



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

MEMBERS
GINO CRESTA, DPW
S. PETER KANE, PLANNING
RONALD MENDES, PARKING
JAMES POTTS, FIRE
LT. THOMAS STEPHENS, POLICE

OCTOBER 3, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:20 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), R. Mendes (Parking Clerk), G. Cresta (DPW), G. Lord (Police, substitute), P. Kane (Planning)
Members Absent: T. Stephens (Police)
Others Present: Jeff MacDonald (resident), Denis Morgan (resident), Shawna Daoust (resident), Richard Gindes (resident), Matt Samalis (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:05a by P. Kane.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the August 23 meeting. No comments.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to approve Aug 23, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by G. Cresta, and unanimously approved.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

#A – SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION REQUEST (PALMER AVENUE)

Denis Morgan, who submitted the request, stated that people use Palmer Avenue as a shortcut and just “gun it.” He’s lived here a little over a year, but his neighbors have told him it’s been like this. There’s a lot of kids on the street. He is curious if the speed limit could be reduced or a speed bump installed to help slow traffic. Shawna Daoust said the reason they’re asking for 20 mph is because she feels like she can’t even let her kids play in the front yard. She said that in June of this year, residents of the neighborhood had requested police enforcement and that it was done for a short time. She feels though that people aren’t looking at signs and just speeding while looking at their cellphones. Matt Samalis also said that there’s a lot of neighborhood kids that use Palmer Avenue to get over to the Stanley School.

P. Kane noted that typically before any speed limit change is proposed, that the Town perform enforcement. He suggested this be done once again for a longer period if needed.

Mr. Morgan also said it would help to have a pedestrian crossing sign in the middle of the crosswalk on Humphrey St at Palmer Avenue/Orchard Circle.

MOTION : by G. Cresta for DPW to place a pedestrian free-standing sign in the middle of the crosswalk on Humphrey St @ Palmer Ave/Orchard Cir and request police enforcement and speed limit advisory sign placement on Palmer Avenue, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimous.

#B – ON-STREET PARKING RESTRICTION REQUEST (HUMPHREY STREET @ PHILLIPS PARK)

Richard Gindes gave an overview of their request which has been raised due to changes to circulation in parking with the new artificial turf football field - no parking on field house side of road, resident-only on opposite side of road, as well as a pedestrian crossing at Bondevitch Way.

Jeff MacDonald noted that there's now a lot of parking demand and with no parking in the area in front of the field house people are taking up more space on Humphrey Street. It's gotten very congested.

P. Kane raised concern regarding the fact that Humphrey St is an arterial road. It's difficult to restrict parking to resident only on a road that's a main route and needs general public parking especially with the public amenity (Phillips Park) at that location.

Mr. MacDonald also noted that other than weekend games, there's practice of multiple teams happening in the park during the week at rush hour time. He says the problem is just on the weekends but every day.

Mr. Gindes said a lot of kids cross the street at Bondevitch Way because it's the main entry gate into the field and parents are dropping off their kids on the north side of Humphrey Street. G. Cresta said they'll be installing another entry to the east of the field house. G. Cresta and Mr. Gindes talked about the potential of one-way signage on the lot area in front of the field house.

P. Kane suggested that the Recreation Director and Athletic Director do outreach to the teams (school and youth) to ask parents to do drop-offs and pick-ups in the big parking lot on Bondevitch Way.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to recommend a traffic study performed at Phillips Park for on- and off-street parking, circulation, and pedestrian safety (will work with Town Administrator for funding), seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

#C – CROSSWALK REQUESTS (HUMPHREY STREET)

P. Kane asked to discuss crosswalks on Humphrey Street between the Fish House and Phillips Park. There previously had been crosswalks but they weren't repainted after the recent repaving of the road because they didn't have ramps. P. Kane noted that those three crosswalks (at Cedar Hill Terrace, Commonwealth Avenue, and Millet Road) are necessary because they're at MBTA bus stops and bus users need to be able to safely cross the street once they get off the bus.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed the crosswalks should go back in.

MOTION : by P. Kane for DPW to repaint the crosswalks on Humphrey St at Cedar Hill Terrace, Commonwealth Avenue, and Millet Road, seconded by G. Cresta, unanimous.

MOTION : by J. Potts to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimous.

Meeting closed at 11:20a.

S. Peter Kane
Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair