

TOWN OF STOW
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 3, 2021 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present: Chief Michael Sallese; Captain JP Benoit; Steven Nadeau; Jesse Steadman

Denise Dembkoski called the meeting to order at 8 am.

Committee Organization

Chief Sallese indicated his interest in chairing the Committee.

Jesse Steadman moved to appoint Chief Sallese as Chair.

Captain Benoit seconded.

VOTED: 4-0 Unanimously in favor (Chief Sallese – Yea; Captain Benoit – Yea; Steve Nadeau – Yea; Jesse Steadman – Yea)

Jesse Steadman moved to appoint himself to take minutes.

Captain Benoit seconded.

VOTED: 4-0 Unanimously in favor (Chief Sallese – Yea; Captain Benoit – Yea; Steve Nadeau – Yea; Jesse Steadman – Yea)

Development of Complaint Process

Chief Sallese stated that he had reviewed the processes of several towns in relation to similar committees and believes that this committee can create a flow chart of process steps to respond to and resolve public complaints. The Committee discussed the use of a standardized online form, as well as links to the various Departments. Jesse Steadman said that designing a clear process and posting it online can set expectations around the types of solutions that can actually be implemented and indicate realistic timelines for action. Captain Benoit indicated he liked the idea of a point system to help prioritize issues raised by residents.

The Committee agreed that having the means to capture speed and vehicle use data would be important in some instances, depending on the type of solutions that may exist, such as truck restrictions or engineered solutions. Being able to recommend a solution, even if it is a short term, solution, data gathering or specific response, is valuable for residents that want to know that their concern is being looked into.

Committee members discussed the previously approved article at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting to opt into updated language of M.G.L c.90(C), which allows for the posting of all roads through thickly settled areas at 25mph, specifically on roads where no prior speed zone exists.

Initiation of Complaints

The Committee discussed the process for residents to initiate complaints, including the potential for a certain percentage of residents along the road to provide a signature. There was general agreement

that in some instances the Committee has access to data that could allow them to make improvements and recommendations absent the otherwise required number of signatures.

Currently Identified Issues

The Committee members identified a number of ongoing discussion topics and problem areas where complaints and recommendations have been recorded, including the use of speed bumps, truck traffic on Marlboro, Boxboro, and Packard Road, as well as speed issues on Wheeler and Marlboro Road as well. The Committee agreed that having a workplan drafted could help members stay abreast of individual action steps meeting to meeting.

Chief Sallese recorded ideas for the next meeting to be held on August 17th at 1pm.

Chief Sallese motioned to adjourn

Jesse Steadman seconded.

VOTED: 4-0 Unanimously in favor (Chief Sallese – Yea; Captain Benoit – Yea; Steve Nadeau – Yea; Jesse Steadman – Yea)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman