

**Minutes**  
**Traffic Management Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**Charles River Room**  
**Public Services Administration Building**  
**500 Dedham Avenue**  
**Needham, MA 02492**  
**Livestreamed on Zoom Meeting ID #879-0218-5871**  
**Adopted November 9, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Justin McCullen, Chair; Donna Mullin; Barry McNeilly; Rhain Hoyland, Highway Superintendent; Bob Ciccolo; Guus Driessen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Ryder, Town Engineer; Lt. John McGrath; and Rebecca Tarantino

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Wilson, Engineer; Tyler Gabrielski, Financial Analyst; Daphne Collins, Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Judith McIntyre; Keith LaFace; Bonnie McClelland

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**1. INTRODUCTION AND ROLL CALL**

Mr. McCullen, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roll Call was taken.

**2. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

**Vote:** Mr. Ciccolo moved to accept the Minutes of September 14, 2022. Ms. Mullin seconded the motion. Ayes: 5, Abstention 1-Driessen.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS/STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Wilson reported on the following updates:

- **Forest Street** - solar speed signs have been installed and are in operation. Mr. Hoyland noted that the sign near Volante Farms is not working at full capacity. The sign will be left after Fall to observe if the available solar energy was negatively affected by leaf out and whether a hard wired sign is necessary.
- **Bird Street between Broad Meadow Road and Petrini Circle** – *School Zone* signs were installed.
- **Pine Street** – *Slow; 30mph; Caution Children* signs were installed.
- **Country Way** – Speed study underway.
- **Great Plain Avenue at Gleendon Road and Maple Street** – Mr. Hoyland, Mr. McCullen and Ms. Tarantino conducted a site visit. They were joined by a Traffic Control Officer. They discussed establishing a safety crosswalk pilot program at the corner. This pilot program will

include increasing bilaterally the corners with barricades into Great Plain Avenue to decrease the pedestrian crossing distance; moving a double backed pedestrian signs on to the barricades; and impeding the southern parking space (in front of the CBD store) from backing into the crosswalk. The Town contacted its on-call contractor about obtaining and installing spot lighting for the intersection.

**4. PICKERING STREET AT STEPHEN PALMER APARTMENTS – POOR VISIBILITY - SIGNAGE**

**PETITIONER:** Judith McIntyre, 83 Pickering Street

Ms. McIntyre reported that the site lines exiting the Stephen Palmer Apartments are difficult and dangerous for residents when parents of the St. Joseph School park along Pickering Street during drop-off and pick-up times; and school events. She requested that a *No parking here to Corner* sign be installed. In addition, the Town public curb cuts are worn down and cracked.

The Committee asked her if she has communicated with the school about this issue so that they can instruct the school community not to park five feet from the curb as is required under local parking law. Ms. McIntyre has communicated with the principal of the school and followed-up with a written letter. She noted that parents also park in the private parking lot of the Stephen Palmer Apartments creating a possible issue for emergency vehicles accessing the senior complex.

Mr. McNeilly suggested a *No Standing* sign. It is stricter than a *No Parking* sign. However, this sign would require Select Board approval whereas a *No parking here to Corner* would not and could be installed administratively without delay. Mr. Ciccolo was reticent about enforcing Town regulations with signs. However not all parents are from Needham and may be unfamiliar with Needham parking regulations and signs may be appropriate.

**Vote:** Mr. Ciccolo moved to install *No Parking here to Corner* signs with painted road and curb markings. Mr. Driessen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

If this decision fails to bring about changed behavior, the Committee may consider a *No Standing* sign in the future.

**5. MARK LEE ROAD AND PARK AVENUE - CROSSWALK**

**PETITIONER:** Wes Soper, 32 Mark Lee Road

No show. Item to be rescheduled.

**6. CHESTNUT STREET BETWEEN NEEDHAM JUNCTION AND EMERSON ROAD - CROSSWALK**

**PETITIONER:** Keith LaFace, 504 Chestnut Street

Mr. LaFace noted that a popular bus stop on Chestnut Street has no crosswalk within two miles. He reported that drivers speed at this location in excess of the 30mph speed limit.

Mr. Wilson noted that a traffic study conducted in 2008 indicated that there were 8,000 to 9,000 per day with 1,200 vehicles at peak hours. 85% of the vehicles were moving at 35mph to 40mph.

Bonnie McClelland, 521 Chestnut Street, complained that vehicles do not stop and are not sensitive to the neighborhood. She believed the traffic was not from Needham.

Mr. Hoyland noted that Chestnut Street has only sidewalks on one side of the street. The Warrant only allows the installation of crosswalks between sidewalks. Installing a crosswalk without technology gives a false sense of safety.

Mr. McCullen suggested that a new traffic study be conducted.

**Note:** Mr. McCullen moved to conduct a new traffic study gathering speed and vehicular count data and to determine if there is a location for a crosswalk. In addition, pedestrian crossing count and sight distance data will be gathered. Mr. Ciccolo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Based on the data collected next steps will be considered. Mr. Ciccolo suggested that during Bus Stop hours that Police Enforcement be provided.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Harris Road and Dedham Avenue** – Mr. Ciccolo was concerned about the curb and the geometry of the intersection which is under construction. Mr. Hoyland responded that the new curb will provide a 90 degree turning movement. It is a complete street project with pedestrian friendly enhanced markings. There will be reflector strips on the edge of the curbing and vegetation to define the curb and island. A rumble strip is also being considered weighted against ADA compliance. The project is under construction and changes can still be made to enhance the intersection.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.