

1 **TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TSC)**

2 **January 3, 2019**

3 **MEETING MINUTES**

4
5 Attendees: Jason Plourde, Chairman
6 David Wheeler, Vice Chairman
7 Gary Daniels, BOS representative
8 Gil Archambault
9 Nick Darchik
10 Rick Riendeau, Director of Public Works Department
11 Lincoln Daley, Director of Community Development
12 Mike Viola, Police Chief
13 Captain Craig Frye
14 Ellen Works, Recording Secretary
15

16 Absent: Wade Campbell
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19 Chairman Plourde called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

20 He then addressed the Old Business on the agenda:

- 21 1. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2017: Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting, and
22 gave an overview of the responsibilities of the committee for everyone present. As Gary was a
23 bit delayed, approval of the minutes was postponed so that 3 voting members that were
24 present for the October 20, 2017 meeting could be present. Upon revisit, a motion to accept the
25 minutes was made by Gil, seconded by Gary. All in favor 3-0-0.

26 New Business:

- 27 1. Armory Road Trail Crossing – Milford Conservation Commission: Andy Hughes and Chris
28 Costantino were present to present the plan to the committee to review. Andy presented an
29 overview of the plan to include re-grading the entry points of the trail, repainting of the
30 crosswalk, placing staggered gates that would encourage the bicycle riders to dismount before
31 entering Armory Road as well as stop signs for the pedestrian /bicycle traffic and electronic
32 warning signs placed on Armory Road to alert drivers of potential pedestrian traffic. This would
33 be paid for by the Conservation Commission with monies collected from registration fees to
34 Races sponsored by the Conservation Commission on the Rail Trail. Jason thanked Andy for the
35 presentation and noted as one who drives the area daily, improvements would be welcomed.
36 He felt that the electronic signs would be a good addition to note when people are at the

1 crosswalk. Radio signaled advance warning signs placed 100' from the crosswalk on either side
2 of Armory Road to warn drivers would be an asset. He asked about possibly painting the steps.
3 Chris commented that with the regrading, they were hoping to eliminate the steps. Captain Frye
4 noted that something should be done there as a lot of runners are in the "zone" when running
5 and Armory Road is heavily used, and includes a lot of truck traffic. Gil stated that he felt that it
6 was an elaborate system for a lightly used area. Place the stop signs for the pedestrians and
7 have them use a little common sense. Jason commented that trails are a very big push right now
8 as alternatives to road traffic. There are people who bike on the trails to go to work. DOT is
9 pushing for pedestrian/bicycle friendly options through the TAP Program. The school Cross
10 Country and Track Teams train on Armory Road and the Rail Trail. The National Guard also trains
11 there. It was also noted that this is a very shady area and solar power would be limited for the
12 electronic signs. Dave felt that the crosswalk, stop signs and staggered barriers make sense. The
13 electronic portion is questionable. Lincoln felt that there were a lot of valid statements coming
14 from this Board. Gary asked if there were any signs there at this time. Chris responded that
15 there were signs there presently. Gary also asked about the cost factor in this undertaking, as he
16 felt that the Melendy Road crossing was also in need of attention. Andy responded that they
17 were looking at Melendy Road separately through a land grant and are looking to put the tunnel
18 back underneath. Nick questioned the impact of electric on the towns' utility bill. Dave felt that
19 several of the recommendations should be enacted in short order to include the Stop Signs to
20 the Pedestrians, the crosswalk repainting and the staggered barriers. He felt that more
21 information regarding the feasibility and cost of the electronic warning system should be
22 compiled. Jason agreed. Nick felt that this was overkill. Things should be added as needed if the
23 basic improvements do not fix the problem. Rick felt that there were a lot of issues and that
24 people get complacent with signs, crosswalks. It's not an easy fix. Gary was not against safety
25 but wondered if we would be sending mixed messages with Stop Signs and a crosswalk. He feels
26 the law should be changed. Gil felt that we should move on as the committee had other items to
27 look at. Dave made a motion to **Recommend to add the Pedestrian facing Stop signs and the**
28 **staggered gates along with the modifications to the approach to the road on each side, and to**
29 **repaint the crosswalk. The Conservation Commission should further explore the costs and**
30 **feasibility of future electronic signage.** Seconded by Gary, all were in favor 5-0-0.

- 31
- 32 2. 483 Ponemah Hill Road – Blind Driveway: Teri LaRouche was present to represent her brother
33 who owns the property. Teri is a 4H Leader who has children present during meetings as they
34 work with the eight alpacas on the property. She feels that theirs' is a blind driveway and would
35 like some signage depicting the driveway. She has almost gotten hit when retrieving the mail
36 and must help visitors enter the roadway so that they don't get hit. The traffic coming from
37 Wallingford continuing toward Amherst does not stop at the Stop sign at Ponemah Hill Rd and is
38 traveling at a speed much higher than the posted 30mph. She has done her best to remove the
39 brush along the stone wall but has encountered Night Shade, which she is allergic to. Jason
40 asked if the mailbox was on the house side of the road or across the street, and if the sight line
41 was obstructed by the brush. Teri stated that the mailbox was on the house side of the road. Gil
42 stated he would like to hear Craig and Rick's comments, before a decision was to be made. Craig

1 noted that the Wallingford traffic is speeding. He feels that they should move the mailbox into
2 the yard further. Craig stated that there is a huge amount of traffic using that neighborhood to
3 cut through to Nashua. He feels that clearing out the brush would increase the sight line. Nick
4 suggested that a 36" Stop Sign be put on Wallingford at Ponemah Hill Rd intersection that may
5 help with people running the sign. Gary suggested one of the plastic "green men" to be placed
6 near the road during 4H meeting times to alert traffic. Rick stated they could replace the Stop
7 sign on Wallingford with a 36" sign but the real problem is complacency. The new pavement
8 contributes to the speed also. The stone wall cannot be removed or relocated as it is designated
9 a scenic road. Gary asked if any complaints had been received from the Ciardellis reference to
10 traffic issues. Not that anyone is aware of. There was a mention of lollypop driveway markers to
11 depict the driveway. Jason felt that the homeowner should consider investing in a double
12 opening mail box, it opens from the front for the mailmen to put the mail in and opens from the
13 back for the homeowner to get the mail. It would keep the homeowner further away from the
14 road. Dave stated that he couldn't see where they could put any blind driveway signs to help
15 with the problem, there is not enough distance from the corner. Nick stated that the distance to
16 see a sign is 115' for a car traveling 20 mph. After discussion it was agreed that clearing the
17 brush and saplings was the most beneficial solution at this time. Jason stated that the
18 committee understood Ms. LaRouche's concerns but at this time the committee felt that they
19 were unable to help as the most benefit would be clearing the brush on the property to provide
20 visibility for cars on Ponemah Hill Rd to see the driveway and for cars exiting the driveway to see
21 cars on Ponemah Hill Rd. Gary made a motion to **recommend not doing anything at this time**
22 **until the homeowner clears the area, therefore improving the sight line.** Gil seconded the
23 motion; all were in favor 5-0-0. It was suggested for the homeowner to work with the Ciardelli
24 family to clear the area.
25

- 26 3. 115 Colburn Road - Blind Driveway: The applicant was not present (David Harris). Jason stated
27 that he and Captain Frye had gone out to the area and it is very hilly, there are numerous signs
28 and the vegetation is abundant. The homeowner would need to do improvements on the
29 property to increase the sight line. Gary made a motion to notify the Selectmen that the **Traffic**
30 **Safety Committee recommends no further action on Colburn Road until the homeowner takes**
31 **action to improve the line of sight.** Seconded by Nick, all in favor 4-0-0 (Gil was out of the
32 room).
33

- 34 4. Committee members' comments on items not on the agenda.
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36 Jason noted that Gil's term was up in March of 2019. Gil returned to the meeting and stated
37 that he would like to continue with the committee.
38

39 Tina forwarded information from the DOT that they are updating their NODAL maps (crash
40 data). Milford has not been updated yet. It should be updated by January 28' 2019.
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42 A motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM by Gary, Nick seconded. All were in favor.