

Traffic Committee
Chronology of Issues Discussed/Recommendations
May 21, 2008

April, 2006

- Committee formed (first meeting 4/24/06). Meetings held on Wednesday mornings, 7:30 am.
Original members:
 - Mike Caron
 - Roland Codair
 - Sharon Freeman (nominated/voted in as chair)
 - Jack Moultrie
 - Chief Mulligan (or designee)
 - Ida Wye (recorder)
 - Mark Unger

- Topics discussed:
 - Traffic calming devices
 - Police presence – suggestion to have specific officer assigned to all shifts
 - Unauthorized signs- inventory needed
 - Parking meters – an option for downtown?
 - Coordinate meeting efforts with downtown beautification committee
 - Communication is key – website, press releases, community TV

June, 2006

- Press Release sent to community newspapers
- General discussion of top 5 pedestrian/traffic safety issues. Areas of greatest concern:
 - Lower Bailey Lane
 - Pleasant Street
 - Pond Street
 - Elm Street
 - East Main Street
 - West Main Street
- Keep Planning Board and School Safety Committee informed of committee progress (J. Moultrie agreed to represent Traffic Committee at School Safety meetings)
- Suggestion to visit roadways/intersections of concern, as a group
- Suggestion to develop noise ordinance
- Suggestion to develop ordinance against jake braking
- Overgrown brush obstructing sidewalks
- Suggestion to install light at Trestle Way
- Potential new Park and Ride on Rte 133/Rte 95 (Rowley line), 450-car capacity

July, 2006

- Guest Maria Martellucci from Moulton Street
 - Downtown not pedestrian friendly
 - Speed too fast
- Suggestion to paint marked lanes for bicycles and jogging
- Additional discussion on priority issues identified in June; new issues identified:
 - Utility poles obstruct sidewalks
 - School drop off/pick-up
 - Cut-throughs can be positive – eg alleviate traffic on main thoroughfare

August, 2006

- Guests: Douglas Cannon, Pond Street; George Perkins, Park Street; Michael Smith, Madison Avenue (Georgetown student)
- Suggestion to convert lights in square to blinking yellow from 9pm – 7am to alleviate congestion
- Relocate crosswalks in downtown area further away from intersections to where road is more narrow.

September, 2006

- Guests: Bill Spears, Maple Street; Jim Stoetzel, Maple Street
- Need to recruit new members (M. Unger resigned)
- Suggestion to focus on Square
- Library parking plan discussed (majority of spaces on Maple Street). Committee recommended that abutters speak with Planning Board regarding process for revisiting the approved site plan.

October, 2006

- Discussed increasing membership by 2-3 members.
- Suggestion that subcommittee of members work on specific issues.
- Parking regulations for Winter, Pleasant, Elm Streets discussed and recommendations voted on – to be presented at 10/18/06 Selectmen’s meeting.

November, 2006

- Guests – Bank of America representatives (Nancy Bell, Patricia McSweeney, Linda Sampson)
 - Guests suggested a parking restriction in front of bank - 15-minute parking between 8am-2pm
 - Concern – difficulty of enforcement
 - J Moultrie agreed to research if Smith Family Treehouse had parking restrictions in front of their business; stated that if parking restriction is pursued, Mass Highway must approve.
- Report on 10/18/06 Selectmen’s meeting – restriction on Winter Street changed from No Parking Anytime to No Parking M-F, 11-4 (see 10/30/06 Selectmen’s minutes)

December, 2006

- Meeting schedule changed from 7:30 am meeting to 7:30 pm meeting, beginning Jan 07.
- Roland Codair resigned from Committee
- Recruitment letters sent to select business owners (to fill committee vacancy)
- Bank of America request determined to be unenforceable – parking restriction will not be recommended to Selectmen
- Signage on Winter Street is not correct (states no parking anytime, not M-F, 11-4). Idling still an issue.
- Current Park and Ride expected to be renovated – design expected in Spring

January, 2007

- Guest: Jim Lacey, representing Georgetown Business Alliance
 - Possible joint projects: Park and Ride, including entrance. Need to investigate if that is permissible
- Issue of chirping on new lights (East Main/Winter, Square)
- Bill Spears and Maria Martellucci voted as new committee members

- Need inventory of illegal signage – J Moultrie to provide

March, 2007

- Portable truck scales discussed
- Crosswalk on North Street to be moved. Crossing at Pond and Prospect an issue but no plans to address.
- Approved:
 - Parking restriction on Chestnut/Elm Street (no parking)
 - Truck restriction on Tenney Street
- Agreed not to pursue noise ordinance – some issues can be addressed by Police Department without meter
- General discussion about height of residential fences that obstruct motorist vision
- Restated importance of signage inventory

June, 2007

- Peter Durkee, newly elected Highway Surveyor, new committee member
- Discussed obstructions in sidewalks, specifically tent signs of local businesses.
- Highway Department applying for TIP grants
- P Durkee and Sgt DeFeo will review signage issue
- Highway Department working with Dept. Corrections to cut brush back from sidewalks
- Discussed issue of streets with same/similar names.

July, 2007

- Discussed Traffic Committee's position on Library Parking (advocate for balanced parking, parallel parking)
- Need to repost signage on Maple Street (eg no left turn, 4-6 pm)
- Discussed adding speed limit signs on Rte 133 near Rte 95

August, 2007

- Deborah Mulligan voted as new committee member.
- Speed limit on Rte 133/Rte 95 overpass is 50 mph to True Lane – will not add signage
- P. Durkee reported that signage on sidewalks is not permitted
- Discussed Clark Street as partial 2-way; recommendation to Selectmen to keep as one-way from East Main but partial 2-way if accessing Clark Street from Middle Street

September, 2007

- Letters to businesses on Tenney Street and National Way sent to alert them of new truck restrictions
- Discussed roads that are not accepted by State
- Home owner at corner of Cottage and Andover Street will change fencing so motorist view is not obstructed
- Truck parking on corner of Scotty's Mobil has been addressed by Police Department and owner of Mobil
- Traffic flow around library to be discussed at future meeting

October, 2007

- Guest: Richard Paganelli of the Georgetown Recreational Path Committee
- Traffic Committee members expressed support for the Rail-Trail project and interest in working with the Rec Path Committee as it moves forward with the project.

November, 2007

- Discussion of Chaplin Hills resident's request to add a crosswalk at the intersection of Baldpate Road and Andover Street. The Traffic Committee suggested short term solution of using Canterbury Drive. Mid-term and long-term suggested solutions:
Mid-term
 - 1) Inquire about repainting the existing crosswalk at Canterbury Drive
 - 2) Inquire whether pedestrian signage can be added (or redeployed) to demark crosswalk at Andover Street/Canterbury Drive.
Long-term
 - 1) Determine whether a crosswalk must connect with a concrete or blacktop sidewalk (presently, the sidewalk on Andover Street stops before the intersection at Baldpate Road)
 - 2) Determine the feasibility (including cost, property issues, etc.) of extending the Andover Street sidewalk to the Baldpate Road intersection
 - 3) If 1&2 can be implemented, assess signage needs, cost, etc.
- Information needed:
 - Budget for sidewalks
 - Prioritization of repainting sidewalks, any restrictions (must they connect to hardtop)
 - The feasibility of redeploying crosswalk signage (eg to Canterbury/Andover Street crosswalk)
- The Executive Summary of the Master Plan (approved by the Planning Board in October 2007) was distributed. Several of the recommendations relate to pedestrian mobility and traffic. Committee members were asked to review the summary and Master Plan in preparation for future discussion. (see: http://www.georgetownma.gov/Public_Documents/index)

December 2007

- Sgt. DeFeo voted as member of committee (has been attending, but not formally appointed member)
- Discussed need to re-institute sidewalk at LW Bills.
- Discussed inviting Alana Schmitt Burns to future meeting to discuss traffic issues on Pond Street
- Discussed addressing inconsistent signage
- Discussed issue of too much signage in certain areas

February, 2008

- Agreed to review Brook Street one-way (eg, is it in the right direction)
- Road acceptance project – S Freeman to research and work with P Durkee and town. Need to determine:
 - Specific steps/protocols for getting streets accepted.
 - How much money must be bonded for a street project; who holds the bonded funds, and if we can access those funds to address the outstanding issues.
 - General process for street acceptance.