

TOWN OF STOW
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 31, 2021 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present: Chief Michael Sallese; Acting Fire Chief John Paul Benoit; Steven Nadeau;
Jesse Steadman

Chief Sallese called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of August 3, and August 17th, 2021.

Chief Sallese moved to approve the minutes of August 3 and 17th, 2021.

Steve Nadeau seconded.

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

Traffic Calming Policy Review and Adoption

Committee members reviewed the amendments to the Policy discussed at the last meeting and indicated that actions in Step 6 should remain unchanged as the Committee would like the ability to move quickly regarding low cost responses to initial complaints.

Chief John Paul Benoit moved to adopt the Traffic Safety Policy as amended.

Chief Sallese seconded.

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

Member Updates

Chief Benoit shared an update to the dashboard template he has created to allow for public viewing of the status of different issues under review by the Committee.

Jesse Steadman provided the Committee with an update on the Complete Streets Committee's recent meeting, stating that the Town Center RFP for concept plans has been reviewed by the Complete Streets Committee, and will be provided to the Planning Board as well. Members agreed that the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee should review the RFP as well to ensure all relevant committees have had an opportunity to weigh in at this early stage in the project development.

Jesse Steadman reported that the Complete Streets Committee has reviewed a Green International Affiliates proposal to review the location of the planned Rapid Flashing Beacon and associated crosswalk at the Town Hall / Town Building crossing location subject to amendments requested by the Planning Department.

Jesse Steadman said that the Planning Department has been working with Steve Nadeau regarding the provision of quotes for speed feedback signs in Gleasondale Village, as well as the potential for 2 more sets, one for Wheeler Road and one for Marlborough Road, each locations where cut through traffic is present. Chief Sallesse suggested the Committee should wait until the quotes are in hand to determine the final number to purchase. The committee agreed.

Review of Press Release

Committee members reviewed the draft press release provided by Chief Sallesse and offered a couple minor amendments prior to publishing.

Review of Complaints Filed

Wheeler Road

Committee members reviewed an email sent by Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, which the Committee distilled down to two main issues, one being insufficient bicycle signage and the other, speeding. Chief Sallesse reported that Wheeler Road does suffer from a documented speeding problem. The Committee agreed that the issues on Wheeler were well known and that a petition would not be necessary unless or until there were alternatives proposed for stage 2 interventions. The Committee agreed that the speed feedback signs could be appropriate for this road. Jesse Steadman agreed to contact Ms. Trinkaus-Randall and ask for her to send a formal application.

Gleasondale Road

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Margaret Cosetello regarding speeding on Gleasondale Road and a request for a weight restriction on Marlboro Road. Chief Benoit stated that it would be interesting to know whether Eversource will place any restrictions on the culvert crossing that will accommodate the underground utility lines that pass under Wilkins Street. Jesse Steadman indicated that if there is any cross town collaboration on the issue, the Committee will likely need to reach out to the Internal Traffic Safety Committee in Hudson.

Sudbury Road

The Committee discussed a complaint regarding speeding on Sudbury Road, agreeing that the one speed sign by Pine Bluff is inadequate for alerting drivers on the straight-away. The Committee agreed they could look at the addition of another sign at Kingland Road. Chief Benoit indicated he would reach out to the complainant to request a formal form be submitted.

Barton Road

The Committee reviewed a complaint regarding speeding on Barton Road. The Committee discussed past issues with complaints on Barton Road, recalling that a former Superintendent of Streets gave residents along Barton Road information on how to petition the road for Street Acceptance, but the residents did not want to follow through. Jesse Steadman said that given the history of the Barton Road issues, and the layout of the road as an easement over private property, he would want to see a petition of residents showing support before any further analysis was completed.

Speed Bumps Pros/Cons

Steve Nadeau discussed information he researched on the pros and cons of speed bump installation, indicating that he wants to take the issue of their installation slowly and be methodical regarding any decision to utilize them. Jesse Steadman indicated that he can reach out to the MassDOT District 3 office, as well as some of the engineering firms that they work with to determine if there is any good research out there the Committee could use as a starting point. Chief Sallese agreed it would be good to have targeted feedback. The Committee agreed that once they have done research on the overall approach, they could always ask an engineer to review a specific location for advice and ideas.

Chief Sallese motioned to adjourn

Steve Nadeau seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman