

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of September 12, 2018 Meeting, 7pm

Public Services Administration Building

Needham, MA

IN ATTENDANCE

TMAC Members: Donna Mullin, Stephen DeLisi, Lt. John Kraemer, Suzanne Stein, Rhain Hoyland, Seth Bauer, Thomas Ryder, Bob Wilson,

Guests: Mary Sprogell, Michael Sexton, Carol and Julia Fraini, Kathryn and Brian Macintosh, Rachel Horman

CALL TO ORDER At 7:05pm

I. INTERSECTION AND CROSSWALK AT CENTRAL AVENUE AND CEDAR STREET

Kathryn and Brian Mackintosh presented a concern about the redesigned crosswalk configuration at the intersection of Central and Cedar, where children and their parents cross on their way to the nearby Eliot School. In the past there was a crosswalk on Central just south of Cedar, but that was removed in favor of a crosswalk across Central just north of Cedar, requiring pedestrians coming from the South to cross Central and then use a second crosswalk across Cedar to get to the side of the street where Eliot is located. They are requesting that the original crosswalk be restored, for safety reasons. Tom explained that the current configuration resulted from a study of several factors including visibility for drivers, pedestrian volume, and what works better for the crossing guard. He also explained that a town wide safety study is underway which will review safety at all intersections to determine in part if better signage and more lighting is needed. Results of that study, which will look at crossing both during school hours and off hours, will be made available to the TMAC at which time further discussion and review of this intersection and the points made by the Mackintosh' can take place.

II. INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK, SPEED, SIGNAGE ON GREAT PLAIN AVE. AT INTERSECTION OF WILSHIRE PARK, AND BEAUFORT AVE.

Mary Sprogell presented concerns about the speed of vehicles on Great Plain approaching Wilshire Park, especially given the bend in the road, the location of the existing crosswalk, and the limited visibility for pedestrians and bikers especially as they cross Great Plain on the way to Perry Park. Better signage, a lowered speed limit, repainting the crosswalk, and flashing indicators were presented to TMAC as potential remedies. TMAC discussed that this area has been the subject of similar, recent petitions by other concerned Needham residents. Current plans include moving the crosswalk closer to the Great Plain/Plymouth intersection and installing blinking lights on the crosswalk signs. The use of additional traffic calming measures such as radar signs will be assessed via the town wide safety study. The town is also considering lowering the speed limit to 25mph.

III. SPEED ON HORACE STREET

Rachel Horman expressed concern about the speed of vehicles traveling on Horace Street, in both directions, resulting in safety concerns even when walking on sidewalks. She wondered if the installation of speed bumps was possible, but Lt. Kraemer explained that the noise that speed bumps

cause and other factors has led some towns to have them removed. The use of a mobile speed trailer was also rejected because the street is too narrow. A motion was made and unanimously approved to conduct a speed study on Horace Street.

IV. CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE STREET LIGHT AT 272-310 CHESTNUT STREET

Carol Fraini expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians crossing Chestnut Street in front of the office building (currently housing medical offices) in the 272-310 stretch of Chestnut Street. Employees and visitors of that building often park across the street and there is a lack of a crosswalk and adequate lighting, creating safety concerns. In addition, cars parked on Chestnut Street in front of the building also reduce visibility. Suggested remedies included a crosswalk, street lights, a pedestrian crossing sign, and flashing pedestrian crossing lights. Discussion ensued about the need for better lighting in that area, which the Town engineering division will explore. Installation of a mid-block crosswalk was not recommended, for safety reasons. A motion was made and unanimously passed to study the location and volume of pedestrians crossing Chestnut Street in that area.

V. CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE AT NEHOIDEN STREET/PARISH ROAD & MEADOWBROOK RD. AND GARDEN STREET/MAY STREET

Michael Sexton presented two concerns. One – the existing crosswalk across Nehoiden, between Meadowbrook and Parish, is neither adequately marked on the pavement nor is there signage warning approaching drivers of the existence of the crosswalk. This crosswalk is heavily used by students and other pedestrians. Mr. Sexton was informed by the TMAC that the Town is already planning to improve the signage at the crosswalk (but not cross-hatching), and therefore no further action was required of the TMAC. Two – regarding the existing crosswalks on May St. at the intersection with Garden St., there is no pedestrian crossing signs for cars approaching from Highland, and only one yellow pedestrian sign many feel before the crosswalk for cars approaching from Nehoiden. Improved signage and pavement markings were requested. Rhain indicated he would investigate that intersection with an eye toward adding/improving the signage in both directions on May Street.

VI. CROSSWALK, SIGNAGE, SPEED BUMPS NEAR 215-219 WEST STREET

This item was tabled, as the petitioner did not attend the meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

In light of the Town Meeting scheduled for the second Wednesday in October, TMAC members agreed to hold our next meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Minutes from the June 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes compiled by Stephen DeLisi.

