

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 1:00pm

Stow Town Building

380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775

**Town Building and
On-line**

Topic: TSAC

Time: January 4, 2023 1:00PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81756295320?pwd=am4zQVZCZXM0NVBUUGxEeGpGVFIQdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 5629 5320

Passcode: 364920

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| 1. | 1:00 PM | Call to Order |
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Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Administrative Items

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| 2. | | Public Input |
| 3. | | Review Minutes |
| 4. | | Member Updates |

Appointments/Discussion/Action Items

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|-----|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. | | FAQs |
| 7. | | Parking Ban Letter to Selectboard |
| 8. | | Stop Sign for Marlboro Road at Gleasondale Letter for Selectboard |
| 9. | | Stow Acres (Boon at Randle Opening) |
| 10. | | Barrier Update (Marlboro Road Closure) |

Posted December 30, 2022 at 1:00pm



Town of Stow
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Minutes of December 21, 2022, Traffic Safety Advisory Meeting
Members Present: Chief Michael Sallese, Fire Chief John P Benoit, Acting Highway Department Superintendent Brian Hatch, & Valerie Oorthuys
Chief Sallese called meeting to order 11:00 AM

Approval of Minutes | November 9th, 2022

*Brian moved to approve the minutes of November 9th, 2022
Valerie Seconded.*

VOTED: 3-0 (In favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief Sallese –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea)
Chief Benoit abstains from vote because he was not present for the meeting.

Approval of Letter in lieu of Minutes | December 7th, 2022

*Chief Benoit moved to approve the letter in lieu of minutes for December 7th, 2022
Chief Sallese Seconded.*

VOTED: 4 -0 (Unanimously in favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief Sallese –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea; Chief Benoit-Yea)

Member Updates

- Chief Sallese was able to share some information regarding the recent Marlboro Road meeting with some counterparts in Hudson.
- The counter has not been placed on Marlboro Road yet due to the inclement weather. It will be put out on Tuesday, December 27th until it snows. The traffic counter has a 4-year battery life regardless of if the software is collecting data or idle.

Public Input and Response to Concerns:

- TSS Graphics: Motorists are driving up and over the sidewalk where the ramp is, mistaking it for the entrance. Highway Department will place yellow delineator posts on either side to stop this from happening.
- Stow Acres Conservation Path: With the additional conservation land acquired, there is concern regarding pedestrian safety for anyone who wants to walk the full loop due to them needing to cross Randall Rd in two areas. Some area residents were present for the conversation as well as the Conversation Director Kathy Sferra. The residents raised concerns that the area is already not a great area for pedestrians to walk due to the layout of the roadway. There is traffic study currently pending for this area so before the Committee makes any decisions on how to address these issues, they want to see the results of the traffic study, which are anticipated to be in by the end of February. In the meantime, the gap between the two sections will not be shown as a trail for any advertising purposes.
- Barton Road: A resident raised concerns regarding the speed that motorists are traveling and is looking to have the speed limit decreased. Chief Sallese will place the traffic counter there in approximately 4-6 weeks (depending on weather) so the Committee can obtain actual data as to the actual rate of travel

for the vehicles. After this occurs, the area of concern will be placed back on the agenda for review and discussion.

-Regency of Stow: Condo Trustees they have issues with speeding. They have sent out reminders to their residents regarding their speeding but have found that the speeding vehicles tended to be delivery vehicles. Trustees were advised that since the area is essentially classified as a driveway as opposed to a public roadway so the Trustees are able to do what they feel is appropriate in terms of signage or speed bumps. The Trustees were advised to just communicate with Stow Public Safety in the event they respond to an emergency in the area.

Common Road: A resident from First Parish Church has concerns regarding parking on both sides of Common Road. At the Church, they try and discourage their parishioners from parking on the North Side as much as possible especially during the winter months. There was questions regarding if "No Parking" signs can be put on one side of the road.

Brian Hatch motions to have Chief Sallèse put up Temporary "No Parking" signs along the North Side. Chief Benoit seconds the motion.

VOTED: 4 -0 (Unanimously in favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief Sallèse –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea; Chief Benoit-Yea)

Library Hill Intersection: It has been noted that people are not stopping at the intersection. Chief Sallèse recommends putting a solar LED Flashing stop sign east bound on Crescent St at Library Hill Road.

Chief Sallèse motions to authorize Brian Hatch up to \$2000 to purchase the stop sign.

Chief Benoit seconds the motion.

VOTED: 4 -0 (Unanimously in favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief Sallèse –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea; Chief Benoit-Yea)

Gleasondale Village: Issues in letter were addressed at previous meeting.

Winter Parking Ban: Committee discussed implanting a winter parking ban as opposed to the limited overnight parking ban that is already in affect. Also discussed changing wording of existing ban. Revised language options to be reviewed at next Committee meeting.

Barriers and Stop Signs for Marlboro Road: Brian Hatch obtained 3 vendor quotes for purchase of the following items: 4 barriers, 2 traffic pattern ahead signs, and the purchase of a stop sign. Quotes ranged from \$2100-\$3100.

Chief Sallèse motions to approve Brian Hatch to purchase equipment from Visi Flash in amount up to \$2500 in case any pricing changed.

Chief Benoit seconds the motion.

VOTED: 4 -0 (Unanimously in favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief Sallèse –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea; Chief Benoit-Yea)

Next meeting will be on January 4th at 1 pm

Chief Benoit motions to adjourn at 12:24PM

Chief Sallèse seconds the motion

VOTED: 4 -0 (Unanimously in favor: Brian Hatch – Yea; Chief SALLESE –Yea; Valerie Oorthuys-Yea; Chief Benoit-Yea)

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Town of Stow
**TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-1122
(978) 897-4545**

December 27, 2022

Select Board
380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775

RE: Update to Traffic Rules and Regulations Article IV Section 3/4

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee is always looking at ways to help keep the roadways safer. Reviewing the Town of Stow Traffic Rules and Regulations, we found that we are lacking the ability to prohibit parking on all streets during a snow emergency.

Speaking with Acting Highway Superintendent Brian Hatch, he expressed that while plowing, it is difficult to plow the roadways when vehicles are in the way. While Stow does have a nighttime parking ban which does not allow parking over 1 hour on all the roadways from 1am to 5am between Dec 1 and March 31st. We know that snow removal operations can happen during and after a storm.

The committee is looking to the Selectboard to update Article IV Section 3, that has not been updated since 1989 which states;

Section 3. No All Night Parking.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to park said vehicle on any street for a period of time longer than one (1) hour between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. of any day (between December 1 of one year and March 31 of the succeeding year).

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each offense. (September 5, 1989)

The proposed new section 3 would state the following;

Section 3. No All Night Parking.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to park said vehicle on any street from 1:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. of any day (between December 1 of one year and March 31 of the succeeding year). The Town shall exempt from all night parking prohibition those persons who provide notice to the police department about their vehicle being unable to operate or other hardship. The police still may tow the vehicle if deemed a public safety hazard.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each offense. (January XX, 2023)

Most of the time, parking a vehicle on the roadway does not become an issue. However, this would help public safety from having to track people down when they leave their vehicle on the roadway and a surprise storm comes through.

Every storm is different, but the Town uses the following process during a typical event. When a storm is forecast the highway department kicks into high gear. They consult and review several different weather reports including their own site-specific forecast and develop an action plan for that storm. An anti-icing operation is started 1-2 hours before the predicted event. If a potential for freezing conditions exists then a full scale salting operation will commence. If the forecast is for more than 2 inches of snow accumulation, then a plowing operation will be initiated. Depending on the severity and duration of the storm the operation could include as few as 2 vehicles to over 30 pieces of equipment including contractors. In a full-scale operation over 2/3 of the equipment on the streets will be private contractors working for the Town.

Snow and ice operations are conducted on a 24-hour a day, 7 day a week schedule. Public Safety aims to keep clear all main routes and feeder roads and maintain a clear driving track on either side of the centerline on secondary streets within 6 hours of the end of snowfall. Residential side streets will be cleared within 8 hours of the end of snowfall. Cleanup operations after the end of the storm may continue for up to 24 hours or longer.

Due to the time it takes to plow and clean up, having the ability of public safety administration to temporarily prohibit parking during a storm will help ensure that the Highway Department can safely and quickly have the roads cleared off.

The second request is adding the following Section,

Section 4 Declared Snow Emergency

The Town Administrator, Police Chief, Fire Chief or Highway Superintendent, or their designee, shall have the authority to temporarily prohibit parking on all roadways in Stow, during a declared snow emergency by Stow Officials. Notice will be given to the public with as much advance notice as possible. Whenever possible an end time will be posted. Notice will be provided through the Town Website, Local Media, and all social media outlets. Police shall have the authority to ticket and tow any vehicle that are in the roadway, where the owner can not be located or refuses to move their vehicle.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. (January XX, 2023)

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Michael Sallese, on behalf of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee



Town of Stow
**TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-1122
(978) 897-4545**

January 4, 2022

Select Board
380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775

RE: Stop Sign Old Marlboro Road at Gleasondale Road

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee has been working on how to respond to the many resident traffic concerns on Old Marlboro Road. The Committee has received letters and held Committee meetings as well as public hearings on these traffic concerns. As the Select Board is aware from our December 9th letter, we have developed a pilot program. Part of this program is to redirect the traffic pattern in the area. To do this, we would need your approval to install a stop sign.

Per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Chapter 2B, the guidance for implementation of stop signs are as follows:

STOP signs should be used if engineering judgment indicates that one or more of the following conditions exist:

- A. Intersection of a less important road with a main road where application of the normal right-of-way rule would not be expected to provide reasonable compliance with the law;
- B. Street entering a through highway or street;
- C. Unsignalized intersection in a signalized area; and/or
- D. High speeds, restricted view, or crash records indicate a need for control by the STOP sign.

For the intersection of Old Marlboro Road and Gleasondale Road, implementation of a stop sign under 2B.05. (A) would certainly apply, as Gleasondale Road is a state numbered route heading into Stow from Hudson where drivers could not reasonably be expected to yield to the right-of-way to northbound traffic entering from Old Marlboro Road.

Thank you for your consideration and support on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Michael Sallese, on behalf of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee



TOWN OF STOW, MA
SELECT BOARD

NOTICE OF TRAFFIC REGULATION

By virtue of the authority vested in the Select Board of the Town of Stow,
it is hereby

VOTED: In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 89, Section 9 of the General
Laws, the following street is designated as a stop street at the intersection
and in the direction indicated:

North drivers on Old Marlboro Road, south of the traffic island must
stop at the intersection of Gleasondale Road

SELECT BOARD

Date of Passage _____

Attest of Town Clerk _____