



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

MARCH 28, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 10:57 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: Mary Webster (resident), Ken Stoll (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:02a by P. Kane.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the Feb meeting. No comments.

MOTION: by T. Stephens to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by J. Potts, and unanimously approved.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

#B – NO PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF STREET (ELMWOOD ROAD FROM THOMAS ROAD TO PARADISE ROAD)

T. Stephens said the Police Department has received a number of complaints due to the limited access on this portion of roadway when vehicles are parked on both sides of the street. It limits the access to one travel lane, causing some backup. J. Potts said that the Fire Department avoids that road due to this issue and he believes there would be access issues if there was a fire on that portion of the street.

G. Cresta brought up that the Committee had discussed this item in the past when the Town added the traffic island on Elmwood Road at the intersection with Paradise Road. G. Cresta and J. Potts said they tested fire truck access at that time. It was difficult to get the truck through. G. Cresta also noted that parking on both sides does have a positive effect in that it slow traffic speed down.

Mary Webster (resident on this portion of Elmwood Road) said that parking on both sides has definitely helped reduce the speeding on the street. She invited the Police Department to sit in her driveway to watch what happens. T. Stephens

noted that drivers may pick up speed quickly but it's unlikely that they are going over the speed limit. Ms. Webster said that fire trucks have gone down Elmwood Road three times this year already. She noted it was tough but that they were able to make it. J. Potts said that the fire engines can do it, but it's the ladder truck that has the access issues. T. Stephens asked if Ms. Webster's lost mirrors and she noted that her son-in-law has. She's never seen anyone having to backup due to limited access.

T. Stephens said that there haven't been extensive accidents, just complaints. He suggested tabling his request.

MOTION: by T. Stephens to table the request with no action at this time, seconded by G. Cresta, unanimous.

#D – NO STANDING OR DROP-OFF (PURITAN ROAD AT JOHNSON PARK)

Ken Stoll, resident of Puritan Road, was present to explain his request. He lives across from Johnson Park and stated that there have been a lot of close-calls when people have been crossing the street at the crosswalk. People speed down this stretch of road. It's further complicated when people drop-off for the beach by pulling up close to the crosswalk. Other drivers will pass them and can't see people in the crosswalk. He saw someone with a baby carriage, and the carriage was nearly hit by a passing car. He suggested marking off two or three car lengths prior to the crosswalk so people don't drop off/park there (parking is currently not allowed on the street). He also hopes that police can increase enforcement of speeding on the road.

G. Cresta noted that he recently installed the yellow pedestrian signs and has used the in-road, moveable pedestrian sign in the past. Mr. Stoll requested that the moveable sign continue to be used.

T. Stephens said the Police Department has applied for a grant for another speed advisory sign, but it will need a pole to be installed on. Mr. Stoll suggested that it be placed for traffic heading west on Puritan Road (near Smith Lane).

G. Cresta said he doesn't like painting curbs as a policy. He suggested a sign for "No Drop-Off Here to Crosswalk." T. Stephens suggested hashed painting in the street as well.

Committee discussed the merits of the signage and markings.

MOTION: by P. Kane to install a "No Drop-Off Here to Crosswalk" sign and hashed markings on the street for two car lengths prior to crosswalk on Johnson Park side of Puritan Road, seconded by J. Potts, unanimously agreed.

#A – NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER (SWAMPSCOTT AVENUE AT PARADISE ROAD)

T. Stephens gave an overview of his request. The request is based on not just the visibility/line-of-sight issues that are caused by vehicles parked on Swampscott Avenue near the Paradise Road intersection, but it also impacts traffic entering Swampscott Avenue. Drivers on Paradise Road turning onto Swampscott Ave have been having issues with backups due to the on-street parking limiting access. The Committee believes the vehicles parked on the street are related to the service station. P. Kane will request the Building Inspector to determine if there are any violations related to zoning and the special permits for both the Paradise Gas/Service/Sales Center and Silver Star Motors. T. Stephens

noted that any parking restriction would need to be applied to both sides of the street. He suggested two car lengths of no parking up to the corner for both sides. The Committee discussed the feasibility of the recommendation.

MOTION : by T. Stephens to recommend “No Parking Here to Corner” for two car lengths on Swampscott Avenue at the Paradise Road intersection on both sides, seconded by J. Potts, unanimously agreed.

#C – MBTA BUS STOP IMPROVEMENT (SALEM STREET AT HUMPHREY STREET)

P. Kane provided an overview of the project scope. The Committee had previously reviewed the plans, however, the MBTA has been delayed with getting final construction documents. They recently submitted the updated designs which P. Kane went over. The bus stop on Salem Street at Humphrey Street will have the sidewalk extended up to the bus stop to improve accessibility. Additionally, the T will improve the two nearby crosswalks by adding in accessibility ramps on either side of both crosswalks. They will also install pedestrian-activated warning signs for the crosswalk across Humphrey Street. The Committee agreed that the improvements will be great though noted that ramps for the crosswalk on Salem Street should have been done perpendicular rather than angled into the center of the intersection.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee then reviewed their schedules to set the next meeting date. After discussion, the members agreed to meet on Thursday, Apr 26 @ 10a.

MOTION: by G. Cresta to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Stephens, unanimous.

Meeting closed at 10:57a.

S. Peter Kane
Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair