



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

MEMBERS

GINO CRESTA, DPW
VACANT, COMM. DEV.
RONALD MENDES, ADMIN & FINANCE
JAMES POTTS, FIRE
LT. THOMAS STEPHENS, POLICE

AUGUST 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00AM – 11:15AM
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), G. Cresta (DPW), T. Stephens (Police), R. Mendes (Admin & Finance)
Members Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 10:00AM by Mr. Mendes. He opened the meeting by providing background on the Committee: The Committee provides a review of any resident, business, or staff request to evaluate traffic or parking within the town. The Committee may then make a recommendation to the governing body such as the Board of Selectmen, School Dept, or MassDOT depending on the particular request.

MEETING MINUTES

The decision was made to defer approval of minutes to the next meeting as no minutes were prepared at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Committee asked the audience for public comments not otherwise listed on the agenda:

There were no public comments at this time.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

Item A: Request from Michael McClung (64 Fuller Ave) to restrict the lower portions of Cedar Hill Terrace and Bay View Drive to one-way streets such that traffic from Humphrey Street cannot enter onto Cedar Hill Terrace or Bay View Drive thus preventing Humphrey Street traffic from utilizing residential streets in the vicinity.

The TSAC held a public meeting on this issue at its 07/19/2018 meeting, at which time several residents from the community spoke on this request. There were several residents speaking in favor of the new restriction and some were opposed. After hearing the public input, the

committee tabled the matter to the 08/13/2018 meeting since Lt. Stephens was unable to be present at the 07/19/18 due to a death in his family.

At today's meeting, the committee discussed this issue and the sense of the committee is to take no action on the request at this time. The request seems to be borne out of a concern that commuting traffic from Humphrey Street is utilizing the residential streets in this area as "cut-throughs" to avoid the heavy traffic on Humphrey Street in the morning, which is concerning to residents in that area. The committee members were concerned that limiting the ability of morning commuting traffic to utilize the residential streets will simply exacerbate the heavy traffic on Humphrey Street, and would not address the issue as drivers would use Millett Ave as the cut through affecting the same neighborhood. Also, committee members felt that making a change at this time would not be a data driven decision and recommends conducting a traffic pattern study to determine the actual volume of traffic that uses the neighborhood as a "cut-through" in order to determine the actual impact on the neighborhood.

In addition, there are concerns about the construction traffic related to the on-going project at 71 Greenwood Ave. Mr. Cresta indicated that he would speak with the developer of that project to avoid any more idling of trucks in the neighborhood.

Item B: Request from Cynthia Hellman to discuss speeding on Cherry Street. Ms. Hellman's specific requests included placing speed detectors on Cherry Street as a traffic calming measure; reducing the speed to 20MPH by declaring Cherry Street as a "Safety Zone;" and to restrict parking on Cherry Street to residents only.

Ms. Hellman was advised of the date of the meeting by email, and acknowledged receipt, but did not attend today's meeting.

All residents of Cherry Street were also notified on this meeting and the requests of Ms. Hellman and nobody attended today's meeting from the neighborhood.

The committee discussed Ms. Hellman's requests and did not feel that it would be appropriate to restrict parking to residents only since there are two local businesses (Antique Table and Tony Lena's) for whom customers utilize on-street parking. Also, there is no data to suggest that there is ever a lack of available parking on Cherry Street even with these businesses' customer parking. As to the request to designate Cherry Street a "safety zone" thus restricting the speed limit to 20 MPH, there are no mitigating circumstances in the area, such as a park or other facility that creates a draw for a large amount of pedestrian traffic. The current speed limit on the street is the standard 25 MPH, which the committee feels is appropriate for this street.

The Committee does recommend, however, that one of the available speed monitors be installed as a traffic calming measure. Lt. Stephens indicated that the speed monitor currently being utilized near Eisman's Beach can be placed there in October (this monitor is planned to be utilized on Forest Ave for the beginning of the School Year in September).

The Committee also recommends that the Town include in the capital plan a purchase of several speed monitors, which can be helpful in these circumstances to assist with mitigating speed in various areas of Town. Also, the current large speed monitor that the Police Department has needs repair or replacement at this time.

- Item C: Request to install the donated “Ride Quiet” sign on Humphrey Street. The committee viewed the donated sign and recommends that the sign NOT be installed. There is no data to support the contention that there is an unusual amount of motor cycle traffic on Humphrey Street, and after viewing the sign believes that it is too large in comparison to other signage in the area. The committee recommends that the sign be returned to the donor at this time.
- Item D: Request of Tracy Walsh to install a “Slow Handicapped Child” sign on Humphrey Street by King’s Beach. Ms. Walsh is also suggesting installing a speed bump on Humphrey Street in the area to slow down traffic.

Ms. Walsh expressed concern about her 12-year-old daughter, who she says is “low-vision” and is not allowed to cross the street alone. Ms. Walsh expressed concern about “a 12-year-old autistic child in the neighborhood.” Her concern is about speed in that section of Humphrey Street along King’s Beach. She states that she has attempted to utilize the crosswalk and cars simply do not stop.

Mr. Cresta indicated that he will speak with Ms. Walsh to install more visible signage at the crosswalk at 60 Humphrey Street to warn drivers that a crosswalk is there. There is already a light at that crosswalk, but since it is not an intersection, drivers often don’t expect the flashing yellow light to change since it changes infrequently. Better signage may be needed, but a sign that reads “Slow Handicapped Child” would be inappropriate. Mr. Cresta will make a further recommendation on more appropriate signage.

The committee felt that installation of speed bumps in that area would be inappropriate since it is a major thoroughfare.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting closed at 11:15AM.

M. Ronald Mendes
Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair