

TOWN OF STOW
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 25, 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 September 28th, 2021.

Chief Benoit moved to approve the minutes of September 28th , 2021.

Steve Nadeau seconded.

VOTED: 3-0 Unanimously in favor (Chief Sallese – Yea; Chief Benoit – Yea; Steve Nadeau – Yea)

Member Updates

Chief Sallese noted that he is working on a new system for organizing officer shifts that will ensure that patrols are taking place on roadways in Town where issues have been identified.

Resident Correspondence

Blake Staley | Harvard Road

The Committee discussed the correspondence from Blake Staley, noting that the temporary speed feedback signs are available for use in a couple of locations on Harvard Road to provide short term relief to speeding concerns.

Maureen Hattersly Hastings Street

The Committee discussed correspondence from Maureen Hattersly of Hastings Street, noting that there may be some opportunities for short and long term relief. In the short term, Jesse Steadman noted that if the Select Board acts on the Committee's likely recommendation for a 25mph speed zone on un-zoned roads, there would be signage at the Maynard Town line reminding drivers of the change. Chief Sallese noted that the intersection of Hastings and White Pond Road is a good candidate for reconfiguration to make more of a T-shaped stop to slow traffic coming in and out. Chief Sallese indicated he would respond to Ms. Hattersly.

Fatima Olcay | 142 Walcott Street

The Committee discussed recent developments on Walcott Street, including the creation of a regrading plan by Ducharme and Dillis in 2016, as part of the Jillian's Lane Subdivision. Members noted that the curve is difficult, but that they needed to pull some crash data to understand the specific issues the sight lines are creating. Jesse Steadman and Steve Nadeau indicated that there may be some specific signage that could be provided in the area. Chief Benoit noted that he has seen construction vehicles unloading

equipment on Walcott Street, destined for homes being built at Spring Hill Estates. Chief Sallese said he would reach out to the homeowner.

Ruth Leblanc | 33 Pompositticut

Chief Sallese indicated that Pompositticut is one of the streets he would like to see some stepped up patrols on and would likely be included in the list for officers to monitor. Jesse Steadman noted the gap in sidewalk between Stow and Maynard that is a missed connection and opportunity for pedestrians between Lower Village and Maynard. Chief Sallese stated that he would reach out to Ms. Leblanc.

Donielle Huff | Peabody Drive

Christine Lorenzo | Adams Drive

Members discussed the speeding concerns raised by two residents in Harvard Acres. Jesse Steadman said that he could draft a letter indicating that the 25 MPH speed zone recommendation would be a service to roadways in Harvard Acres. Additionally, Steve Nadeau recommended reminding the residents that Highway Department crews have been doing tree and brush clearing to improve sightlines in the neighborhood this fall as well.

Kate Notman | Eliot Drive

Members discussed the speeding of trash haulers in Stow. Chief Sallese said he will reach out Cyndie Colosi in the Board of Health to recommend correspondence go out to them.

Naomi Trager | Chestnut Street

The Committee discussed whether correspondence had gone out regarding Marlboro Road. Jesse Steadman said he would check and they could pick the issue up at the next meeting.

Chris Funkhouser | Packard Road

The Committee discussed sightline issues at Packard Road, as well as Route 117 being used for overflow parking at St. Isidores church. Jesse Steadman noted that the use of Route 117 has been off limits for businesses such as Nan's Market and therefore the same standard should apply to St. Isidore's. The Committee agreed that there may be opportunities for overflow parking either at Pompositticut Community Center or Center School – both of which have access to St. Isidores via sidewalk. Members agreed they would reach out to the Town Administrator to open a dialog between the different stakeholders. Jesse Steadman said he will reach out to Chris Funkhouser.

Letter to Larry Escobedo

Chief Sallese moved to approve the draft letter to Larry Escobedo.

Chief Benoit seconded.

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

Letter to Cynthia Wolfe

Steve Nadeau moved to approve the draft letter to Cynthia Wolfe.

Chief Benoit seconded.

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

Recommendation on Town-Wide 25MPH Policy

Committee members discussed the potential for a town-wide policy regarding a 25 MPH speed zone on all unzoned roads that meet the statutory definition of “Thickly Settled.” Members agreed that the Town Administrator should be approached for feedback prior to issuing the recommendation to the Select Board. Jesse Steadman said he will reach out to the Town Administrator and invite her to the next meeting of the TSAC.

Hudson Road and Crescent Street Letters

Chief Sallese noted new letters from residents on Hudson Road and Crescent Street and said they will be addressed at the next meeting.

Chief Sallese motioned to adjourn

Steve Nadeau seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman