

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 16, 2016 Meeting
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Jeff MacMann, Lt. John Kraemer, Ford Peckham, Glen Schneider, Tony DelGaizo, Mark Rosen, Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi, Bob Wilson

Guests: Paula Callanan, Michael Giancioppo, Walter Armstrong, Stefanie Jeruss, Tammy Macherides, Elizabeth Korngold,

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. INTERSECTION SIGNAGE ON GPA BETWEEN MARKED TREE AND LINDEN

Ms. Callanan expressed concern over the recent pattern of cars parking along this stretch of GPA for the entire day. Her primary concern was that the “wall of cars” blocked visibility particularly when trying to turn from Marked Tree Lane. Ms. Macherides lives along this stretch of GPA and confirmed that the parking pattern also made it very difficult to exit from her driveway. Mr. DelGaizo explained that the parking congestion likely stems from the use of the Congregational Church as the temporarily location for day care that required relocation while Temple Beth Shalom was undergoing renovation. The Planning Board had approved this temporary use of the church space along with very specific parking guidelines that were apparently not being heeded. Mr. DelGaizo urged the presenters to also take their concerns to the Planning Board to make them aware that the guidelines may not be being followed. In the interim, the **Committee passed a motion** to install a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign on the west side of GPA at a distance that allows visibility when turning from Marked Tree (preliminarily estimated at 60 feet). The motion will be revisited after the Planning Board is apprised of the situation. The motion also included a request that the presenters notify the affected neighbors .

II. SIGNAGE ON LOCUST LANE

Mr. and Mrs. Korngold explained that Locust Lane is a cul-de-sac that backs up to the Gurnsey Sanctuary in Wellesley. Increasingly, visitors are using their street to park and access the trail that enters the conservation land. The increase in traffic has come with a commensurate increase in litter. At the Korngolds’ request, the **Committee passed a motion** to install “No Littering” Sign at the end of Locust Lane. Mr. DelGaizo also suggested that the homeowners contact the Town of Wellesley. As the owners of the conservation land they may be able to install additional signage along the trail itself.

III. SPEED SIGNAGE ON FALCON AND BOND

Ms. Jeruss reported on her concerns about the speed and volume of traffic on Falcon. These concerns are exacerbated by the large volume of children who walk this way to the Mitchell School and have to navigate the “inherently dangerous” intersection at Bond. Ms. Jeruss proposed a four way stop as a possible solution. Mr. Wilson explained that a traffic study had previously been conducted at this intersection and the imbalance in the traffic on the two streets does not (by itself) meet the warrants for a four way stop. After several options for signage were discussed, the **Committee passed a motion** to install a flashing LED sign indicating intersection ahead. The action on the motion however, is pending until the presenter returns to the TMAC with a petition confirming support from the neighbors. The Committee also urged the presenter to contact both the Newman and Eliot schools to explore the possibility of applying for grant money under the “Safe Routes to School” program.

IV. CROSSWALK, SPEED SIGNAGE ON CHARLES RIVER STREET

Mr. Giancioppo presented his concerns about what he perceived to be dangerous circumstances that arose with the opening of the Rail Trail as it crosses Charles River St. He was joined by John Bulian of the Needham Board of Selectmen who supported his presentation. According to Mr. Giancioppo, the conditions for pedestrians have become dangerous as more cars have parked near 11 Charles River Street with the opening of the RT. In discussing a request to install “No Parking” signs, Mr. Del Gaizo noted that the area is already a designated for “no parking” and that no further regulatory permission is required to install signage. The **Committee passed a motion** to install “No Parking” signs from South Street to the Rail Trail on both sides of the street. The TMAC strongly recommended that Mr. Giancioppo notify the neighbors who will be directly affected by the signage.

V. CONSIDERATION OF SPEED HUMP ON HIGHGATE

This agenda item was initiated by Mr. DelGaizo of the TMAC to provide an update on a paving and reconstruction project on Highgate. In conjunction with paving, DPW installed four ramps and granite curbing at the intersection of Highgate and Helen and Woodledge. The dual purpose of the initiative was to bring the street into ADA compliance while simultaneously serving as a traffic calming measure to counter the anticipated increased in speed accompany the paving. New data from a speed study confirmed the efficacy of the project reporting that the increase in average vehicle speed was negligible (28 MPH to 31 MPH)

VI. SIGNAGE ON SOUTH STREET (NEAR 1200)

Mr. Anniston was not on the agenda but was evidently told to attend the meeting by the Town Hall representative he spoke to. Since he had waited through all the other presentations, the Committee allowed him to provide a brief overview of his concern. Using a handout he reviewed the dangerous curves on South Street near the 1200 addresses and the need for additional signage much like other curvy stretches of the street. While he is waiting to be

formally added to the next agenda, the TMAC recommended that he gather signatures from all the neighbors to show broader support his concerns and requests.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Del Gaizo gave a brief update on the I95 construction projects as well as the downtown improvement initiative

The Committee passed a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Glen Schneider

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