



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

JANUARY 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 11:05am – 12:35pm
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
Others Present: Dan Barthel (Business Owner); Alix Smullin (Resident); Gary Young (Resident); Enrica Solari-Perlstein (Resident); John Picariello (Resident); Seo Won Kim (Resident); Joshua McClay (Resident); Pamela Kelley (Resident); Anthony Paone (Business Owner).

Meeting called to order at 11:05AM by Mr. Mendes. He opened the meeting by providing background on the Committee's purpose: This Committee provides a technical review of any resident, business, or staff request to evaluate traffic or parking issues within the town. The Committee may then make a recommendation to a governing body, such as the Board of Selectmen, School Dept, or MassDOT depending on the particular request.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the 11/05/2018 TSAC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mendes asked the audience for public comments not otherwise listed on the agenda:

There were no other such comments.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

#C – REQUEST TO REMOVE 2 HOUR PARKING RESTRICTION ON PORTION OF COLUMBIA STREET ADJACENT TO 33 COLUMBIA STREET

Mr. Barthel, owner of a business located at 33 Columbia Street is asking that the 2-hour parking restriction in front of his business be removed. His concern is that his employees and customers don't have anywhere else to park and they are

receiving tickets if they overstay the 2-hour restriction. Area property owners and residents were notified of the meeting and potential for changes to the parking restriction on Columba Street and Mr. Barthel was the only individual to provide feedback.

There was some discussion among the committee members about the effect of removing this restriction on other area businesses and residents. The consensus was that there would be no effect on area businesses and that this parking restriction was put in place originally to assist a prior business at 33 Columbia Street with parking turnover and that purpose is no longer present. The business owner understands that no parking restriction may mean that individuals parking for the train depot, residents and others not related to his business will legally be able to park in front of his business for unlimited periods of time. Mr. Barthel understands this and still wishes the restriction be removed.

A motion was made (Stephens) and seconded (Potts) and it was voted (4-0-0) to advance this request to the Board of Selectmen for an amendment to the Town of Swampscott Traffic & Parking Rules and Regulations Article V, Section 4 (e) to remove the 2-hour parking restriction from the portion of Columbia Street that is adjacent to 33 Columbia Street.

#A – REQUEST TO CHANGE PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF HUMPHREY STREET BETWEEN THE INTERSECTION WITH REDINGTON STREET AND THE FIRE HYDRANT LOCATED ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF HUMPHREY STREET TO TWO 15 MINUTE PARKING SPACES.

This request came from Mr. Anthony Paone, owner of Volo Pizza, asking to restrict two of the parking spaces adjacent to his business to a 15-minute parking limitation. All neighboring businesses and residents in the area were notified of this meeting, which included discussion regarding this potential change. Mr. Paone appeared at the meeting and again requested this change. There was some discussion regarding the exact location of the spaces, and there was no opposition to the modification.

A motion was made (Stephens) and seconded (Cresta) and it was voted (4-0-0) to advance this request to the Board of Selectmen for an amendment to the Town of Swampscott Traffic Rules and Regulations Article V, Section 4 (ja) by adding to said section “Humphrey Street, northerly side, from the intersection with Redington Street to the fire hydrant, two parking spaces to be appropriately marked “15-minute parking only.””

#B – REQUEST TO RESTRICT TRAFFIC ON WOODBINE AVENUE TO “ONE-WAY ONLY” TRAFFIC ENTERING THE STREET FROM THE SOUTHERLY END OF WOODBINE AVENUE, ADJACENT TO LINCOLN HOUSE POINT, AND EXITING THE STREET ON THE NORTHERLY END OF WOODBINE AVENUE ONTO PURITAN ROAD.

This request came from Ms. Smullin of Woodbine Avenue because of safety concerns with respect to the narrow width of Woodbine Avenue, as well as difficult sight lines exiting onto Puritan Road near Lincoln House Point. All residents on Woodbine Avenue and Sutton Place were notified of the meeting, and Ms. Smullin as well as several residents of Sutton Place appeared at the meeting. Ms. Smullin reiterated her concerns about safety when vehicles exit the southerly point of Woodbine Avenue onto Puritan Road. Mr. Cresta suggested a different solution to the safety concerns. He suggested that the Town place a Left Turn restriction when exiting Woodbine Avenue from its southerly point onto Puritan Road.

This would require placing a “No Left Turn” sign at the southerly intersection of Woodbine Avenue and Puritan Road and would address the safety concerns with exiting onto Puritan Road to the left because of the bend in Puritan Road.

A motion was made (Cresta) and seconded (Stephens) and it was voted (4-0-0) to request that the Board of Selectmen amend Article VII, Section 11 by adding “Woodbine Avenue onto Puritan Road at the southerly point of Woodbine adjacent to Lincoln House Point.”

#D – REQUEST TO RESTRICT ALL PARKING ON BURPEE ROAD ADJACENT TO THE FORMER MACHON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

This request came from Mr. John Picariello because of concerns he has regarding traffic safety on Burpee Road due to its width. There was discussion amongst the committee members and the consensus of the committee was that there is no immediate need to make a change in this area, especially in light of the B’Nai B’Rith project planned for the Machon School property without a more formal study by a traffic engineer.

Motion was made to table (Stephens), seconded (Potts) and it was voted (4-0-0) to lay on the table.

#F – REQUEST TO INSTALL TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE ENTRANCE/EXIT TO THE CROWN POINTE CONDOMINIUM ON PARADISE ROAD.

This request came in from the management company of the Crowne Point condominium. Area businesses and residents were notified of the meeting and no one (including the proponent) appeared to discuss this issue. The request from the Crowne Point management indicated that it is often difficult to make left turns when exiting the property onto Paradise Road.

The committee acknowledged that the traffic lights at the entrance to the Vinnin Square/Whole Foods property would be within a ½ block of this intersection and the lights at the entrance to the Swampscott Mall are less than a ¼ mile in the other direction. The consensus of the committee is that an additional traffic light in this area would exacerbate traffic issues in this area. The committee does agree that it would be beneficial to engineer this entire stretch of Paradise Road, but that would require funding for an engineering study for the entire Vinnin Square area.

Motion was made to take no action (Cresta), seconded (Potts) and it was voted (4-0-0) to take no action on this request.

#G – REQUEST TO FURTHER DISCUSS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONCERNS ON HUMPHREY STREET IN THE AREA OF ST. JOHN’S CHURCH, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING YMCA AFTER-SCHOOL PICK UP TIMES.

This request came to the committee from Joshua McCloy regarding safety concerns about picking up children from the YMCA After-School program in the evenings at St. John’s church. Neighbors in the area were notified of the meeting and several attended, including Mr. McCloy. There was a discussion about pedestrian safety during pick-up times in the evening and the sense of the committee was that changing parking restrictions on Blaney Street could address this issue. The committee will place a question about potential parking restrictions on Blaney Street on the next committee meeting agenda where the neighborhood could be notified about the potential for changes to parking regulations in the area.

#I – REQUEST TO INSTALL A 30-MINUTE PARKING RESTRICTION ADJACENT TO PARCEL #106 ON ASSESSORS' MAP #1 ON PHILLIPS STREET BETWEEN 8:00AM – 6:00PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY TO ADDRESS PICK-UP & DROP-OFF OF CHILDREN AT THE ALEPH ACADEMY.

This request came from the Aleph Academy, which operates a day care facility on Phillis Street. This street is currently limited to parking for residents only due to its proximity to King's Beach. Residents in the area were notified of that this meeting was to take place and no one other than the proponent of this change appeared. Ms. Kelley, who is affiliated with Aleph Academy explained the need for pick-up/drop-off spaces on Phillips Street adjacent to their facility. More specifically, she asked that the committee advance an allowance for a 30-minute parking zone between the hours of 8:00am – 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. There was a discussion among the committee members and a consensus that the request was not unreasonable.

Motion was made (Stephens), and seconded (Cresta) and it was voted (4-0-0) to request that the Board of Selectmen amend Article V, Section 4 (b) of the Town of Swampscott Traffic & Parking Rules & Regulations by adding the following: "the portion of the easterly side of Phillips Street that is adjacent to Parcel #106 on Assessors Map #1 without the need for a resident parking sticker with the limitation that this relief from the resident permit parking restriction only restriction on this street shall only apply to the hours of 8:00am – 6:00pm, Monday through Friday."

#E – REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT SPEED MITIGATION MEASURES, CHANGE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE OR ENGAGE IN ENHANCED/TARGETED POLICE ENFORCEMENT ON FOREST AVENUE TO MITIGATE CONCERNS ON SPEEDING IN THE VICINITY.

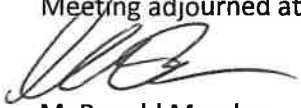
This issue was referred to the committee from two residents who provided feedback. Ms. Susan Garcelon and Ms. Penelope Carnevale both expressed concerns regarding speeding and traffic safety due to speeding on Forest Avenue. Ms. Carnevale also would like to have a "Hidden Driveway" sign placed near her driveway because she finds it often unsafe to exit her driveway at 178 Redington Street. These concerns are best addressed with Police enforcement in the area since the speed limits are 25 MPH (20 MPH within the School Zones). Mr. Cresta also indicated that he would get quotes for the cost of installing a sign and let Ms. Carnevale know the cost. If she is willing to reimburse the town for the cost of the sign, then Mr. Cresta indicated that he could just place the sign. There is no change to rules or regulations needed for this request since this sign is advisory and not regulatory.

#H – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE ON MAPLE STREET ADVISING MOTORISTS THAT THE STREET IS LIMITED TO RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING ONLY.

This request was referred to the Committee by Samantha Arzu of Maple Street who is concerned about commuter parking on her street notwithstanding the fact that parking is limited to "resident permit parking only." Her feeling is that additional signage is needed. There are 3 signs on the street, but they are only on one side and have not deterred commuter parking. Mr. Cresta indicated that he would go and view the current signage and report back to the committee at a future meeting his findings. If he determines that additional signage is warranted, then the DPW can simply post the necessary signs to enforce the existing parking restriction. Lt. Stephens also indicated that the Police will target that street for enforcement as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 12:35PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Mendes', written over the printed name.

M. Ronald Mendes

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair

