



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERS

GINO CRESTA, DPW
VACANT, COMM. DEV.
RONALD MENDES, ADMIN & FINANCE
JAMES POTTS, FIRE
LT. THOMAS STEPHENS, POLICE

NOVEMBER 5, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 3:06pm – 4:10pm
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), G. Cresta (DPW), T. Stephens (Police), R. Mendes (Parking)
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Anthony Paone (Owner, Volo Pizza), Jenna Moar (Resident)

Meeting called to order at 3:06PM by Mr. Mendes. He opened the meeting by providing background on the Committee: The Committee provides a review of any resident, business, or staff request to evaluate traffic or parking within the town. The Committee may then make a recommendation to the governing body such as the Board of Selectmen, School Dept, or MassDOT depending on the particular request.

MEETING MINUTES

The decision was made to defer approval of minutes to the next meeting as no minutes were prepared at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Committee asked the audience for public comments not otherwise listed on the agenda:

Mr. Paone, owner of Volo Pizza on Humphrey Street, asked for several of the parking spaces on Humphrey Street in front of his business be changed to 15-minute spaces. There was a brief discussion about process and Mr. Paone was advised that this issue would be placed on the agenda for the Committee's next meeting in order to provide notice to other stakeholders in the area and to conduct a formal public hearing.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

#B – SPEEDING CONCERNS ON STETSON AVENUE

Ms. Moar from Stetson Avenue addressed the committee to discuss speeding concerns on Stetson Avenue. Ms. Moar provided written comments (attached). Discussion ensued regarding concerns that Stetson Avenue is used by many drivers as a "cut-through" street. Mr. Cresta and Lt. Stephens indicated that they have an electronic speed sign that can

be installed on a pole on that street. A further discussion ensued about the condition of these electronic signs and the possible need to submit a capital project to purchase more of these signs.

#A – REQUEST TO DISCUSS SPEEDING ON CHERRY STREET

These concerns were raised by Ms. Cynthia Hellman and although Ms. Hellman was not present at the meeting, she did speak with Mr. Cresta and she is essentially asking that the street be restricted to a “Resident Parking only” zone and that the Speed Limit be reduced to 20 MPH. The Committee felt that Cherry Street is sufficiently distant from the Train Depot area that restricting this area to “Resident Parking only” is not appropriate; and since this street is not adjacent to or within an appropriate distance from a School or other facility that warrants reducing the speed limit on this street below the current town-wide 25 MPH speed limit. However, in order to provide speed mitigation, we agreed to install an electronic speed monitor on this street once one of the monitors the Town currently owns is available.

#C – REQUEST TO RESTRICT PARKING IN FRONT OF 76 NORFOLK AVENUE.

Ms. Alexandra Chesler of 76 Norfolk Avenue is requesting that the area in front of 76 Norfolk Ave. neat the intersection with Currier Court, be designated as “No Parking” to allow safer sight lines for drivers exiting Currier Court. She is concerned that drivers exiting Currier Court when a car is parked in the space in front of 76 Norfolk Avenue creates a safety hazard. The committee looked at the intersection using Google Maps and it appears that parking in front of 76 Norfolk Avenue would place the parked vehicle within 20 feet of the intersection, which is a violation of state law. Lt. Stephens indicated he would have the Police conduct targeted enforcement since parking in this space appears to be prohibited anyway.

#D – REQUEST TO INSTALL CROSSWALKS & SPEED MONITORS ON PINE STREET

A request came through the SeeClickFix system to install crosswalks and speed monitors on Pine Street because of the heavy pedestrian traffic in the area. Discussion ensued and while the committee feels that painted crosswalks are not necessary, an electronic speed monitor will be installed once one is available. This again raised the need to purchase more of these electronic speed monitors to assist with speed mitigation.

#E – REQUEST TO DISCUSS OUTLET OF CARDILLO TERRACE ONTO HUMPHREY STREET

A SeeClickFix user raised concerns regarding large trucks parking and exiting Cardillo Terrace while construction is on-going in that area. The committee discussed this issue, but ultimately decided to make no recommendation for further action.

#F – REQUEST TO DISCUSS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON HUMPHREY STREET IN FRONT OF ST. JOHN’S CHURCH.

Police Chief Madigan was approached by Resident Larry Noon to facilitate a discussion on pedestrian safety in the crosswalk adjacent to St. John’s Street on Humphrey Street. The Committee discussed the mitigation efforts that have taken place over the last year, including noting that Flashing Crosswalk signs and Speed Monitors have been installed in the area. The Committee also discussed building a Speed Table, but that would be a major investment in the street infrastructure, which can only be accomplished via a further capital project for improvements to the street.

#G – REQUEST TO INSTALL “NO PARKING” SIGNS ON CLAREMONT TERRACE

Lauren Kaufman wrote on behalf of the Board of Shipwatch Condominium Trust asking that the signage on Claremont Terrace be addressed such that it properly reflects the parking regulations on that street. It appears that some “No Parking” signs have disappeared and been re-installed on the wrong side of the street over the years. The Committee feels that the current “No Parking” signage that restricts parking to the Northerly side of the street (“No Parking” signs state that parking on the Southerly side of Claremont Terrace is prohibited) is the best from a traffic safety perspective. However, the Town Parking Regulations allow parking on the Southerly side and restrict parking on the Northerly side. The Committee is recommending that the regulation be changed to restrict parking on the Southerly side of the street, which is consistent with the signage on that street.

MOTION: Made by Mr. Cresta, second by Lt. Stephens, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that parking regulations on Claremont Terrace be restricted to “No Parking” on the Southerly side of Claremont Terrace and that parking be allowed on the Northerly side of the street.

#H – REQUEST FROM BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO REVIEW INSTALLING PARKING METERS ON HUMPHREY STREET AND OTHER AREAS

The Committee feels that there is a need, especially during the daytime hours, to enhance parking turnover on Humphrey Street to assist retail businesses on Humphrey Street. Parking turnover is hampered when employees in these businesses park on the street for the entire day. However, it is noted that there is no other place for employees to park nearby. The Committee believes that the Town should come up with a concrete plan for the area that considers the need for employee parking in the area, as well as convenient customer parking for retail businesses, and then propose a capital project to alter the street’s infrastructure, if needed, to include the possibility of either installing parking meters or a parking kiosk to enforce restricted parking in the area to ensure as many spaces are available as is possible for customer parking.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting closed at 4:10PM.

M. Ronald Mendes
Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair