

TOWN OF STOW
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 13, 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 31st, 2021.

John Paul Benoit moved to approve the minutes of August 31st , 2021.

Jesse Steadman 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 and the members discussed options for uploading it to the webpage.

Discussion of Wheeler Road

Committee members discussed potential Stage 1 interventions to reduce speeding concerns on Wheeler Road. Jesse Steadman suggested utilizing new speed feedback signs, soon to be purchased, as well as doing some initial outreach to Butternut Country Club to allow them to inform their clients about the complaints received.

Steve Nadeau said that a traffic engineer could be utilized to determine if there are any reconfigurations to the Wheeler Road/117 intersection that could reduce speeds.

Members discussed that making Wheeler Road one way, perhaps during particular hours of the day, could also benefit residents. Members discussed that further due diligence would be needed, such as outreach to the Schools, residents and Butternut Country Club.

Steve Nadeau suggested utilizing children in the area to create signs asking drivers to slow down and to have a firm create traffic signs from the designs. Members agreed it could be an idea that really grabs the attention of drivers.

Zack Burns, of Wheeler Road, said there has been much discussion of speeding on Wheeler Road among the neighborhood and he has personally seen vehicles going between 40-50mph on the street. Zack Burns said that the status updates from the Committee would be helpful to let the neighborhood know that their complaints are being heard.

Sudbury Road

The Committee members discussed the potential use of a Safety Zone at the location of Pine Bluff Recreation area. Jesse Steadman said he can be in touch with MassDOT District 3 office regarding the ability of the Town to extend a speed zone that is already in use.

Members agreed that a policy for the creation of Safety Zones should be drafted and adopted by the Board of Selectmen, prior to the TSAC creating such a zone in Stow.

Members discussed the potential at using traffic delineators to tighten up the corner at Sudbury and State Road, making it more of a T-intersection.

Gleasondale Road

Chief Sallese reported that he spoke with Meg Costello regarding the desire to have speed feedback signs on Gleasondale Road. Chief Sallese notified Meg Costello that the signs are currently on the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and planning to be installed later this year. Members further discussed the ideal locations for the installation of the signs.

Members discussed the potential for a truck restriction on Marlboro Road and determined that the first step would be to ask Eversource what the new culverts on the road will be rated for.

Barton Road

A resident from Barton Road provided comment that vehicles speeds on Barton Road, specifically from the intersection with Sudbury road, south over the hill to the dam, are getting worse. She noted that there are many pedestrians and cyclists in the area, but also a lot of vegetation that obscures views around tight corners and hills. The resident indicated that there are no speed signs at any point along Barton Road. Jesse Steadman said he will confirm the existence of speed signs along Barton Road with the data the Planning Department has collected.

Members agreed that Barton Road is a private way, although it would meet the statutory definition of Thickly Settled under Chapter 90(C) and potentially be eligible for a 25mph speed zone. The resident of Barton Road indicated that 25mph would be far too high and suggested 15 mph as an alternative. Chief Sallese indicated that 15mph would not be possible.

Members discussed that advisory speed signage could also be useful in the location, including “children at play” signage, if statutory signage is unable to be installed.

Speed Bumps Pros/Cons

Steve Nadeau discussed information he researched on the pros and cons of speed bump installation, reporting that based on conversations with engineers in the region, there is a concern that speed bumps often redirect surface water flows, and require additional stormwater infrastructure, such as catchbasins and piping, significantly raising the cost of speed bump installation. Steve Nadeau said this is a particular issue in rural communities that rely on country drainage patterns rather than utilizing a more sophisticated stormwater infrastructure system. Chief Sallese indicated that Steve Nadeau should

begin to draft a speed bump policy, updating the Town's current policy for review by the Town Administrator and Select Board.

Steve Nadeau left the meeting.

New Complaints

The TSAC received multiple complaints from residents throughout Town. The Committee agreed to discuss the following complaints at the next meeting given they involve roads and streets that were either on the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan or have been subject to previous discussion:

- Red Acre Road
- Crescent Street
- South Acton Road
- Randall/Cross Street
- Taylor Road
- Old Bolton Road
- Great Road
- Hudson Road
- Wheeler Road

The following complaints will be discussed at the meeting following the next meeting:

- Eliot Drive
- Adams Drive
- Peabody Drive
- Packard Road
- Bradley Lane
- Pompositticut Street
- Carriage Lane
- Harvard Road
- Fairway Drive
- Whitney Road

It was further agreed that Jesse Steadman would draft letters from the Committee to the following complainants:

- 196 Great Road
- 28 Red Acre Road
- 336 Great Road
- 204 Randall Road

Chief Sallese motioned to adjourn

Jesse Steadman seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Steadman