

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
January 25, 2010
Minutes

Present: Bill Ruoff – Chairman
Gil Archambault
Chief Fred Douglas
Bill Parker
Dave Wheeler
Dana MacAllister
Richard Tortorelli

Absent: Gary Daniels, Board of Selectmen representative

Secretary: Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary

1. *Roll Call vote required by the BOS.*

NEW BUSINESS:

2. *Request for speed reduction on Federal Hill Road (From BOS – a request from David Bucher, 178 Federal Hill Road)*

B. Ruoff asked if there were any thoughts regarding this item.

R. Tortorelli said he was familiar with the road and agreed the 35 mph speed limit was too fast for that road.

G. Archambault agreed and noted Savage Road was similar.

D. Wheeler asked how far along the road the speed limit was 35 mph.

B. Parker asked if the speed limit was 35 mph in Hollis.

F. Douglas replied it was 25 mph because the road became a dirt road. He noted this issue has come up twice and the town has invested several hundred dollars in “sharp curve” signs. He was asked to look at the area and he made a note of all the precautionary signs on the road and gave the report to Guy Scaife, Town Administrator. There is a double yellow line on the road and by definition of the state statutes, it is a rural area, which is defined by how close the houses are located together. As defined by the statutes, the speed limit in a rural area is 35 mph. They can reduce the speed limit to any speed except for 20 mph, which is reserved only for school zones. The area has been saturated by police presence and the electronic signs were installed on the road this past summer. He also stated the accident rate on the road does not warrant a reduction in the speed limit. The TSC instituted the signage on the town entrances that state the town wide speed limit is 30 mph unless otherwise posted to save time every time a request like this came before the committee. He thought they could take the 35 mph speed limit sign down to save the town some money. This issue has been addressed. The road has become heavily travelled over the past five (5) to eight (8) years by drivers using it as a cut through to and from Hollis.

B. Parker thought reducing the speed to 25 mph was too much but perhaps 30 mph would work.

D. MacAllister noted the road was curvy near Emerson Road, so it was tough to go fast in that section.

B. Parker thought they could install another town wide speed limit sign at the entrance to Milford from Hollis on Federal Hill Road.

F. Douglas noted that sign was not posted at that entrance to town but the road itself was posted at 35 mph.

B. Ruoff noted both Savage Road and Mason Road are posted at 30 mph, as is Ponemah Hill Road.

B. Parker felt the town should be consistent.

B. Ruoff asked if the state had any jurisdiction on Federal Hill Road with regard to the setting of the speed limits. The road reverts to a state road from Emerson Road to just past the Reserve development. He noted this was part of the state and town agreement when the bypass was built. He suggested this be tabled to the next meeting so either B. Ruoff or F. Douglas could contact the state to see if they can change the speed limit on the road. They would drop the speed limit to 30 mph on the entire road; he would not like to see two (2) speed limits on the road. If the state has no problems, they can then change the speed limit to 30 mph.

B. Parker agreed; this road should be consistent with Ponemah Hill Road.

F. Douglas understood the concerns and agreed they should see if the state will agree with it.

B. Parker asked if there was a motion.

G. Archambault motion the motion that either B. Ruoff or F. Douglas should contact the state through District 5 to see if the town has any jurisdiction to reduce the speed limit on Federal Hill Road and to table this item to the next meeting.

B. Parker seconded the motion; all were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Discussion: Elimination of parking space in front of Red Arrow Diner – (Tabled from December 21, 2009)

B. Parker thought the Board of Selectmen had already made their decision on this item. He believed the final outcome was the elimination of the parking spot closest to the crosswalk, restriped the remainder of the curve radius and take away the “loading zone only” parking spot near the island and making that available to everyone.

G. Archambault asked where the trucks would unload.

B. Parker replied they would probably still unload at the former “loading zone only” parking space.

R. Tortorelli made the motion to accept the vote of the selectmen.

B. Parker seconded; F. Douglas abstained and the rest of the committee were in favor.

F. Douglas explained his reasoning by stating he was unsure if the selectmen actually approved this or not, since there were no minutes available to confirm this.

B. Parker reiterated that it was decided upon by the selectmen. He also felt no approval by the committee was needed.

R. Tortorelli then removed his motion.

K. Parenti said she would look for the minutes from the January 4, 2010 BOS meeting and forward them to the committee to confirm B. Parker’s statements.

4. Update on Emerson Road, Route 13S, Armory Road letter – Bill Parker

B. Parker stated he had sent a letter of intent which is part of the process for the funding of such a project. These types of projects are 80-20 funding. NRPC will probably do some research, including an air quality test. The town is now in line to get funding to improve the intersection. The next thing the committee will need to do will be to ask

the BOS to support the 20% funding by the town. The application will be due April 1, 2010.

D. Wheeler asked if this would go into this year's budget.

B. Parker thought it would be a warrant article for next year.

B. Ruoff thought the signal upgrades would be the most costly part of the project; changing the lanes would be less expensive.

D. Wheeler thought that might not be the case since the grade drops sharply where the pavement ends.

B. Parker thought if everyone was okay with this, he would start pursuing a grant from NRPC.

5. Approval of minutes from December 21, 2009.

G. Archambault noted there was a spelling error on page three (3) of the minutes. He made a motion to approve the minutes with the change.

D. Wheeler seconded the motion

All were in favor of approving the minutes from December 21, 2009.

6. Election of Officers.

There was some discussion whether or not the chairman should be a town employee since they have access to support staff. The committee agreed that was the best solution.

R. Tortorelli nominated B. Ruoff for the position of chairman.

D. Wheeler seconded; all were in favor.

F. Douglas nominated G. Archambault for vice chairman.

B. Parker seconded; all were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

7. Kaley Park and the elimination of the turning lane on Nashua Street

G. Archambault, also a member of the Budget Committee, was asked by the committee to inquire about phase II of Kaley Park and the safety aspects of not having a turning lane on Nashua Street at that location.

B. Ruoff noted there really is no concern. Kaley Park is considerably different than was first proposed. At that time there were to be multiple athletic fields that could create a steady volume of traffic. Phase II is to improve the field by putting in subsoil, grade the lot, add loam and seed. There will be one (1) athletic field at one (1) elevation. This field will be irrigated and drained. This will function as a practice field for soccer, Pop Warner football, field hockey and t-ball. Instead of a farm field with rough terrain it will be one (1) practice field that is properly graded. In addition to that, there will be a conservation trail and an Eagle Scout will be building a boat launch. Under the original plan, the turning lane was crucial; today's plan with one (1) field, there is no need for the turning lane. Nicole Banks, recreation director, stated the usage of the field will be totally regulated by her department – all scheduling of the field will be done by them.

G. Archambault asked if there were any concerns with this.

B. Ruoff stated the traffic increase will not be significant, based on his experience.

B. Parker stated the whole intensity of the park has changed – from three (3) fields to one (1).

B. Ruoff also noted over the last three (3) years there has been a lot of activity on the field and no one has had any problems getting out of the park onto Nashua Street.

B. Parker noted there would be some problems during the evening rush hour but what has been built is totally different from what was conceived.

D. Wheeler noted the Department of Fish and Game has public access grants for water bodies. There are funds for anything from concrete slabs and smaller boat ramps. There is funding available but you have to get in line.

8. *Osgood Road sidewalks*

B. Parker thought it would be a good idea to have a TSC recommendation on the Osgood sidewalks warrant article.

B. Ruoff asked if the TSC was in favor of this project moving ahead; they were.

G. Archambault thought the recommendation could go into the voter's guide as well.

B. Ruoff asked if there was a motion to support the sidewalks on Osgood Road.

D. Wheeler made the motion; B. Parker seconded the motion.

All were in favor of stating, in the voters guide, that the TSC is in favor of the Kaley Park project and the Osgood Road sidewalk project.

9. *Elimination of the first parking space on Nashua Street that is to the right of School Street.*

F. Douglas brought this item forward for discussion at the next TSC meeting. He had gotten requests from residents of the Mill apartments to eliminate this parking space as it interferes with the line of site when exiting School Street onto Nashua Street.

B. Ruoff asked if there was anything from the BOS regarding this matter.

F. Douglas replied he would be bringing it to the Town Administrator.

B. Ruoff asked if there was any additional business; there was none so he asked for a motion to adjourn.

B. Parker made the motion to adjourn. F. Douglas seconded; all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.