

Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee
December 5, 2008
Flynn Building, 10:00 am
Minutes

Present: Jody Kablack (Dir. Of Planning and Community Development), Bill Place (DPW Director), Fire Chief Ken MacLean, Police Chief Pete Fadgen

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Requests from Residents:

1. Pedestrian Improvements near 539 Concord Road

A petition submitted by 16 residents requested pedestrian safety improvements near the Concord Road intersection with Lincoln Road so that children who live on the west side of Concord Road can safely walk to both Nixon elementary school and Lincoln Sudbury High School. Both the DPW Director and the Police Chief have reviewed this situation in the past. All members of the committee agree that it is not safe to cross the road in this location, nor at the intersection of Lincoln Road.

Flashing school zone lights are not an option on Concord Road in this location because there is no direct entrance to the high school on Concord Road. The residents have asked that the old entrance near the White Pre-School be re-opened, but the Town does not have control over that and it is likely not possible due to the construction of the parking lot for the pre-school. The Petitioners should contact the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee.

The Town has excavated the road shoulder in this area to the extent feasible without removing a large stone wall. If given permission, the DPW Dept. would consider moving the wall back to create a larger shoulder. The Petitioners should request the affected property owner to grant permission for this work, as it would be on private property. Concord Road is also a Scenic Road, so any changes to the stone wall would need to be approved by the Planning Board.

The committee suggested that the Petitioners request a walkway be constructed in this area southward to a straight section of Concord Road, where crossing is safer. This will require walkway easements from abutters. The Petitioners should review the procedures for the Town's Walkway Initiative (found on the website under the Planning Dept. area) if they want to proceed. The Petitioners will be responsible for asking the neighbors for easements. Once easements are secured, the Planning Director and DPW Director will work on the funding.

Additional signage could be installed indicating Caution, but the curves in the road and the speed of the cars would decrease the effectiveness of any signage.

2. Use Restrictions on Powder Mill Road

The final memo to the Board of Selectmen will be completed today and sent to the members. The Selectmen will discuss it on Dec. 9.

3. Puffer Lane Speed Reduction

Residents of Puffer Lane have requested that the speed limit on the road be reduced to 20 mph. In reviewing the speed limits in Town, only a few roads which have extreme circumstances have been able to reduce to 20 mph. Usually the circumstances are a sharp curve (Lincoln Road, French Road, Morse Road, etc) or excessive accidents. These conditions do not exist on Puffer Lane. One other consideration is the total volume of cars using the road. The Police Chief will review the traffic counts for the road. If the data shows significant volume, he suggested the residents could petition the Selectmen for a temporary restriction during peak hours, or making Puffer Lane one-way only.

Construction of a walkway for the entire length of Puffer Lane might be desired as well. If so, the residents should review the criteria for the Town's Walkway Initiative (found on the website under the Planning Dept). There has been reluctance by a small number of Puffer Lane residents in the past to grant easements necessary to continue the walkway. It will be up to the residents to request easements from their neighbors.

4. Update from the DPW Director/Planning Director on meeting with David Mortimer from the Commission on Disabilities on Nov. 14, 2008

The COD will be inventorying the town's walkways to note problem areas and make recommendations on grade, surface, road crossings, etc. This will be done by using a motorized wheelchair and traveling on all 40 miles of walkways.

Mr. Mortimer also requested that low lying branches be trimmed along walkways, especially from Longfellow Glen to Nobscot Road. There are several disabled residents who use this section of walkway along Route 20 and have had difficulties. He also requested that we support his request to the state to install an auditory signal at the Longfellow Glen pedestrian light.

Mr. Mortimer will also request all property owners along Route 20 from Longfellow Glen to Raytheon to be careful when snowplowing driveways this winter to avoid blocking the walkway. Ms. Kablack provided Mr. Mortimer with mailing labels for the properties.

Mr. Mortimer requested that we schedule a Community Walkability Audit from the Central Transportation Planning Staff. Ms. Kablack will arrange this. Mr. Mortimer also distributed copies of ADA compliance requirements for walkways.

5. Update from the Fire Chief on Alexan Concord 40B emergency access discussions

Ken MacLean noted that he met with the state fire marshal's office, who determined that the plans submitted for the development met their requirements for access and emergency access.

6. Dudley Road crosswalk request

A resident requested the installation of a cross walk across Route 20 at Dudley Road. The committee recommends no crosswalk until a walkway is installed on Dudley Road. Otherwise pedestrians have nowhere to walk safely once they have crossed. The residents will be referred to the Town's Walkway Initiative (found on the website under the Planning Dept). Easements will be necessary, but the Town does have funds from the Springhouse Pond development to construct a walkway on Dudley Road from Woodland Road to Route 20. In the alternative, a better pedestrian route to the businesses on Route 20 is to walk up Woodland Road. There is a pedestrian easement across the last property, which provides access to the Shaw's Market plaza.

7. 252 Old Lancaster Road request for traffic enforcement

The Police Chief noted that the Sudbury Police Dept. has conducted 69 traffic stops in this vicinity from May 2008 to the present time. They will continue to patrol and monitor traffic enforcement in this vicinity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2009.