

Town of Stow
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 11, 2022 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Chief Sallese called meeting to order 1:00 PM

Approval of Minutes | June 22, 2022

Jesse Steadman moved to approve the minutes of June 22, 2022 as amended.

Chief Benoit Seconded.

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

Stop Sign at Garner Road and Harvard Road

Chief Sallese noted that the Select Board will be voting on the installation of a stop sign at Garner and Harvard Road on Tuesday July 12th.

Double Yellow Lines and Cyclists

James Salvie of West Acton Road stated he is presenting his findings and recommendations on the use of double yellow lines as an individual and not as the Moderator.

James Salvie began his presentation sharing the belief that most drivers are reluctant to cross a double yellow line for any reason, including when passing a bicycle, leading to many brush by's and feelings of discomfort.

James Salvie noted that there are two uses of double yellow lines on area road. They are appropriate where there is enough horizontal space for two lanes of traffic and inappropriate where there is not enough space for opposing traffic to be confined to one lane. James Salvie said he feels Boxboro Road and South Acton Road are examples of where their use is appropriate.

However, narrow roads, such as many in Acton, or the lower section of West Acton, Wheeler or Sudbury Road, are examples of where solid lines can be confining for cyclists.

James Salvie said that the most important take away is that roads should be striped based upon the road characteristic rather than based on historical use. The Committee discussed that this could be more of a regional discussion as MassDOT is often looking for the double yellow lines on area roads.

Hudson Road / Route 117

Jesse Steadman described the discussion of how to move forward with a proposal from Green International for the signalization of Hudson Road and Route 117.

Jesse Steadman moved to recommend approval of the Hudson Road / Route 117 Design and Engineering Services proposal by Green International Affiliates, Inc. to the Town Administrator contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Select Board to allocate \$19,775 additional ARPA funds to the project.

Chief Sallesse Seconded.

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

Morgan Hilman – 64 Crescent Street

Morgan Hilman of 64 Crescent Street asked the Committee if they would be willing to install a mirror on the island owned by the Town, across from their home to improve sightlines when leaving their driveway. Steve Nadeau and Chief Sallesse agreed to meet on site to review the location prior to providing a firm response.

Sudbury Road

The Committee discussed correspondence from Joseph Frawley, MassDOT District 3, which indicated that the Town needs to provide an engineered traffic study prior to creating a safety zone or changing the location of a speed zone. The Committee suggested that the group should determine what exactly is entailed in a safety zone study.

Steve Nadeau noted that the District 3 bridge team will be adding a truck restriction to Sudbury Road near State road to ensure that the bridge is not further degraded.

Letter from Mark Jones – 203 Boxboro Road

Mark Jones provided a letter suggesting the sign on state road notifying drivers of the Town Wide 25 MPH speed limit be placed on Sudbury Road to remind drivers that are travelling north on Sudbury Road to reach more drivers. Committee members asked Jesse Steadman if he would write a letter to Mark Jones stating the requirements and use governing the use of the sign.

Traffic Delineators

The Committee stated they are happy to have run the pilot on the traffic delineators but agree they have not provided the intended benefits, due to complaints, potential conflicts between vehicles and more vulnerable road users and damage. The group generally agreed that the corner delineators have been effective.

Chief Sallesse moved to remove the remaining delineators from Wheeler Road.

Steve Nadeau seconded.

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

Randall / Cross Street

A resident provided a letter to the TSAC, which provided ideas for retrofitting the Randall Road/Cross Street intersection. Jesse Steadman noted that Vanasse and Associates is currently working on a traffic study for the Stow Acres development. The Committee agreed to wait to get some initial review of the intersection from the consultant prior to making a determination.

Treaty Elm Road / Gleasondale Road

The Committee discussed a blinking light that could be added to an appropriate sign to alleviate issues at the intersection. The Stoltz and Rosiewisch families joined the call to provide input.

Chief Sallese moved to purchase two signs and two lights with Committee funds.

JP seconded.

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

Boxboro Road Sidewalks

Chief Benoit noted that the Complete Streets Committee recently noted that a resident complaint regarding potential sidewalks along portions of Lower Boxboro Road was suggested for the TSAC. The group agreed to review the complaint at an upcoming meeting. Steve Nadeau will check to see if the Highway Department still has a “Slow 30 MPH” stencil in the shop.

Chief Sallese Motioned to adjourn

Steve Nadeau Seconded.

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

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday July 20th, 2022 @ 1PM

Wednesday July 27, 2022 @ 1PM

Chief Sallese moved to adjourn at 2:30PM.

Steve Nadeau Seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman