



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

JANUARY 3, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), G. Cresta (DPW), T. Stephens (Police), P. Kane (Planning)
Members Absent: R. Mendes (Parking Clerk)
Others Present: Ruth Hendrickson (resident), Whitney White (resident), Polly Titcomb (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:05a by G. Cresta (standing in as chair for P. Kane who joined later in the meeting).

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

#B – STOP SIGN REQUEST (BURPEE ROAD @ BUENA VISTA STREET)

The Committee spoke with the Burpee Road area residents present (Ms. Hendrickson, Mr. White, and Ms. Titcomb) about the stop sign request. After a general discussion about the concerns (people speeding on Burpee Road, lack of visibility of cars turning out from Buena Vista Street onto Burpee Road), the Committee felt a solution would be to install a "Caution" sign with flashing lights on south bound direction of Burpee Road prior to Buena Vista Street intersection.

MOTION: by J. Potts to recommend the installation of a "Caution" sign with flashing lights on the south bound side of Burpee Road prior to intersection with Buena Vista Street, seconded by T. Stephens, unanimously agreed.

#A – REQUEST FOR NO PARKING NEAR CROSSWALK (NASON ROAD @ ORCHARD ROAD)

The resident that made the request was not present for the meeting. The concern raised in the email request was to improve visibility of pedestrians who use the crosswalk on Nason Road at Orchard Road. The Committee discussed the request. Members talked about the fact that if parking is restricted for a certain distance up to the crosswalk, people may still live park as they do in other no-parking areas near the schools during pickup/dropoff. T. Stephens suggested that two-car-lengths of space up to the crosswalk could be restricted (on the south side of the street). The rest of the Committee felt this was a good idea.

MOTION: by T. Stephens to recommend that a length of 38 feet prior to the crosswalk on the south side of Nason Road at the Orchard Road intersection be restricted to "no parking," seconded by J. Potts, unanimously agreed.

#C – TRAFFIC CALMING / PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DISCUSSION (NASON ROAD)

The Committee then continued their discussion from the previous meeting regarding general traffic calming and pedestrian safety issues on Nason Road. P. Kane provided members with a list of best practices for traffic calming: widening sidewalks/narrowing streets, bulbs/chokers/neckdowns/bumpouts, chicanes, road humps/speed tables/cushions. T. Stephens noted that the Police Department has installed the speed advisory sign on the road and that the sign has actually been encouraging slower driving because of the flashing of the sign. It appears to cause drivers to react and slow down. J. Potts suggested putting in a permanent advisory sign on the road since it appears to be working. P. Kane noted that although the TSAC members don't have the expertise to engineer more permanent design changes to the road, that the Town will be developing its Complete Streets Prioritization Plan soon and that plan will identify areas of improvement which the Town can then apply for grant money to help construct. After discussion, the Committee determined that a semi-permanent advisory sign should be installed on Nason Road for west-bound traffic.

#D – CROSSWALK IN FRONT OF ST. JOHN'S (HUMPHREY STREET)

A survey was posted on the Town website to receive ideas on how to improve the crosswalk in front of St. John's Church as it relates to the solar glare issue of concern. P. Kane went through the main ideas that were proposed: crosswalk traffic light, flashing yellow pedestrian lights (which have been purchased and will be installed), curb extensions (already installed), move the church parking lot to Blaney St, move the church service times, raise the pedestrian crossing signs higher, enforce the law (jaywalking, U-turns, speeding), make a pedestrian overpass, flashing yellow light suspended over the crosswalk in middle of road, pedestrian button at crosswalk that would then affect the stop lights at Redington and Blaney, add red bricks to crosswalk (already installed), rumble strip across the road prior upon approach to crosswalk, speed bump/table, lower the speed limit, crossing flags, remove the crosswalk, and consult traffic expert.

T. Stephens used an online tool (SunCalc) to help determine the time frame when the solar glare is most likely. DPW has received the flashing yellow crossing signs but can't install right now due to temperatures (need to pour concrete). It may have to wait until March unless there's a 50-degree day. The Committee then discussed the idea and feasibility of a speed table and felt this was a great option.

MOTION: by P. Kane to recommend that the crosswalk in front of St. John's Church on Humphrey Street be replaced with a speed table, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the Nov 28 meeting. No comments.

MOTION: by J. Potts to approve Nov 28, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by T. Stephens, and unanimously approved.

MOTION: by T. Stephens to adjourn the meeting, seconded by P. Kane, unanimous.

Meeting closed at 11:30a.

S. Peter Kane

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair