

TOWN OF STOW
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 16, 2022 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Chief Sallese called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Review of Minutes

February 16, 2022

Chief Benoit moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2022.

Chief Sallese seconded.

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

Member Updates

None.

Town-Wide 25 MPH Letter

The Committee discussed the need to draft a letter and corresponding Traffic Rules and Orders language for the Town-wide 25MPH implementation. Chief Sallese noted he could pay for the required advertising and the group could develop an outreach Plan. Jesse Steadman said he will check the statute to determine what manner of notification MassDOT requires.

Private Way Management

The Committee discussed it would be good to draft a letter outlining the management issues and invite the Town Administrator to discuss.

Enforcement Update

Chief Sallese indicated that he has created four quadrants for Stow as it relates to traffic enforcement, with officers rotating their shifts between them.

Hartley Road Improvements

The Committee discussed the upcoming improvements to Hartley Road, including that the money for the upgrades has been allocated.

Sudbury Road Bridge

Steve Nadeau indicated that he has thought more about the potential for a truck restriction on Sudbury Bridge and believes that learning about how the process works as it relates to Marlboro Road may be better than attempting to implement something at Sudbury Road Bridge first.

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting | February 16, 2022

Approved April 13, 2022

Radar Speed Feedback Sign

The Committee discussed the speed feedback sign on Common road and the need to review shade in proposed locations on Marlboro and Wheeler Road prior to installation of the solar panels that will power the units.

Guidance on Flashing Yellow Lights from MassDOT

Chief Sallese indicated that MassDOT has issued guidance on flashing yellow arrows at signaled intersections. The Committee agreed it would be good to post the guidance to the Town's website and social media pages.

Chief Sallese moved to approve and send the letter as drafted.

Steve Nadeau Seconded.

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

Sudbury Road Truck Restriction

Steve Nadeau stated that it may be time to discuss a truck restriction on Sudbury Road to limit the size of vehicles using the ailing Sudbury Road bridge. The Committee discussed whether it would need to be a restriction on Sudbury Road as a whole or just the bridge, which types of neighborhood truck usage, such as oil deliveries, etc. could still take place and whether a study would be worthwhile for providing a meaningful lifespan extension for the bridge. Steve Nadeau indicated he would continue researching the particulars of such a policy.

Heights Street

The Committee met with Katharine Clark, of Heights Street in Stow to discuss findings from the Committee's research on private ways. Chief Sallese indicated that the Town will be attempting to cut back the brush that is affecting sight lines, and simply needs to be in touch with neighboring property owners, as the work will take place partially on private property. Katharine Clark asked if the Committee would provide her with insight into further options for more substantive repairs. Jesse Steadman indicated the Committee is looking to finalize a letter to the Select Board that will provide options for homeowners on private ways.

Maureen Douth | Bradley Lane

A resident from Bradley Lane named Maureen Douth stated that traffic has increased on Bradley Lane due to increased use of the Town Center and ball field. Chief Sallese indicated that despite the 25 MPH town wide policy, the 20 MPH zone on Bradley Lane will not be affected and that the Committee will look into having a temporary speed feedback unit placed on the road to remind drivers of the posted speed limit.

Lowell Drive

The Committee discussed a recent complaint regarding vehicle speeds on Lowell Drive, in the Harvard Acres neighborhood. Committee members agreed that the 25 MPH Town Wide policy will primarily

affect the Harvard Acres neighborhood and that in the meantime, temporary speed feedback signage could be used to mitigate the issue.

The meeting abruptly concluded due to an emergency call for both participating public safety Chiefs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman
Town Planner

The Committee discussed the need to do sufficient outreach to notify drivers of the change prior to installation.

Chief Sallese motioned to adjourn

Chief Benoit seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman