

Town of Stow

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 2, 2022 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present: Chief Michael Sallese, Fire Chief John P Benoit, Steve Nadeau, Jesse Steadman

Chief Sallese called meeting to order 1:00 PM

Public Input

Morgan Hilman of 64 Crescent Street noted there are sight line issues at the corner of Crescent Street and West Acton Road. She asked if it would be possible to locate a mirror on the island across the street from her home, which is on Town property. Chief Sallese noted that he will add the issue to an upcoming meeting agenda.

Traffic Delineators and Speed Tables

Jesse Steadman said that prior to utilizing traffic delineators as a traffic calming measure on any more roads in Stow, he would like to get feedback on their use from a qualified consultant.

Circuit Drive

Chief Sallese noted that the Committee received more feedback from residents on Circuit Drive, indicating that the delineators are working and requesting more of them to be installed to control traffic speeding off of Sawmill Road, onto Circuit Drive.

Sudbury Road Speed Zone

The Committee discussed the long straight-away on Sudbury Road that lacks a speed sign to remind drivers of the 35MPH speed limit. Committee members discussed the best location for the placement of the sign, generally agreeing on a location in the vicinity of Woodland Way and Kingland Road. Steve Nadeau indicated he did not support the extra signage.

Chief Sallese moved to purchase and install a new Speed Zone sign for Sudbury Road.

Chief Benoit seconded.

VOTE: 3-1 in favor. (Chief Sallese – Yea; Chief Benoit – Yea; Jesse Steadman – Yea; Steve Nadeau – Nay)

Sudbury Road Speed Zone Extension

The committee discussed the extension of the 25 MPH speed zone to encompass Pine Bluff Recreation area as an alternative to creating a safety zone on Sudbury Road. Jesse Steadman said he will reach out to MassDOT District 3.

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Joanne Drive

Chief Sallèse asked Jesse Steadman if the owner of Joanne Drive had been contacted regarding the use of Jake brakes on Sudbury Road. Jesse Steadman said that he spoke with the owner and the truck contractor has been advised.

Temporary Speed Feedback Sign Locations

The committee discussed the current and proposed locations of the temporary speed feedback signs, agreeing on placing a pair of the units on Circuit Drive and Boxboro Road, with one pair at the intersection with Packard Road and another pair at the Minuteman Airfield entrance.

Apple Traffic

Chief Sallèse noted the importance of scheduling a specific meeting date to talk only about apple traffic mitigation. Members agreed.

Treaty Elm Road at Gleasondale Road

Residents on Treaty Elm Road described traffic safety concerns as they turn on to Treaty Elm from Gleasondale Road. The residents noted that traffic often does not realize that southbound traffic on Route 62 will be coming to a full stop. Several residents noted that due to the curve and the sight lines of the road, a full stop is necessary prior to completing the turning movement. Residents noted that there are times when vehicles will try to pass them on the left, moving into the oncoming traffic lane.

Residents asked if there could be signage installed indicating that cars will come to a complete stop prior to executing the turn, or perhaps install some other traffic warning device to increase safety.

Committee members discussed that there may be some illuminated sign options, including flashing yellow lights above existing signage, or signs with led along the borders. The Committee noted they can discuss potential options further at the next meeting after reviewing the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Wheeler Road

The Committee discussed ongoing issues at Wheeler Road involving speeding. Steve Nadeau indicated that he believes the bollards that have been removed from the road could have been an issue for the fire trucks in responding to the recent structure fire on Wheeler. Steve Nadeau said that he would be in favor of making Wheeler Road a one-way road, by limiting vehicles from entering off of Route 62. In that scenario, Steve Nadeau said he could install speed bumps in the middle of the road, that would still allow drainage off to the road edge. Jesse Steadman said that such an intervention would need a good amount of public input prior to being recommended. All agreed. In the meantime, Jesse Steadman noted that the speed feedback signs being installed should provide a period of time for the Committee to further reflect on how well they mitigate speeding. Chief Sallèse agreed, noting that a future discussion of a more serious intervention can be discussed as necessary.

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Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed that they will hold a working meeting on June 15th at 1 pm to discuss Apple Traffic, specifically, what may have changed since the initiation of the original plan.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 22, at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman