

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee
Public Meeting
November 18, 2013
Minutes

Call to order at 4:00 PM

Present: Gil Archambault – Chairman

Rick Riendeau – Vice Chairman, DPW Director

Gary Daniels – Board of Selectmen Representative

Michael Viola – Police Chief

Richard Tortorelli – Retired Fire Chief – Citizen Member

Dave Wheeler – Former Executive Councilor – Citizen Member - arrived at 1543

Bill Parker – Director of Community Development

Secretary: Ellen Works

A list of attendees is attached to these minutes.

1. Chairman Archambault greeted the assembly and opened the meeting by introducing the members of the committee. He noted that all parties who wished to speak would be heard. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the committee would consider all the information available and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen would then choose to enact any changes if appropriate.
 - a. Bill Parker gave a synopsis of the background on Phillips Way. A copy is attached to these minutes.
 - b. Chief Viola gave an update of a traffic study done on the accidents in the area for the past 3 years (Oct. 16, 2010 – October 16, 2013). In updating the information for today's meeting, no additional accidents were noted. A copy is attached to these minutes.
 - c. Bill Parker then recited some road grade research provided by Sanford Engineering. A copy is attached to these minutes. Ledgewood Drive was approved, with a variance, at an 8% grade, with some of interior Drives at 10%. They are private roads
2. Chairman Archambault noted that also to be addressed today was lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on Prospect Street and the addition of a "No Thru Trucks" sign for Prospect Street.
 - a. Rick Riendeau stated that the residents of Prospect Street have requested that their street be posted "No Thru Trucks". It is a long standing request as they feel that the delivery trucks serving Ledgewood Bay utilize their Street for access to that area.

- 1 i. Rick remembers the committee discussing it previously but was unsure of any
2 recommendations made.
- 3 ii. Selectman Daniels stated that as it was a “Public Hearing”, he would invite the
4 residents to comment on their views.
- 5 iii. Mark Weinstein of 79 Prospect Street was unclear on how these 3 topics got
6 bundled together for this hearing. He stated that it was true that sometime in the
7 past, they had requested a speed limit reduction, but that had been denied. He was
8 unaware of the “No Thru Trucking” request.
- 9 iv. Chairman Archambault noted that the committee had received a request from the
10 Board of Selectmen to look at these 3 items.
- 11 v. Selectman Daniels was unsure if he had a copy of the letter from the BOS but stated
12 the BOS Meeting minutes from this past summer reflect the request had come in.
- 13 vi. Joanne Laychak of 59 Prospect Street stated that the 3 things were bundled in a
14 letter from Guy Scaife, they did not come from anyone on Prospect Street.
- 15 vii. Robin Trecartin of 103 Prospect Street spoke about the trucks on Prospect Street. 3
16 times they have had incidents of 18 wheelers traveling up Prospect Street. Once
17 when she was traveling into the 90 degree turn, another a car carrier traveled up
18 the street onto Phillips Way and another when the 18 wheeler decided to turn
19 around and drove over her lawn. She feels that a sign would be a good idea.
- 20 viii. Charles Schelberg of 23 Gerry’s Way has a copy of a letter dated August 24th to the
21 Traffic Safety Committee Chairman from Guy Scaife requesting the 3 items.
- 22 ix. The Committee members declined to comment, awaiting comments on the
23 remainder of items.
- 24

25 3. Chairman Archambault requested comments on the request of the residents of Prospect Street to
26 lower the speed limit to 25 mph due to the steepness of the hill, the limited areas of sidewalks
27 paired with the number of children and walkers. They feel it would make a safer environment for all
28 residents.

- 29
- 30 i. Tim Barr of 44 Prospect Street stated that he would really just like the speed limit
31 posted. There are no signs currently.
- 32 ii. Chuck Schelberg asked what the default speed limit was?
- 33 iii. Chief Viola responded that if it is not posted, the speed limit is 30 mph.
- 34 iv. Steve Trecartin of 103 Prospect Street stated that his biggest concern is not the
35 lowering of the speed limit, yes he would like it lowered but how would it be
36 enforced? He sees a cruiser maybe once a week so if it is lowered, how is that going
37 to be enforced? He recognizes that there are other areas in town that are
38 problematic. It’s not to slam the Police Department but let’s not spend a great deal
39 of time on changing something that will not get enforced.
- 40 v. Chief Viola stated that when directed patrols of the area were done in 2012
41 covering a total of 7 hours, they encountered 71 cars. 39 traveled at a speed of less
42 than 25 mph, 27 that were traveling between 25 -30 mph, and 3 that were traveling
43 a little over 30. 2 people violated the one way on Phillips Way. When people call, we
44 try to address the issue but Mr. Trecartin is correct that at times it is not a priority.
- 45 vi. Chairman Archambault added that there are about 100 miles of roads in Milford and
46 the Police have limited vehicles. Every road in Milford has potential dangerous
47 spots.

- 1 vii. Edward Oswalt of 14 Prospect Street stated that his house is located just above the
2 corner and clearly people are gunning it to go up the hill. He's had numerous
3 neighbors comment that every once in a while he will have people run into his
4 fence. He feels 30 negotiating that curve is too fast.
- 5 viii. Selectman Daniels asked if Mr. Owsalt thought that people weren't seeing the
6 speed limit or perhaps they are ignoring it.
- 7 ix. Mr. Oswalt feels that the signs would make a difference. He has heard a lot of
8 people ask what the speed limit is. He doesn't feel that the speed limit in town is
9 common knowledge.
- 10 x. Joan Dargie of 136 Prospect Street stated that while we are looking at speeding on
11 Prospect, we should look at speeding on Ledgewood as there are people flying on
12 that road.
- 13 xi. Chairman Archambault closed this part of the discussion.
- 14
- 15 4. David Wheeler noted that the Committee would now entertain the assembly's comments regarding
16 the request from the Ledgewood Board of Directors to change the One Way direction on Phillips
17 Way allowing one way out onto Prospect Street rather than one way in. There are concerns with the
18 safety of the Tonella Road/Nashua Street intersection.
- 19
- 20 i. Chuck Schelberg stated that the core problem is Tonella and Nashua Street. And
21 solving the core problem will need warrant articles, maybe the taking of property,
22 etc. But it is a very bad intersection, and it's only going to get worse. In 1999 the
23 traffic study done said that the intersection was in failure. So, before Ledgewood or
24 anything like that the intersection was already in failure. And nothing has been done
25 with it. And it's been 14 years. So, people are looking to fix the problem and an easy
26 way to fix part of the problem is to turn the one way around. That's the reason why
27 this came up. On page 17 of the 1999 traffic report, that's where it says it's in failure
28 and all the data to back it up is on page 19. He stated that there is an opportunity
29 with an upcoming purchase at the corner of Clinton and Nashua Street to expand
30 Nashua Street. There could be a turning lane but you'd have to change the parking
31 lot of County Stores. He would like to see some solutions.
- 32 ii. Selectman Daniels asked what makes Tonella any more dangerous than any of the
33 other 28 driveways coming into Nashua Street in that area.
- 34 iii. Mr. Schelberg replied that it has a tremendous amount of traffic coming onto it and
35 out of it, about 300 vehicles daily. If you are making a left off of Tonella toward the
36 oval and there is a large truck parked in County Stores parking lot, you are blind
37 coming out of Tonella.
- 38 iv. Selectman Daniels responded that County Stores is private property and that the
39 Town could approach the owners and asks if they would restrict parking and offer to
40 paint No Truck Parking, but it is private property.
- 41 v. Mr. Schelberg feels that the entrance to County Stores from Tonella should be shut
42 off as well as the easternly entrance on Nashua Street leaving only the most
43 westernly entrance as the sole entrance/exit from the plaza. He is an engineer and
44 finds solutions.
- 45 vi. Chairman Archambault asked when all this traffic is entering and exiting from
46 Tonella.
- 47 vii. Mr. Schelberg stated the times are documented in both the traffic study from 1999
48 and 2000. It shows both the peak and the average. Ledgewood has 98 units;

1 Woodside Commons has 72 units, plus Ledgewood Bay. All those vehicles have no
2 choice but to enter/exit from Tonella.

3 viii. Chairman Archambault stated that Mr. Schelberg is quoting a 13 year old survey
4 that states that the area does not warrant a traffic light, why does he feel that it
5 does?

6 ix. Mr. Schelberg responded that those numbers are used to warrant a need of a traffic
7 light but it is problematic due to the County Stores parking lot and the left turn and
8 the amount of traffic on Nashua Street. You have a similar problem at Clinton and
9 it's even worse at Powers. He doesn't want another traffic light; he's trying to find a
10 solution.

11 x. Marge Hemmerich of 5 Memory Lane, also President of Ledgewood Owners, would
12 like to thank the TSC members for the time and effort put into this. She submitted a
13 letter from an owner who did not have time to mail it. (Copy attached) She hopes
14 that the committee studies all of the information before making a decision or
15 recommendation.

16 xi. Selectman Daniels asked what has changed since the study done in 2009.

17 xii. Ms. Hemmerich was unsure. She feels that Nashua Street may be much busier with
18 no lights to slow the traffic. Ledgewood Bay may have more residents with more
19 visitors and employees. She's more concerned with factual thoughtful deliberations.

20 xiii. Celeste Barr of 44 Prospect Street concurs with Mr. Schelberg that the Tonella
21 Road/Nashua Street intersection is a bad intersection and it may be uncomfortable
22 to take property to find a solution but making a band aid of Prospect Street is not an
23 answer. Taking the #2 problem area in town (Tonella Road/Nashua Street
24 intersection) and diverting it to the #3 problem in town (Prospect Street/South
25 Street intersection) is not a fix. There are 117 residences on Prospect Street plus 7
26 businesses between Prospect and Clinton and public parking. Plus several
27 intersections causing haphazard traffic flow. Should the direction change on Phillips
28 Way, all those vehicles with destinations northbound, southbound or westbound
29 would utilize Prospect Street to avoid Nashua Street.

30 xiv. Mr. Schelberg stated that the difference in the traffic from the 1999/2000 traffic
31 study to today is the fact that all the Ledgewood traffic was hypothetical. Residents
32 did not start moving in until 2003. Last phase was finished in 2005. Ledgewood Bay
33 did not open until after phase 4 of Ledgewood. It would be a good idea to put some
34 traffic counters out to find out the actual numbers.

35 xv. Selectman Daniels stated that if Ledgewood Bay opened in 2005, there was a traffic
36 study done in 2009 and what had changed since then.

37 xvi. Mr. Schelberg responded that things have not changed, they have gotten worse.

38 xvii. Stephen Goodwin of 131 Prospect Street noted that they had a lot of truck or
39 treaters that were not from the area because they felt that it was a safe area. He
40 sympathizes with his Ledgewood neighbors however fixing their problem by
41 dumping them onto Prospect Street is not the answer. Prospect Street is very
42 narrow, has the horrible left hand turn at the bottom and a horrible blind spot
43 partially up the hill. Stopping is necessary when meeting a car traveling in the other
44 direction by parked cars. Plus talk of expanding the road for a new development.

45 xviii. Selectman Daniels asked about the new development. Had Mr. Goodwin seen any
46 plans? Are they set in stone?

47 xix. Mr. Goodwin did not know.

- 1 xx. Bill Parker stated that there are no plans set in stone at the moment. The developer
2 is working with the planning board with a conceptual plan showing an additional 8
3 homes on Prospect Street. How that will work through the planning board remains
4 to be seen. The rest of the development access has not been worked through.
- 5 xxi. Marc Weinstein walks the area with his wife and dog and notes that through the
6 policing of the area he has seen a reduction in the traffic breaching the one way as
7 well as the elimination of trucks, and traffic seems to be traveling slower. He also
8 feels that the intersection at Tonella and Nashua Street should be fixed.
- 9 xxii. Selectman Daniels stated that the Town had added a left hand turning lane on
10 Tonella and studies had shown that a light is not warranted, so how else could this
11 be fixed?
- 12 xxiii. Mr. Weinstein recounted the 2009 traffic study saying that he would leave the fix to
13 those who were more knowledgeable.
- 14 xxiv. Ed Oswalt of 14 Prospect Street appreciated the plight of the people of Ledgewood,
15 but the solution is not Prospect.
- 16 xxv. Steven Trecartin of 103 Prospect Street commented that he was against the change
17 of direction on Phillips Way. His property is part of Phillips Way and last year he had
18 to push 3 cars off of his property due to travelling in excess of the speed limit and
19 not making the corner. He doesn't have a solution for Tonella/Nashua Street but
20 adding traffic to Prospect Street is not the answer.
- 21 xxvi. Kent Kolar of 135 Prospect Street stated that the 90 degree turn at the bottom of
22 Prospect is treacherous in winter. You need to get momentum to climb the hill in
23 inclement weather and you pray that no one is coming down around the corner
24 when you are trying to go up. Even on a salted road, you are going to veer into the
25 opposite lane. It's a caution.
- 26 xxvii. Carol Lambalot of 11 Vista Way feels that stop signs on Nashua Street would be a
27 solution. If people had to stop it would allow for Tonella Road travelers to get out.
28 It's troubling that a solution has not been found yet. A round-about would be
29 another solution.
- 30 xxviii. Selectman Daniels asked how happy would the people at County Stores be trying to
31 get back out into traffic? The survey stated that a stop light isn't warranted and
32 Nashua Street is a main thoroughfare going through. Where else do you see a street
33 that busy with stop signs?
- 34 xxix. Ms. Lambalot commented that it slowed down a lot of cars where she used to live.
- 35 xxx. Wolf Kagee of 54 Prospect Street stated that he was happy to see that folks were
36 focusing on the safety aspect, not just trending to push the problem elsewhere.
- 37 xxxi. Mr. Schelberg stated that there are 2 lanes out of Tonella, which is a blessing and a
38 curse. If there is a person in a SUV/truck trying to make a right hand turn onto
39 Tonella, the car trying to exit Tonella in the left lane cannot see anything. He then
40 asked Bill Parker why they don't move the road going from the new development to
41 Prospect (conceptually) to Ledgewood? He stated he is an engineer and he finds
42 solutions.
- 43 xxxii. Bill Parker replied that there is more than likely be a connection to Ledgewood as
44 the whole area develops out, but everything is still preliminary. But, the Town and
45 the planning and zoning boards are very aware of the existing problems and are
46 seeking to make sure that there are as many alternate accesses as they can.
- 47 xxxiii. Mr. Schelberg noted that it would still not help the Tonella/Nashua Street problem.

- 1 xxxiv. Jeff Curry of 84 Prospect Street felt that asking County Stores to make the Tonella
2 Road opening an exit only might help alleviate the problem. The other 2 can be
3 entrance/exits.
- 4 xxxv. Anita Johnson of 90 Prospect Street feels that many that are making the Prospect
5 Street solution sound like an easy fix are not thinking this through. If Phillips Way is
6 opened up to Prospect Street it has the potential to be the solution for many people
7 on that side of town to avoid the congestion of County Stores and the oval area
8 completely.
- 9 xxxvi. Mark Genovesi of 6 Christine Drive asked that the committee seriously consider the
10 option of a sensor activated light.
- 11 xxxvii. Selectman Daniels said that that suggestion is what they have at Walgreens.
- 12 xxxviii. Mr. Genovesi replied that it works. It works there and at several other intersections
13 that he is aware of.
- 14 xxxix. Walter Unda of 25 Gerry's Way noted that there has been a lot of mention about
15 the 2009 CLD study. He asked why the Selectmen have not done anything with the 3
16 proposals that CLD made in that study.
- 17 xl. Bill Parker responded that the study was a requirement for a huge pot of federal
18 funding that the town received. At the time the highest priority was improvements
19 at the oval. Then Nashua Street, Mont Vernon Street near the Post Office,
20 Cottage/Garden/Union St., and South/Prospect St. were identified. When we start
21 with this funding, we may have to re-prioritize. There have been no agreements yet
22 on what would be the best solution.
- 23 xli. Ms. Barr commented that we as a town have granted variances when Ledgewood
24 was built against the norm. It is time to fix the problems that were created. 14 years
25 is a long time.
- 26 xlii. Sherry Slade of 108 Prospect Street lives on the corner. She gets the speeders,
27 wrong way and all the trucks turning around. Changing the direction will not help
28 any of those.
- 29 xliii. Guy Scaife, Town Administrator of 13 Memory Lane stated to make a clarification,
30 he had bundled the 3 items together as the Board had received requests for the 3
31 different items in 2012 and felt that it made sense to look at them at the same time.
32 They had all been rejected, individually. This year the speed limit on Ledgewood has
33 been lowered by request to 25 mph and believes that it has had a positive influence.
34 He feels that it would be a benefit on Prospect Street. From his home in Ledgewood
35 he can see the delivery trucks that utilize Prospect Street to enter Ledgewood and
36 feels that "No Thru Trucks" signage would curb that usage. On the one way change
37 in direction there is no clear cut solution. The 1999 report shows that a turning lane
38 on Nashua Street is needed from Powers Street to Clinton Street. He feels that the
39 2009 study is not the one that should be looked at. The 1999 plan for Ledgewood
40 showed a single egress from Tonella and was kicked back many times by the
41 Planning Board. The 2000 addendum for Ledgewood showed Phillips Way as a 2-
42 way road. It also revalidated the traffic study on Nashua and Tonella along with the
43 traffic that would be traveling Prospect Street and Route 13. He asked that the
44 study be reviewed.
- 45 xliv. Selectman Daniels asked if delivery trucks unable to access Ledgewood from
46 Prospect would further impair visibility on Nashua Street.
- 47 xlv. Mr. Scaife felt it would have no impact.
- 48 xlvi. Mr. Schelberg asked what was next.

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- xlvi. Chairman Archambault replied when testimony was finished, the committee would recess for a few minutes and decide to continue tonight or to reconvene on another date. The public is welcome to attend, but no additional comments can be made.
- xlviii. Tim Barr asked for clarification on the speed limit request and signage.
- xlix. Ms. Laychak stated that Prospect Street requested the speed limit be lowered to 20 and compromised on 25. This was turned down. They requested signage for slow – children and were told that we didn’t want any more signs up there.
 - i. Tim Barr reminded the committee that Phillips Way was approved with one way into Ledgewood to allow Emergency Vehicles alternate access to Ledgewood Bay. To reverse the direction would prevent any emergency vehicle from access.
 - ii. Nina Thistle of 36 Prospect Street stated that she works all hours and has needed help on the hill numerous times. The only signs that she has seen are the no parking signs on the 90 degree corner. It is a risky intersection.
 - iii. Mr. Unda asked if there would be a separate item on the BOS agenda or if it would be in the other discussion section.
 - iiii. Selectman Daniels stated that it would be a separate item.
 - lv. No further comments, Chairman Archambault made a motion to close the public session. Seconded by Selectman Daniels. All were in favor and the public hearing was closed at 5:20 p.m.
 - lv. Recessed for 10 minutes.

5. The meeting reconvened at 5:30 pm. David Wheeler made a motion adjourn the meeting; to hold another meeting at a future date (to be legally posted) after December 7th to allow for ample time for committee members to review all information received. Further that in making recommendations to the BOS that they be more than yes or no recommendations, to include specific reasoning on the conclusions to be presented. The motion was seconded by Selectman Daniels. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.