

Town of Stow

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of May 18, 2022 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Chief Sallese called meeting to order 1:05 PM

**Review of Minutes**

April 13, 2022

*Jesse Steadman moved to approve the minutes from April 13, 2022*

*Chief Benoit seconded.*

**Voted: 4-0 unanimously in favor (Chief Sallese -Yea; Chief Benoit -Yea; Steve Nadeau – Yea; Jesse Steadman – Yea)**

**Member updates**

Chief Sallese provided an update on the installation of speed feedback signs on Marlborough Road.

**Public Input**

A resident from 40 Sawmill Rd was present via Zoom to discuss traffic concerns at the Circuit Drive neighborhood. The resident indicated concern with residents of the neighborhood, delivery companies and visitors speeding along the development's associated roadways.

**Notice of Traffic Regulations (Traffic Rules and Orders)**

Committee members discussed the process for confirming changes to the Traffic Rules and Orders. Jesse Steadman said he will work with the Select Board and Stow Independent to ensure that the changes are properly noticed and voted upon. Chief Sallese indicated that billing can be referred to the Police Department.

**Traffic Delineators and Speed Tables**

Pat Walrath of Circuit Drive noted that a recently installed fence at the corner of Circuit Drive and Route 62 is obstructing the sight lines of drivers. Chief Sallese noted that he reviewed the work, including the brush that was removed for the fence to be installed and acknowledges that sight lines have changed, but believes they have actually been improved. Chief Sallese noted that there were no violations of the Town's Building code in constructing the fence.

Susan Perry, of Circuit Drive, noted that she is concerned over the aesthetics and functionality of the bollards installed along Circuit Drive, stating that it does not appear from her observations to slow down traffic. She further added that the bollards closest to Route 62 have created bottlenecks in traffic where

parents wait for buses in the afternoon. Susan Perry asked why she had not been notified of the installation.

Chief Sallese noted the previous meeting in April with residents of Circuit Drive, who had asked for solutions to the speeding issues. He noted that some residents believe they are working and have asked for more to be installed. Chief Sallese said this is the first time the Committee is hearing about the issues with school buses and he will look into the matter.

Susan Perry said she appreciates the attention to speeding on Circuit Drive, but believes it can be addressed in a more effective manner.

### **Speed Tables**

Chief Sallese described the use of bollards as a cost effective alternative to installing speed humps or speed tables. Chief Sallese indicated that due to the drainage, grading and easement implications of speed table installation, they have been shown to cost as much as \$124k to install.

Chief Benoit noted that there may be other options for limiting road widths to reduce speed, including plantings along the street edge and pavement markings.

### **Harvard/Garner Road Stop Sign**

Claudia Dragun asked the Committee where the proposed stop sign was intended to be installed. Chief Sallese noted it will be installed along the southbound approach to Harvard Road at the Harvard/Garner intersection. Claudia Dragun indicated that there is no sign at the next intersection of No Name Road, to the north, which the Committee may want to consider.

### **Whitney Road**

Chief Sallese noted that the Committee should respond in writing to a resident of Whitney Road regarding the purpose of the delineators and how vehicles should be acting as they approach them.

### **Boxboro Road**

Chief Sallese indicated he has been discussing traffic issues on Boxboro Road with Ira Spencer, Don McFarland, and Warren Nelson. He noted that the Police Department will be stepping up enforcement, as well as speaking with truck drivers from Fenton construction, who are working on a project, just north of the Town line in Boxborough. Chief Sallese noted that he is proposing to install delineators in the 200 section of Boxboro Road, as well as near the intersection of Packard Road. Chief Benoit agreed that there have been repeated issues along the Packard extension. Jesse Steadman said he has reservations about the use of delineators on Boxboro Road given the higher traffic than the other piloted roadways and the significant cyclist use. He is worried that bollards installed in locations where drivers would otherwise pass cyclists will incentivize risky passing in unsuitable locations. Jesse Steadman recommended that the Committee work to get feedback from the cycling community on the use of the delineators as they continue to pilot their use.

Chief Benoit noted that a News/Announcement on the Town website could be helpful to alert drivers to the use of the Delineators. Jesse Steadman said he could add an announcement to the page.

### **Hudson Road/Route 117 Request for Proposals**

The Committee discussed the criteria for consultants to provide in the Request for proposals. Jesse Steadman noted that he is working on submitting a MassWorks Grant for construction funding.

### **Speed Enforcement**

Chief Sallesse noted that he added Sawmill Road and Circuit Drive to the list of roads to see stepped up enforcement. Chief Sallesse shared data on the number of resident versus non-resident stops.

### **Heights Street Update**

Chief Sallesse said he met with Katharine Clark and one of their neighbors and noted that it is the responsibility of the homeowners to make improvements to Heights Street.

### **Sudbury Road Speed Limits**

Frank Bemis, of Sudbury Road stated that speeding has gotten progressively worse on Sudbury Road over the years, including an abundance of commercial truck traffic and drag racing. Frank Bemis added that from approximately Pine Bluff, south to State Road, there is over a mile with no speed limit sign.

The Committee discussed the requirements for changing the location of a speed zone. Jesse Steadman suggested they double check with MassDOT District 3, prior to making the change.

Chief Benoit said that he will continue to make outreach to the Fire Academy to ensure that off-duty fire fighters from other communities are not adding to the speeding concern. Frank Bemis noted the State Police Truck Team may also be helpful to monitor the situation on Sudbury Road. He added it is a quality of life issues. Whatever can be done by the Town will be a great help.

Chief Sallesse stated he has received complaints regarding trucks using their jake brakes along Sudbury Road. Jesse Steadman said he can reach out to Kendall Homes on the matter.

### **Temporary Speed Feedback Signs**

The Committee discussed the current location of the speed feedback signs. The Committee agreed that one of the temporary signs can be placed along Circuit Drive and the other, in the vicinity of Packard and Boxboro Roads.

### **School Zone Lights**

Steve Nadeau noted the preferred location of the school zone lights, stating that it would be good to perform the replacement during the summer as Hudson Light and Power will need to disconnect the existing lights for the replacement.

### **Blinking Stop Signs**

Robert Kitzelman, of Meeting House Lane sent the Committee correspondence asking about the functionality of blinking stop signs to ease traffic congestion at the intersections of Pompositticut and Route 117 and Elmridge Road and Route 117. The Committee discussed that such signage is typically installed where there are relatively high speeds approaching an important stop. However, the patterns observed in Lower Village is not that drivers have trouble seeing the stop sign, but rather that they choose to roll through it for the purpose of making a turn of Pompositticut Street. The Committee stated that they will send a letter in response to Mr. Kitzelman.

### **Apple Traffic Planning**

Chief Sallesse noted that the Apple Traffic Mitigation Plan is now nearly 8 years old, with several changes having taken place since that time, including the Collings Foundation building a new entrance, the addition of a cider tent at Honey Pot Hill and more food truck presence. Chief Benoit said he would specifically like to address the crossings of pedestrians on Boon Road, to and from different Honey Pot Hill attractions.

Chief Sallesse indicated he would like to reach back out to the Conservation Commission and the owner of Honey Pot Hill to determine whether there can be an expansion of the B and C lot entrance, which is currently too tight for emergency vehicles to access if a car breaks down in the entrance, which has happened twice.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, at 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman