusion. **The Committee passed a motion** to install two signs reading “Bridge Clearance

Ahead-11 Feet” on either side of the underpass at a sufficient distance to adequately warn truck drivers.

IV. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON SOUTH STREET

Ms. Baum is a resident of South Street and has witnessed countless accidents or near accidents that occur at a particularly challenging blind curve near the 147 address. The situation is compounded by heavy bicycle traffic and by a confusing/misleading sign near Needhamdale Road. **The Committee passed a motion** to install two icon style “sharp curve” signs with 25 MPH speed tabs attached. The signs will be placed on both sides of South Street within 200 feet of the hazardous area. The motion also included the removal of existing signage at Needhamdale. **The Committee passed a separate motion** to explore the possibility of road widening on the inside of the curve.

V. SIGNAGE AT INTERSECTION OF DAMON AND TANGLEWOOD

Ms. Bailey described a problematic four way intersection at Damon and Tanglewood. In addition to being a bicycle “cut through” for kids heading to Hillside Elementary, it is also a busy bus stop for all age students. The presenter was aware that a traffic study had been conducted at this intersection and was interested in the results. The results were available and showed that the intersection did not meet the warrants for stop signs based on the speeding and traffic volume criteria. However, the study results were accompanied by a recommendation by the traffic engineer to install the stop signs. This means that some other warrant (e.g., limited visibility) appears to have been met. **The Committee passed a motion** to investigate the intersection and review the recommendation further to determine exactly what the Traffic Engineer’s endorsement is based on.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

Lt. Kramer presented one application for overnight parking at 18 Highland Terrace. The Committee approved the application with the stipulation that only one designated vehicle be allowed to park overnight

Lt. Kramer also presented the full list of renewals for overnight parking permits for the coming year. The Committee approved the renewals as a package.

The Committee was informed that “Two Hour Parking 8:00 AM-2:00 PM” signs have been installed on Marsh Road approximately 150 feet west of Chestnut. The Committee passed a motion to ratify the installation of these signs

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the November, 2014 meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

Minutes submitted with summary of all TMAC follow-up items (separate attachment)

