

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**  
**December 21, 2009**  
**Minutes**

Present: Bill Ruoff – Chairman  
Gil Archambault  
Chief Fred Douglas  
Bill Parker  
Dave Wheeler  
Gary Daniels, Board of Selectmen representative

Absent: Dana MacAllister  
Richard Tortorelli

Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

*5. Approval of minutes from October 26, 2009.*

B. Ruoff asked if there was a motion to approve the above mentioned minutes.

G. Archambault made the motion to approve the minutes as written.

B. Parker seconded the motion.

G. Archambault asked if the town wide speed limit signs had been installed.

B. Ruoff replied they had; all are near the winter parking ban signs at all the major entrances to Milford.

All were in favor of approving the minutes from October 26, 2009.

*Approval of minutes from November 30, 2009.*

D. Wheeler made the motion to approve the above mentioned minutes.

F. Douglas seconded the motion.

G. Archambault noted there was an error on page 2 of the minutes. The phrase Planning Board should be replaced by the Board of Selectmen.

All were in favor of approving the minutes from November 30, 2009.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. *Discussion: Eliminating parking space in front of the Red Arrow Diner.*

B. Ruoff began by noting this item was not on the agenda but was something that was brought up during the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday Board of Selectmen meeting in November. Rodney Richey had witnessed a near miss at the crosswalk by the Red Arrow Diner and questioned the existence of the parking space adjacent to the crosswalk. The BOS is in discussions with the property owner regarding this as well as the possible addition of more 24 hour parking spaces on the Oval in the winter, in addition to the six (6) that are already there.

F. Douglas asked how the two items were related.

B. Ruoff replied he wasn't sure they were but he felt the parking space near the crosswalk should be eliminated as soon as possible.

B. Parker asked if Guy Scaife, town administrator, had spoken with the owner of the Red Arrow.

F. Douglas stated he had and the owner wanted another parking spot if they take that one away. He thought they were centering in on Bridge Street.

D. Wheeler asked what happened the last time this came up for discussion.

F. Douglas stated it was recommended the parking space be eliminated because the bridge is too narrow. There is a concern, when snow is pushed to the right side of Bridge Street that it makes the passage way too narrow. He noted the town has been lenient with delivery people when they park on Bridge Street and feels the owner is now being a horse trader and he does not agree with that.

G. Archambault noted in previous discussions regarding this location that F. Douglas has emphasized safety is the top priority.

F. Douglas noted R. Richey had seen something happen and this area has been looked at in depth. There were discussions proposing moving the crosswalk or limiting parking there to compact vehicles, which would be an enforcement nightmare. State statutes allow for twelve (12) to fifteen (15) feet between crosswalks and parking spaces, which this definitely does not meet, along with several around the Oval. The crosswalk in front of the diner is the worst and the TSC is on record saying something should be done about it. If something bad happens there, the town is on the line.

B. Parker asked if the BOS was looking for an updated recommendation from the TSC.

B. Ruoff asked G. Daniels if the TSC should send another letter to the BOS, recommending the removal of the parking space.

G. Daniels replied the BOS would like a couple more weeks to look at the situation and perhaps come up with other solutions.

B. Ruoff said the Committee could reiterate they want the space removed or should they wait to respond.

G. Archambault asked why the BOS wanted to wait.

G. Daniels stated they were trying to save the parking space. He wondered if you could have two (2) crosswalks run together in front of the Red Arrow Diner.

B. Ruoff replied moving the crosswalk requires a bump out and it can't be done in that area due to the drainage from the bridge.

G. Daniels asked why there needs to be a bump out.

B. Ruoff replied the crosswalk needs to be handicap accessible. The issue has been brought to the engineer and it came back with the recommendation of a small bump out; there is a curb there now.

G. Daniels asked why the curb can't be changed.

B. Parker stated anything can be changed; they can come up with any solution.

G. Archambault noted it would be a long crosswalk if the location was changed.

D. Wheeler recommended the crosswalk at the bridge be eliminated; people would just have to walk a few more steps to the other crosswalks.

F. Douglas noted there are tractor trailers constantly traveling across the bridge and impeding traffic.

G. Daniels stated there was more of a bottleneck going into the Oval than going out.

F. Douglas noted South Street has the same issues and a lot of money will be spent to correct that situation.

G. Daniels stated the Oval has been that way for a long time.

G. Archambault stated there was much more traffic now than there was 200 years ago when the Oval was first constructed. There is definitely a problem going into the Oval.

G. Daniels agreed this situation was not safe.

B. Ruoff stated he understood that this is more of a discussion, and the BOS is looking at other options. They should wait for BOS guidance on this issue.

G. Daniels noted the BOS didn't send anything back to the TSC. They will look at how wide the area is at the bridge and also the possibility of adding more parking, perhaps on Bridge Street.

F. Douglas did not agree with additional parking on Bridge Street- it would make the street too narrow for emergency vehicles.

B. Parker noted the TSC had drawn the area out with their suggestions and he had given it to Dawn Griska, Administrative Assistant to the BOS.

G. Daniels agreed again, this area is not safe. It is a hard sell to remove a parking space if they can't find a spot adjacent to it to replace it.

*2. Discussion: Turning lane on Nashua Street for Town and Country manufactured housing park. (Tabled from November 20, 2009)*

B. Parker began by showing plans of the existing conditions before the road was repaved and restriped. The plan showed striping that allowed residents to make a legal turn into the park.

F. Douglas noted drivers are currently making an illegal turn into the park by crossing the double yellow line.

B. Parker showed for the proposed light at Ponemah Hill Road, the road was striped to include the turning lane. The Committee can recommend restriping the road to make a legal left turn into the mobile home park.

D. Wheeler said there were 2 bumps to the left. They may move the white line more toward the curb to make more room for the turning lane. A slight tweek in the painting of the lines will make it work.

B. Ruoff asked if there was a motion to recommend the repainting of the turn lane into the Town and Country Mobile Home Park on Nashua Street.

B. Parker made the motion to recommend the repainting of the turning lane on Nashua Street.

G. Daniels seconded the motion; all were in favor.

B. Ruoff asked if there was any additional discussion.

G. Archambault noted when drivers come into the Oval heading east on Elm Street, there is an island and a crosswalk there. He noted someone had recently nearly been hit by a car driven by someone he assumed was distracted by the two (2) town informational signs placed on the island. He wondered if there was any other place to put those signs that wouldn't be such a distraction.

B. Ruoff noted there was a yield sign at that spot for drivers to yield to traffic in the Oval.

B. Parker noted the signs are just one (1) of many distractions on the Oval.

F. Douglas noted the combination of pedestrian and vehicle traffic on the Oval make the entire area very congested. The Uniform Traffic Control Manual states parking spaces should be fifteen (15) feet from any crosswalks. None of the crosswalks on the Oval are in conformance. He noted a pedestrian was hit by a car crossing in front of Dick's Barber Shop. There is no sight visibility in that congested area and there are two (2) lanes of traffic. Issues will still continue to happen. The area in front of the Red Arrow Diner is the worst scenario; the area by Dick's Barber Shop is next – if a large vehicle is parked there, the visibility is very limited. He still did not agree with the Oval configuration at the north end of the Oval. There are serious concerns all around the Oval. The south side of the Oval is a mess when there are lots of cars parked there. The parking spaces are not spread out as required by state statute. He thought much work needed to be done to the Oval parking and crosswalks to make it conform to state statutes. If they eliminate ten (10) to fifteen (15) spaces it would make an improvement, but they can't do that.

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

D. Wheeler made the motion to adjourn. B. Parker seconded; all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.