

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 9, 2017 Meeting, 7pm
Public Services Administration Building
Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi, Lt. John Kraemer, Anthony De Gaizo, Rick Merson, Seth Bauer.

Technical advisor: Bob Wilson

Guests: Lauren Gedaminski, Suzanne Heffernan, Lana Ostroskaya, John Curtis, Anita Richie, Alison Paquette, Joan Malinowski; the names of 3 additional guests were not decipherable from the sign-in sheet.

CALL TO ORDER

I. SPEED, SIGNAGE ON Greendale Avenue between Great Plain Avenue & Intervale Road

L. Gedaminski expressed concern about the speed of vehicles traveling north on Greendale, between Great Plain and Intervale. She expressed the belief that the maximum speed there should be 25 mph, as it is on the southbound side of the roadway in that same area. She indicated that some cars travel excessively fast because they are just coming off of the highway (128/95) onto Greendale heading northbound. Her concerns are heightened because of the school crossing at Intervale, but she indicated it is difficult to cross Greendale at Mann Ave as well.

Lt. Kraemer reported that the current speed in that stretch was established following a speed study many years ago. Mr. Delgaizo indicated that the state will not permit the Town to change the speed limit there.

After a full discussion of the issues, a Motion was passed that that the pedestrian crossing sign at Intervale be relocated so that it is more visible.

II. INTERSECTION of Maple Street and Great Plain Ave and PARKING on Maple Street

S. Heffernan reported two concerns: One, the crosswalks at Great Plain Ave and Maple Street are routinely blocked by vehicles, causing dangerous crossing conditions for pedestrians; related to this, when cars block the crosswalk on Great Plain at Maple, vehicles turning onto Great Plain from Maple are unable to enter the roadway and this

leads to a backup on Maple, especially during the morning and evening rush hours periods (which also makes it difficult for cars exiting Denmark Lane onto Maple). Two, the 2 hour parking limit on Maple is “routinely violated by business owners who park all day.” Regarding the first set of concerns, Mr. Delgaizo reported that roadway improvements currently underway on Great Plain Ave. should improve traffic flow and possibly eliminate vehicles stopping on the crosswalks. Regarding the second, Lt. Kraemer reported the police have not received a lot of complaints about parking enforcement on Maple in that area, but that he will request increased vigilance there by his department.

III. SIGNAGE on Greendale Avenue

J. Curtis presented a concern about parked vehicles on Greendale near the exits/entrances of the condominiums at 900 Greendale. He requested No Parking Here to Corner signs be installed behind Unit 14 and to the side of Unit 21 to make it safer for vehicles exiting the complex onto Greendale. Mr. Delgaizo explained that since those intersections are not technically corners, the requested signage cannot be posted. Other kinds of signage, such as No Parking, can be placed at and near those intersections, but since that might impact residents of the complex and their guests, Mr. Curtis was encouraged by the TMAC to get a signed petition from neighbors supporting such a remedy.

IV. SIGNAGE, CROSSWALKS on Beaufort Avenue near Perry Park

A. Paquette presented to the TMAC with a concern about the manner in which vehicles are parked near Perry Park, specifically that cars are pulled up onto the sidewalks, obstructing their use by pedestrians; cars are also parked over crosswalks. This occurs both on Beaufort as well as on the island across the street, and is particularly a problem from May through October. The lack of a berm on Beaufort in that area was mentioned as one contributing factor to cars being parked over the sidewalk. Mr. Merson reported that the streets in that area may be up for improvements, including new curbing as well as handicapped ramps at the crosswalk. Lt. Kraemer reported that his department will increase enforcement in that area. Following discussion, a Motion was passed to install plastic stanchions on either side of the crosswalks to see if this has a positive impact on parking.

V. INTERSECTION at Wexford Street

L. Ostroskaya returned to present a petition, signed by 9 neighbors near her business on Wexford, requesting that the TMAC not approve a request from the owner of the business at 52-62 Wexford, Mr. Negosian, that the stretch of roadway in front of his business be made a No Parking zone. She complained about the lack of public parking on Wexford for the businesses in that area, and believes that the roadway in front of the Negosian business remain a legal parking area. She reported a belief that the Town told Mr. Negosian to remove No parking signs that he himself installed, but the signs remain and said that when someone tries to park there he comes out and “screams” at

them. She also reported that vehicles from his business often park there (even though there are No parking signs there). Of she and her neighbors, she said “we want fair use.” It was explained to her that Mr. Negosian has not presented to the TMAC a formal petition to make that roadway No Parking, and that therefore parking is legal there currently (despite the No Parking signs). However, Mr. delgaizo, having previously explored the area and presented to the TMAC, the disputed stretch of roadway will likely need to be made No Parking so that the business across the street from the Negosian business will have adequate space for the trucks that exit and enter it’s property. Mr. delgaizo explained that there may be a smaller stretch of roadway – on Wexford, adjacent to the northern edge of the Negosian business, that can safely remain a zone where parking is allowed, but only 1-2 cars would fit there and it would make that portion of Wexford an anomaly in terms of parking. Because L. Ostroskaya presented a Motion in opposition to something that hasn’t been otherwise presented, the TMAC did not vote on her Motion but we agreed to take up the matter at the next meeting.

VI. Parking Spaces on Chestnut Street

D. Harrington, owner of the Dunkin Donuts on Chestnut, reported that 2 parking spots on Chestnut, directly in front of his business, are no longer available because the Town placed No Parking signs there; previously, those signs were not there. Combined with other parking challenges in that area, he expressed the belief that his business has been negatively impacted by the removal of those 2 spots. Following lengthy discussion, the TMAC passed a Motion to support modified parking (2 hours or less) at those 2 spots pending additional research by the Town as to why parking in those 2 spots was recently removed.

VII. SPEED,SIGNAGE BETWEEN NEIHOLDEN STREET AND GARDEN STREET

Tabled.

VIII. SIGNAGE AT BROADMEADOW SCHOOL FRONT LOOP

Because of changes made to the school schedule, Lt. Kraemer requested that the parking signage be updated in this area. Discussion ensued as to the signs having already been updated. TMATC passed a Motion to alter the signs as requested by the police but that a Town regulation may be needed for signage in the street.

IX. MINUTES FROM June, 2017 MEETING

The Minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15p.m.

Minutes compiled and summarized by Stephen DeLisi