

Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee
March 6, 2007
DPW Building, 11:00 am
Minutes

Present: Jody Kablack, Bill Place, Ken MacLean, Peter Fadgen

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am. The item for discussion was the driveway to the proposed Police Station on Hudson Road. The committee was in receipt of a letter from the Sudbury Housing Authority to the Permanent Building Committee dated February 26, 2007 requesting comments to their concerns for a shared driveway between the Police Station and Musketahquid Village, a 64 unit housing development for elderly and disabled residents.

The Committee reviewed the latest site plan, as well as the suggested driveway configuration proposed by the Housing Authority. Access to the Police Station will consist of two new driveways off Hudson Road. The existing Fire Station driveway will provide additional access to the rear of the Police Station. One driveway will service a small front parking for the Police Station, which leads directly to the public front door of the station. The second, larger new driveway will serve as combined access to Musketahquid Village and the rear parking area of the Police Station. This driveway will be located along the eastern property line and is proposed to be constructed to 24 feet wide, with 2-12 foot travel lanes. The driveway will be relatively straight, unlike the existing curving Musketahquid driveway, and will provide for better sight distance at its intersection with Hudson Road than the existing driveway.

The Housing Authority's recommendation is to create only 1 new driveway for the Police Station, which would serve both the front and rear parking areas, as well as linking the Police and Fire Station through the front parking areas, and dedicate the new eastern driveway solely for the use of Musketahquid Village residents and vehicles. The Committee felt that this configuration was not optimal. By encouraging shared driveways for Fire and Police, people will attempt to utilize the existing Fire Station driveway to enter the rear parking area. While this may be physically possible, it is not a safe alternative, particularly as the driveway narrows at the western edge of the fire station building. Widening the driveway in this location would move it closer to the abutting wetlands and may not be approved.

In addition, the SHA proposal illustrates the driveway wrapping around the new Police Station along its eastern side, however there does not appear to be enough room on that side, as shown on the Carell Group sketches.

The committee discussed the ability of Musketahquid residents to safely use a combined driveway, and felt that due to its increased width, and removal of curves and sight impediments, the proposed access was acceptable. Construction of a walkway along the new driveway would be highly favorable, allowing the residents to safely walk to the Hudson Road walkway, and should be pursued either through the construction of the building or through the Department of Public Works.

One alternative discussed was the possibility of constructing a new access for Musketahquid Village to Colonial Road. The property abuts this road, and construction of an access has been deemed feasible by the Director of Public Works. Public opinion on this option, as well as funding, would need to be further explored.

It was noted that the level of review of parking, driveways, walkways, etc. is somewhat beyond the scope of the present feasibility study. Additional comments on these specific issues should be retained for the actual site planning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.