

Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 19, 2007
7:30 p.m. Town Hall

Present: Sgt. Kevin DeFeo, Sharon Freeman, Deborah Mulligan, William Spears

Old Business

- The minutes from the October 17 and December 19, 2007 meetings were approved with amendments.

Update

- Tenney Street/National Way signage. Signage directing truck traffic to National Way may lead to confusion. Sgt. DeFeo stated that traffic on Tenney Street has improved. Further discussion of the issue is postponed until Peter can report on the status of current and/or planned signage, and the feasibility of additional signage.
- Crosswalks and sidewalks (e.g. redeploying duplicate crosswalk signage, adding arrows to pedestrian signs denoting location of crosswalk, information about crosswalk specifications/requirements - e.g. must crosswalks connect to a sidewalk, budget for repairing and adding new sidewalks/crosswalks, etc. Further discussion of the issue is postponed until Peter can respond.

New Business

- Sgt. DeFeo alerted the committee that he has not been officially appointed to the Traffic Committee.
- Sgt. DeFeo was nominated and the committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board of Selectmen appoint Sgt. DeFeo as an official member of the Traffic Committee. Sharon will write to the Board of Selectmen requesting the appointment.
- Sidewalk at Park Street and Maple Street (LW Bills) – parking lot was paved over, sidewalk is no longer delineated. Trucks obstruct area formerly used as sidewalk.
 - The Committee discussed the possibility of painting sidewalk lines. The Committee will check with Peter about the feasibility and budget.
 - The Committee will ask Peter if he would find out who owns the property between Maple Street and the fire escape (town property?)
- Resident Alana Schmitt Burns' request to make Prospect Street a one-way, reduce speed, or establish it as a school zone was discussed.
 - Sgt. DeFeo stated that the legal speed limit is 30 mph. However, it is not posted and most motorists assume the speed limit is 25 mph. Investigating the possibility of a lower speed limit could result in a denial and requirement to post the legal speed limit which is higher than most motorists currently travel.
 - Converting it to a one-way street is not feasible given the businesses that are located on Prospect Street:
 - One-way to West Main Street – Bob's Auto would not be able to use one mechanic's bay. Trucks making deliveries to Georgetown Lumber would need to travel via North Street and Prospect Street. One-way to Pond Street – Trucks leaving Georgetown Lumber would need to travel via Pond Street to North Street. In both cases, there is the potential of increased traffic during school drop-off and pick-up. A one-way designation may be more problematic for residents, particularly since all residents would need to abide by the one-way restriction.
 - Establishing Prospect Street as School Zone. We need to research the regulations but it is likely that Prospect Street is too far away from the Perley School to qualify. Sharon will look for information on school zone regulations; including the length of time that school zone flashers can be in use.
 - Sharon will draft a response to the resident explaining the Committee's review and the recommendation that no changes be made at this time.
- Issues to consider at future meetings:
 - Consistency of signage (e.g. street parking limitations from Richdale through Square)
 - Reduce number of signs posted in clusters (e.g. East Main Street)
- Minutes submitted by Sharon Freeman for approval at next meeting.