

Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 15, 2007
7:30 p.m. Town Hall

Present: Michael Caron, Sgt. Kevin DeFeo, Peter Durkee, Sharon Freeman, William Spears **Guests:** Richard Coco (1 Andover Street), Robert Davidson (Pleasant Street), Deborah Mulligan (Bailey Lane)

Old Business

- The minutes of the July 18, 2007 meeting were amended as follows (under New Business, first bullet):
 - Legal speed limits are as follows:
 - 20 mph School Zone
 - 30 mph Thickly Settled
 - 40 mph Rural
 - 50 mph Overpass
 - 65 mph Highway
 - The 25 mph designation is legal provided that the designation is included in the Town Bylaws and has gone through the formal process of amending the bylaws (e.g. formal hearing; Selectmen vote; State approval of change)
- The July 18, 2007 minutes were approved with the amendments as noted above.

Updates

- Sharon Freeman invited Deborah Mulligan of Bailey Lane (in attendance) and Robert Davidson of Pleasant Street (in attendance) to join the Traffic Committee.
- The Committee reviewed and approved the draft a letter to the businesses on Tenney Street regarding the new regulations. Sgt. DeFeo will send Sharon a list of the affected businesses. Sharon will prepare the letters for mailing and will inquire if the Town Administrator's office can assist with the postage.
- Sgt. DeFeo confirmed the speed limit from the Rte. 95 overpass to True Lane – the legal speed limit is 50 mph.
- Sgt. DeFeo and Peter Durkee are working to correct speed limit signage that is incorrectly posted.
- Peter Durkee confirmed with the Planning Board's office that signage on the sidewalks is not permitted. Scotty's Mobile has agreed to move their sidewalk signage off of the sidewalk.

New Business

The Committee discussed the proposal from Richard Coco and Ida Wye, 1 Andover Street, to change the designation of Clark Street from a one-way to a "No Thru Traffic":

- "No Thru Traffic" is impossible to enforce. The Police Department feels strongly that this designation is not feasible. In addition, new traffic issues (e.g. cut-through traffic from Middle and School Streets) may result if this is changed. The Committee and those in attendance concurred and there was consensus that "No Thru Traffic" should not be recommended.
- Sgt. DeFeo clarified that Clark Street is a legal one-way street, and has been a one-way street for at least 11 years. The requested change was prompted because of a recent "Courtesy Warning" about a violation of the one-way designation. Richard Coco stated that in the past, residents and guests of 1 Andover Street were permitted the access to their driveway. Sgt. DeFeo stated that the Police Department cannot permit exceptions.
- Sgt. DeFeo clarified that it is legal to access Clark Street by taking a left at the intersection of Rte 133 and Central Street and then take a sharp left after the monument (at the Village Sub). It was acknowledged by those present that making a left after the monument is difficult.
- Changing the designation of Clark Street may be precedent-setting. Sgt. DeFeo and others in attendance discussed that there are other residences in town that are inconvenienced by similar street designations and that is important to balance public safety with the needs of residents. The Committee and those in attendance concurred but felt that these types of issues could be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When reviewing such issues, one issue to consider is the volume of traffic and weighing it against the resident's request.

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- As a compromise, the Committee discussed retaining Clark Street as a one-way street from Andover Street, but reduce the one-way designation by a specific footage to enable 2-way traffic from the current location of the driveway of 1 Andover Street to Middle Street. The Committee felt strongly that the reduction should be based on a specific footage (rather than on the notation of the current driveway) for purposes of clarity, and to prevent confusion if the location of the current driveway changes in the future. It was felt that this compromise preserves the intent of the one-way designation to prevent cut-through traffic, and allows improved access to the current driveway of 1 Andover Street.
- The Committee discussed, and Mr. Coco acknowledged that motorists traveling from Clark Street toward Andover Street may use the driveway of 1 Andover Street to turn-around once they realize the one-way designation, but Mr. Coco was willing to concede this issue if there is improved access to his driveway.
- The Committee felt that if the recommendation of a partial one-way is accepted by the Board of Selectmen, it is important to also designate the intersection of Middle Street and Clark Street as “No Left Turn”. In addition, current signage on Clark Street would need to be moved.
- If the “No Left Turn” sign is placed at the intersection of Middle Street and Clark Street, Mr. Coco is aware of and agreed that he, and guests to his house, must travel School Street to Clark Street to access his driveway, once the one-way designation of Clark Street has been adjusted to include his driveway in a two-way traffic flow.

After an extensive discussion, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of the Selectmen the following motion, made by William Spears and voted in the affirmative by Michael Caron, Sgt. DeFeo, Sharon Freeman, and William Spears; Peter Durkee recused himself from the final vote because he is a resident of Clark Street:

The Traffic Committee recommends that the one-way zone on Clark Street be reduced from Andover Street to Middle Street by a specific footage (to be determined by Highway Surveyor Durkee) and that the intersection of Middle Street and Clark Street be designated as “No left turn”.

- New Membership:
 - Deborah Mulligan stated that she is willing to serve on the Traffic Committee. The Committee voted in favor (unanimous) of nominating Deborah Mulligan as a new member of the Traffic Committee. Sharon will write to the Selectmen, requesting that they appoint her to the Committee.
- Robert Davidson stated that he currently has other obligations on Wednesday evenings, therefore is not currently available to serve.
- The Committee agreed to postpone discussion about the traffic flow around the Library until the September meeting. Issues to be discussed include:
 - Potential changes to the signage on Maple Street (no left turn between 4-6 pm); moving the location of the sign to Winter Street, in front of Verizon
 - One-way street designation around the library – of particular concern is the potential of a Town Meeting in the library conference room while there is a funeral at Roberts Funeral home.
 - Cross walk location from Pleasant Street to Library may be dangerous; safer options for pedestrian access from Pleasant Street to the library will be discussed.
- Minutes submitted by Sharon Freeman for approval at next meeting.