

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2023 – MPD Community Room

Committee Members	Staff	Guests
Jason Plourde, Chair	Michael Viola, MPD Chief	Karin Cevasco
David Wheeler, Vice Chair	Craig Frye, MPD Captain	Jennifer Kimball
Nick Darchik, Member	Leo Lessard, DPW Director	Tiffany Norris
Chris Labonte, BOS Representative		Laura L.
Gary Daniels, Selectman		Ron Shusterman
		Glyn & Virginia Reinders
		Jeff Marcum & Amy Hindmarsh

1. **Opening:**

- Chairman Plourde opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and announced that Advisory Member Community Development Director Terrey Dolan was unable to attend. He then welcomed all in attendance, outlined the duties of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and reminded everyone the Committee did not make decisions; they provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
- Chairman Plourde stated there were two items on the agenda referred by the Board of Selectmen from the April 24, 2023 public meeting. The first being the Wallingford Road and Kendrick Lane intersection, and the second one related to Badger Hill Road.

2. **Old Business:**

- Vice Chair Wheeler moved to accept the Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2022. Selectman Labonte seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were accepted.

3. **Agenda Item #1- Traffic Safety Concern at Wallingford Road / Kendrick Lane Intersection:**

- Jane Tessier, Milford citizen who wrote a letter raising the issue and who resides at 91 Wallingford Road, was not in attendance. Chief Viola said he spoke to her by telephone, and her main issue is the stop bar lines need re-painting. Chairman Plourde read Ms. Tessier's March 31, 2023 letter into record and then summarized the Wallingford Road traffic safety concern discussed by the Committee on October 19, 2015. At that time, a motion was made to refresh the paint lines.
- Several committee members and staff physically visited the intersection. Chairman Plourde recommended DPW refreshen the paint out there to highlight the stop conditions. Selectman Daniels asked Chairman Plourde if he felt the stop sign also warranted replacing. Chairman Plourde said not at this time. Capt. Frye said the speed limit sign coming up from Wallingford Road and Ponemah Hill Road also needs to be straightened. Director Lessard stated he would put that on his list.
- Vice Chair Wheeler moved that the Committee recommend DPW freshen up the paint lines and maintain any signs that need maintenance at the intersection of Wallingford Road and Kendrick Lane. Mr. Darchik seconded. All were in favor.

4. **Agenda Item #2- Traffic Safety Concern at Badger Hill Estates:**

- Karin Cevasco of 181 Timber Ridge Drive spoke and summarized the email she wrote raising the concern and requesting safety improvements. Her main concerns are speeding, impatient drivers in the area tailgating and passing other motorists and school buses when stopped, and the safety of children. She requested at a minimum that a speed limit sign be placed near the entrance to the neighborhood on Woodhawk, and that the paint be refreshed at all the stop signs

in the neighborhood. She also requested that some sort of sign be added to warn drivers of the dangerous curve situation near 59 Badger Hill Drive.

- Several other Badger Hill residents spoke and voiced their traffic safety concerns as well, most being speeding, motorists passing other cars or stopped school buses, tailgating and blowing stop signs. They also noted that based on posts to their neighborhood Facebook page, many neighbors have conflicting opinions of what the speed limit in their neighborhood really is.
- Chief Viola stated MPD went out there today and confirmed there are no posted speed limit signs. It was clarified that the speed limit in the neighborhood is 30MPH because town-wide we have signage indicating the speed limit is 30MPH unless otherwise posted.
- Representative Labonte stated he wasn't opposed to putting a new sign out there, but because we already have the posted speed limit 30MPH signs entering town, he questioned if doing so would be setting a precedent for putting a speed limit sign on every road in Milford. Captain Frye responded that drivers can get up there without going by those signs because it's so far out. The Committee discussed that posting a speed limit sign saying 30 MPH unless otherwise posted on Woodhawk upon entering neighborhood would be wise.
- Several residents in attendance suggested other traffic safety measures such as speed bumps, rumble strips, additional stop signs, and specific pavement markings. Some residents felt 30MPH was too fast for their neighborhood and asked the procedure to lower the speed limit. The Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of each suggestion, reasoning that speed bumps and rumble strips are too difficult to plow in the winter, often cause motorists to increase their speeds, could create a drainage problem on the hill, and that traffic volumes out there do not warrant the painting of center lines. The Committee also concluded that additional signage for a dangerous curve near 59 Badger Hill was not warranted.
- Chairman Plourde explained the process to have the speed limit lowered and cautioned that having a study done could result in the speed limit being raised depending upon the results of the study and based on the intent of the study. He also clarified that the public does not get to vote on accepting or not accepting the results of study.
- Chairman Plourde described the different types of data collection available to the Town and the possibility of hiring a vendor to assist with data collection. He also asked the audience to take notice of offenses occurring by certain cars, certain license plates, or at certain times of the day. Residents were urged to let MPD know of these occurrences. He recommended to the Committee that MPD to show a presence during school dismissal when the bus is stopped at the Woodhawk Drive and Badger Hill Drive intersection letting children disembark.
- Chief Viola agreed police presence is important so he will have extra police presence there in the afternoons. He also said MPD has one large radar sign to trailer for use. Representative Labonte asked if we had any thoughts of buying any smaller mobile radar signs. Chief Viola will look into the costs of those.
- Some residents asked how long it would take for the safety measures being discussed tonight to be implemented. Chairman Plourde reiterated the procedure and also explained that the public is always welcome to attend Board of Selectmen meetings, telling them the Committee's recommendations to the Select Board regarding Badger Hill would be on the agenda for the Monday, May 22nd meeting.
- Vice Chair Wheeler moved that the Committee recommend the following improvements:
 - i. post a new 30MPH unless otherwise posted speed limit sign on Woodhawk upon entering Badger Hill Estates,
 - ii. increase police presence in the neighborhood,
 - iii. ensure DPW gets the streets in this neighborhood into their rotation for re-painting all stop line pavement markings,
 - iv. MPD will collect traffic data for a couple of weeks based on observations and their radar sign and will present the data to the Board of Selectmen.
- Selectman Labonte seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. **Other Business.**

- Chairman Plourde informed the Committee that another complaint from an Osgood Road resident regarding the Osgood Road/Woodhawk Drive stop sign may be coming from the Board of Selectmen.
- Chairman Plourde said our new Town Engineer Nicole Crawford is going to be doing some traffic and speed counts with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). Director Lessard was asked to ensure Nicole was shown the correct table to use within the Public Works' Standard Operating Procedures for those roadways to be considered for centerline striping and to have her coordinate with NRPC to help get that table updated with those traffic counts.
- Chairman Plourde said Bill Parker has shown interest in joining our Committee as Wade Campbell has stepped down, so he will send the Select Board a letter asking them to consider having him join our Committee. Selectman Daniels requested that Chairman Plourde also write a letter to the Select Board asking them to appoint him as a Citizen Member because he is no longer the Representative for the Select Board.
- Nye Drive/Osgood Road update – Chairman Plourde read the Committee members an email correspondence he had with Lincoln Daley, Terrey Dolan, Leo Lessard, Nicole Crawford, Chief Viola and Captain Frye. The intent of the email was to get an understanding of what liability the Town had regarding Nye Drive since this roadway is a private road. It was concluded that the Town has increased sightlines by trimming vegetation within the Osgood Road right-of-way. And, any additional clearing that needs to be done on private property falls to the landowners, including relocating mailboxes. The Committee also discussed the Nye Drive road sign. Because it is not a public way, it was decided that it would be best to add the word PRIVATE under Nye Drive. Chairman Plourde will add that recommendation to the Select Board.

6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business. Selectman Daniels moved to adjourn. Mr. Darchik seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Dishong
Secretary