

Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee
October 26, 2007
Flynn Building, 8:30 am
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Requests from Residents:

1. Dutton Rd – email dated 8/30/07 from Linda Sellier requesting SLOW DOWN and SHARP CURVE signs installed near her house at 347 Dutton Road.

The Police Chief reported that the digital speed trailer was at the location for several days and did not register excessive speeds. The DPW Department has installed chevron alignment signs and will install the SLOW DOWN/SHARP CURVE sign.

2. Union Ave intersection – email dated 8/31/07 from Lisa Vitale stating that the vegetation planted at the new intersection, and the fence installed, aggravates the line of sight for people in smaller cars, and should be replaced with lower varieties.

The Committee has agreed to re-visit this intersection after several months of use, and has recommended that the STOP line be moved further east towards Concord Road to the end of the traffic island so that drivers do not stop too soon and to increase sight distance. Residents are cautioned to make a full stop before proceeding onto Concord Road from Union Ave.

3. Horse Pond/Rt 20 – email dated 8/20/07 from Linda Kuniholm, 29 Jarman Road requesting information on how to get a traffic light installed at the intersection of Route 20 and Horse Pond Road.

This intersection is the second highest priority intersection for the Town, below Landham Road. It has been listed on the state Transportation Improvement Program list for over 15 years, but there is little state funding for intersections without the Town funding the design phase. The Town will be conducting a corridor study of Route 20 sometime in 2008 which will identify difficult intersections and prioritize them for traffic signalization. It will then be up to the Town to request funding from Town Meeting to design the intersections. Once they are designed, the process of getting state funds is still very competitive. Since Route 20 is a state highway, the intersections must go through state permitting and funding.

4. East Street Acceptance – letters dated 9/15/07 from Ronnie and Nancy Ragno, 15 East Street and 10/25/07; Joseph Green, 22 East St.; and Robin Merrill, 35 East

St. requesting that East Street be accepted as a public way and asking for more information.

The Committee reviewed the maps of other streets in the area, including Center St. and West St., which are both public ways. Both of these streets are wider than East St., which is only a 20 foot wide right-of-way and 15 foot paved width. The DPW Director has recommended that East St. only be accepted if it is brought up to Town specification, including no less than 18 feet wide, with adequate paving and submittal of an as-built plan and survey. The width of the road causes a problem, as takings would be required to attain an 18' wide paved road. It was recommended that the neighbors get the Sudbury Water District involved, as they are a main user of the road to access a well at the end of the street. Jody Kablack will also follow up with a call to the SWD.

5. Goodman's Hill Rd walkway – email dated 9/25/07 from Brian McNamara requesting construction of a walkway on Goodman's Hill Road between 62 Goodman's Hill Road and Walker Farm Road due to a safety issue with the middle school bus stop.

The new method for requesting walkways is posted on the Town's website, and requires resident participation in asking for easements. The resident is urged to review the new initiative and begin talking to the neighbors in order to get this segment of walkway on the priority list. It was noted that approximately 5 years ago, the DPW Director and Town Planner made great effort to construct this segment of walkway but were not successful in obtaining the necessary easements from affected property owners.

6. Water Row – letter dated 10/22/07 from Jonathan Roosevelt, 452 Concord Road requesting sight distance improvements, mainly consisting of tree and vegetation removal, be made at the intersection of Water Row and Route 27, particularly looking west on Route 27.

The DPW Department will investigate the area and attempt to increase the sight distance by clearing the vegetation but saving the trees. The Committee will discuss this again at their next meeting after some improvements have been made.

7. Weir Hill – email dated 10/11/07 from Claudine Proctor, Lincoln Road regarding the shoulder of Weir Hill Road and the unsafe nature of it due to protruding boulders and tree roots. The property is owned by Sudbury Valley Trustees, who are supportive of the Town cutting the shoulder back to make the area safer. Additional requests are to install speed bumps on Lincoln Road to slow speeds, and to restrict large trucks from using Lincoln Road.

The Committee discussed each issue. The shoulder issue may require a temporary construction easement from SVT so that the area can be properly graded once the materials are removed. Jody Kablack will request this. Regarding speed bumps, these are not favored by the DPW Director as they make snow plowing very difficult, nor the Fire Chief as they slow down emergency response and create hazards for the larger public

safety vehicles, and once they are installed on one street, every street will request them. Regarding the truck restriction, there is currently no weight limit on Lincoln Road now that the bridge has been reconstructed. It is presumed that the large trucks are likely from Cavicchio Nursery, and the Town cannot limit these trucks if they legitimately have business on the street.

8. Willis Road – email dated 10/24/07 from Greg Creamer requesting the roadway between Marlboro Road and Route 27 be widened due to protruding rocks and telephone poles making it difficult for 2 cars to pass each other.

The DPW Director stated that there are no plans to make improvements to Willis Road, and stated that the right of way is narrow on that section, making improvements difficult without easements. Residents are urged to use caution on these narrow street.

9. Newbridge Road – letter dated 10/9/07 from Antonea Kaplan, 82 Newbridge Road requesting SLOW CHILDREN signs be installed on this street.

The DPW Dept. will install the signs due to the proximity to an elementary school.

10. Puffer Lane – email from Scott Sawin dated 10/8/07 requesting a reduction in the speed limit on Puffer Lane from 30 mph to 20 mph.

The Police Chief noted that a speed survey was conducted on Puffer Lane and the results indicate that 85% of the cars were traveling 37 mph. Under the state requirements, the 85 percentile number is what the limit would need to be changed to if requested. Therefore it does not make sense to pursue a change at this time. The Police Dept. will monitor speed on this street during the times noted in the survey which indicated the fastest speeds.

11. Walkway Planning Initiative – The Director of Planning and Community Development reported that the next round of walkway planning is currently on-going, and residents who desire walkways on their streets should go onto the town's website and familiarize themselves with the requirements. Requests for walkways will be taken until Jan. 31, 2008.
12. The DPW Director reported that Dakin Road and Pantry Road will be paved next week, including the new walkway on Dakin Road.
13. The Police Chief noted that a 48 hour traffic volume count was conducted on Pheasant Lane which leads him to believe there has been an increase in the # of cars using Pheasant Lane to avoid the new intersection at Concord Rd/Union Ave. A request has been made to change the hours of the restriction due to the new school schedule and the increase the length of the restricted time, which will be discussed by the Selectmen.
14. Traffic Mitigation Impact Fee - The Director of Planning and Community Development reported that the Town of Framingham requires an impact fee for

commercial developments that increase the volume of traffic on local roads, even though impact fees are prohibited in Massachusetts. She will be doing more research on this topic and may present a warrant article at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

15. Speed Campaign – The Director of Planning and Community Development stated that there are many requests from residents to try to slow speed down in all neighborhoods in Sudbury. She feels that a town-wide campaign, initiated in the schools to SLOW DOWN IN TOWN, might be effective. She will discuss this with the Town Manager.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2007.