

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday September 27, 2022 at 1:00pm

Stow Town Building

380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775

**Town Building and
On-line**

Topic: TSAC

Time: September 27, 2022 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

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

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

Appointments/Discussion/Action Items

5.		Red Acre Road
6.		Circuit Drive (new comments and follow up from last discussion)
7.		Christmas Tree Farms/Carver Phase 1 and Phase 2 Plan Review
8.		Treaty Elm Sign Follow Up

Posted September 23, 2022 at 1:00pm



Town of Stow
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Minutes of September 14th, 2022 Traffic Safety Advisory Meeting
Members Present: Chief Michael Sallese, Fire Chief John P Benoit, & Steve Nadeau
Also Present: Valerie Oorthuys, Town Planner
Chief Sallese called meeting to order 1:03 PM

Approval of Minutes | August 24th, 2022

*Steve Nadeau moved to approve the minutes of August 24thth, 2022 as written.
Chief Benoit Seconded.*

VOTED: 3-0 (Unanimously In favor: Steve Nadeau – Yea; Chief Sallese – Yea; Chief Benoit – Yea)

Member Updates

-Chief Sallese brought up community feedback and feedback from officers about changing the school zone lights so that instead of flashing all day they will flash between 7:45-8:45AM and 2:20-3:20PM. This will only change in the event of an emergency evacuation from the school.

-Committee discussed updates regarding Circuit Drive MPH and speed feedback sign as well as the sign for Treaty Elm. Highway Dept has been inundated but both should be taken care of in the upcoming weeks.

Public Input and Response to Concerns

-Pompositticut Road: Residents are looking for assistance with traffic calming due to vehicles traveling at high rates of speed. PD to increase enforcement. Additionally, the committee discussed moving the feedback sign from the Library to Pompositticut Road.

-Chestnut Street Truck Restriction: The project is proceeding but won't begin for another year. Committee looking into the weight limit of the conduits going under the bridge.

-Great Road Jake Brake: Yellow Advisory Signs to be please near Town Building as well as Wheeler Rd. near community center.

Chief Sallese motions for 2 advisory signs as stated above. Chief Benoit Seconded.

VOTED: 3-0 (Unanimously In favor: Steve Nadeau – Yea; Chief Sallese – Yea; Chief Benoit – Yea)

-Wheeler Road at Route 62: Chief Sallese to speak with homeowner regarding rules about how much brush could actually be cut back. Steve Nadeau to be secondary contact if homeowner has more specific questions.

-Red Acre Farm Road: Item to be moved to next meeting's agenda so resident can be notified.

Christmas Tree Farm and Remainder of Orchard Updates:

-Determined that Derby Farm does not need to be added to Orchard Traffic Mitigation Plan due to size
-Chief Sallese to develop Phase 1 and Phase 2 plans for Christmas Tree Farms Traffic Mitigation for possible discussion at next meeting.

Next Meeting will be on September 27th at 1 PM.

Chief Sallese motions to adjourn. Steve Nadeau seconds.

VOTED: 3-0 (Unanimously In favor: Steve Nadeau – Yea; Chief Sallese – Yea; Chief Benoit – Yea)



William Wachur

978-897-2560

wwachur@gmail.com

95 Farm Rd Stow, MA. 01775

August 25, 2022

Steve Nadeau
Superintendent of Streets
88 South Acton Rd
Stow, MA 01775

Dear Steve,

I'm writing to you concerning Red Acre Rd., specifically that quarter mile section between the end of Red Acre Horse Farm and Tuttle Rd. That section of road, in my opinion, creates several safety issues because of the elevated posted speed limit of 35 mph. Red Acre Rd. is approximately 1.6 mi. In length and 85% of that length is posted at 25 or 30 mph. and 15% is posted at 35 mph. And many times the actual speeds traveled on that particular section of road exceeds 40, or 45+ mph. That has created several safety issues:

There are no sidewalks, and walkers, runners and pedestrians in general are in peril because of the higher speed limit. Red Acre Horse Farms offers lessons most of the year which also increases both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

A couple of times vehicles have tried to pass me on that section of road while I was attempting a left hand turn onto Farm Rd., because the posted speed limit jumps from 25mph. in Red Acre Village to 35mph. on the Horse Farm section.

Turning out of Farm Rd. onto Red Acre Rd. can also be dangerous because of reduced sight lines and higher speeds of traffic.

A large tree across from Farm Rd. (south), that can causes southbound traffic to serve into the oncoming lane. This is especially dangerous for cyclists traveling in that same direction.

My suggestion is that the posted speed limit in that section be reduced to 30mph with maybe a speed calming electronic detector. Or widen that section of road to accommodate dedicated bike lanes, sidewalks and cut back trees to improve sight lanes.

Sincerely yours,

William Wachur

Chief Michael Sallese

From: Erin Hayes <eebarber@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lauren Kelly Talanian
Cc: Chief Michael Sallese; Sebastian Hayes
Subject: Re: Check in

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Chief Sallese (and Lauren, thank you for copying me! I've also copied my husband Seb),

I definitely want to second Lauren's concerns again. People really are just flying down the road, particularly on Circuit at the entrance and exit. I've observed residents, lots of what appear to be teenagers, service/delivery trucks and also cars I do not recognise just flying by so it's quite a mix. Now that school is in session, I definitely have observed a lot of speeding when we are out waiting for the school bus and this particularly worries me as some kids in the neighborhood have a bit of a walk to get home after they get off the bus. Also, earlier in the summer I gently and politely gestured to a FedEx driver who flew by my house to slow down. He was waving at me and smiling so I gave him the benefit of the doubt that he was just unaware that he was driving fast. When he came back around the neighborhood he stopped his truck and aggressively yelled at me in front of my kids and parents in law and I ended up having to report him to the police and to Fedex. I often want to tell people to slow down but this altercation makes me wary as I am now unsure of the response which is an added layer to this issue. It is still really worrying to try and take the kids out for a walk or even just having them in the front yard sometimes.

We are really appreciative of all the effort the traffic advisory committee is making, but hoping there can be a sustainable long-term solution. It seems that the message isn't getting through to those who need to hear it most. Anything the committee can do is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again and hope you've had a lovely weekend!

Best,
Erin Hayes

On Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 12:09 PM Lauren Kelly Talanian <laurenmkelly@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello from Circuit Drive!
I know it's already on your radar, but just sending a note that the speeding on our street is still totally out of control. We have a swing in our front yard now so we're often out front with our kids, and people are FLYING. I know that our neighborhood was on the agenda for the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee last week, but not sure what the end result was or if there are any plans to try something new? I continue to be worried that someone is going to get hurt, and it's really frustrating to not feel safe taking our kids for walks and bike rides. Cc'ing Erin Hayes, our neighbor, who shares our concerns.

Thanks so much,
Lauren Talanian
16 Circuit Drive

On Mon, May 9, 2022 at 11:33 AM Chief Michael Sallese <policechief@stow-ma.gov> wrote:

Hi Lauren,

Carver Hill Orchard

Phase 1

- 1) Phase 1 will be implemented every weekend from the 3rd weekend in September through Columbus/Indigenous People's Day in October
- 2) All Police Cruisers will be equipped with "Road Closed" signs
- 3) No Parking Signs will be posted at the following locations by Stow Police
 - a. Brookside both sides from east of pump house to Box Mill Road
 - b. Box Mill Road both sides from North Side of Bridge to Cemetery
- 4) No Detail Officer is required at this time, however this can be re-evaluated at any time and for special events.
- 5) Police and Dispatch will authority to call in extra help as needed or call in the next shift early, if deemed necessary.
- 6) Additional Fire Personnel maybe recalled by the shift officers if necessary.
- 7) Official Town social media will be used to remind people of increased traffic on weekends
- 8) Mutual Aid Police and Fire assistance is available if necessary
- 9) Police and Fire personnel will be updated on procedures for the weekend.
- 10) If available or needed, Waze updates from Stow Police will be added.
- 11) Map of Carver Hill issued to Police and Fire personnel.

Carver Hill Orchard

Phase 2

- 1) Phase 2 will be implemented when a report from the owner/operators, patrol officers or the public which has been confirmed by the on-duty staff of traffic back-ups in the following locations.

- 7
- a. Brookside on to Gleasondale Road
 - b. Box Mill Road onto Gleasondale Road
- 2) On-Duty Officers to shut Brookside Road down
 - 3) On-Duty Officers to shut Box Mill Road down
 - 4) On-Duty Officers to assist exiting vehicles from Carver Hill
 - 5) Dispatch to make contact with owner/operator to help communicate between the officer on scene and owner
 - 6) If emergency situation/call is on-going, officers are to relieve traffic in the most direct route of travel for emergency services.
 - 7) Appropriate road closures will be implemented or remain up during emergencies if necessary.
 - 8) All road closures will be constantly evaluated to ensure that that the road is re-opened as quickly as possible.
 - 9) Official Town social media updates will be made so the public is informed of on-going traffic closes, and emergencies and re-openings.

Honey Pot Orchard Christmas Tree Sales

Phase 1

- 1) Phase 1 will be implemented from the Friday after Thanksgiving, every weekend to December 24th.
- 2) No Parking signs will be in place in the following locations;
 - a. Boon Rd, from Whitman St to Farm Store Entrance (both sides)
 - b. Sudbury Road, from Boon Rd to Lot A Entrance (both sides)
- 3) Cars permitted to travel in all directions when leaving the lots.
- 4) If available or needed, Waze updates from Stow Police will be added.

- 5) No Detail Officers are required during normal sales, however this maybe re-evaluated during special events.

Honey Pot Orchard Christmas Tree Sales

Phase 2

- 1) Will be implemented when patrols observe traffic backed onto Boon Road, or after confirmation is made by patrols on traffic complaints made by the public.
- 2) Dispatch to make contact with owner/operator to help communicate between the officer on scene and owner
- 3) On Duty Officer to shut Boon at Whitman down, ensuring the intersections of Whitman and Sudbury remain open for emergency vehicles.
- 4) If emergency situation/call is on-going, officers are to relieve traffic on the most direct route of travel for emergency services.
- 5) Appropriate road closures will be implemented or remain up during emergencies if necessary.
- 6) All road closures will be constantly evaluated to ensure that that the road is re-opened as quickly as possible.
- 7) Official Town social media updates will be made so the public is informed of on-going traffic closes, and emergencies and re-openings.

Mistletoe Christmas Farm

Phase 1

- 1) Phase 1 will be implemented from the Friday after Thanksgiving, every weekend to December 24th.
- 2) No Parking signs will be in place in the following locations;
 - a. Whitman St., from Boon Road to Entrance to Mistletoe Farm (both sides)
 - b. Whitman St., from north of parking area in front of fence to Robert Road (both sides)

- c. Apple Blossom Lane from Whitman to number 34 Apple Blossom Lane (both sides)
 - d. Robert Road from Whitman to 18 Robert Road, (both sides)
- 3) One detail officer is required on Phase 1 implemented time.
 - 4) Single point entry from Whitman St. to farm on south side of barn.
 - 5) Single exit point onto Whitman St. from farm on north side of barn.
 - 6) If available or needed, Waze updates from Stow Police will be added.
 - 7) If emergency situation/call is on-going, officers are to relieve traffic in the most direct route of travel for emergency services.
 - 8) Appropriate road closures will be implemented or remain up during emergencies if necessary.
 - 9) All road closures will be constantly evaluated to ensure that that the road is re-opened as quickly as possible.
 - 10) Official Town social media updates will be made so the public is informed of on-going traffic closes, and emergencies and re-openings.

Mistletoe Christmas Farm

Phase 2

- 1) Will be implemented when patrols observe traffic backed onto Whitman Street. Detail officer requests Phase 2, or after confirmation is made by patrols on traffic complaints made by the public.
 - a. A back-up will be a stand still on Whitman with no ability to move cars into the farm property.
- 2) Dispatch to make contact with owner/operator to help communicate between the officer on scene and owner
- 3) On-Duty Patrol/ Detail Officer will close entrance to Christmas Tree Farm
- 4) Traffic will be diverted to leave the area.

Taproot Farm

Phase 1

- 1) Phase 1 will be implemented from the Friday after Thanksgiving, every weekend to December 24th.
- 2) Phase 1 is to limit excessive queuing of vehicles on Tuttle Lane during the busy 10am—2pm timeframes, as well as direct traffic to avoid potential southbound queuing on South Acton Road, where sight lines are poorest.
- 3) Sign placed at the intersection of South Acton and Red Acre Road in Acton (Stonefield Farm intersection) stating “no tree farm access from South Acton Road—Use Tuttle Lane via Red Acre Road.” This is meant to direct any Route 2 or Acton traffic to Red Acre and into the overflow area as needed.
- 4) Utilize community garden driveway/path to queue vehicles if Tuttle begins to back up. This loop, shown on the plan, would allow approximately 60 vehicles to queue. An attendant with a radio would waive customers to the main lot when a space opens up.
- 5) No parking signs would need to be placed along Tuttle Lane
- 6) Parking attendants in primary parking area manage flow in and out of the lot, with all exiting vehicles directed toward South Acton Road. This incentivizes one way traffic flow without any road closures.
- 7) If available or needed, Waze updates from Stow Police will be added.
- 8) If emergency situation/call is on-going, officers are to relieve traffic in the most direct route of travel for emergency services.
- 9) Appropriate road closures will be implemented or remain up during emergencies if necessary.
- 10) All road closures will be constantly evaluated to ensure that that the road is re-opened as quickly as possible.
- 10) No Detail officers are required during normal sales, however this maybe re-evaluated during special events.

Taproot Traffic Map



Taproot Farm

Phase 2

- 1) Will be implemented when patrols observe traffic backed onto Tuttle Lane, if present Detail officer requests Phase 2 or after confirmation is made by patrols on traffic complaints by the public.
 - a. Traffic back up is defined as stand-still traffic from entrance of Farm to South Acton Road or Entrance of Farm to overflow lot back onto Tuttle Lane
- 2) Dispatch to make contact with owner/operator to help communicate needs to the officer to the owner.
- 3) On Duty Patrols will close entrance to Tuttle from South Acton.

- 4) On Duty Patrols will divert traffic from Tuttle into Community Gardens overflow queue.
- 5) As a last measure, patrols will close entrances to Tuttle Lane at both South Acton and Red Acre Road Entrances.