

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, June 26, 2015

Meeting commenced at 1:05 p.m., Friday, June 26, 2015

Present at Meeting: Chief Melanson, Lt. Buckley, Sgt. Raines, Matt Blume, Bill Warner & Jim Platosh

I. Old Business:

1. **0914-03 – Burlington Fire Department Signage for Rails to Trails** – (Mike Boucher) – Never had any feedback from the Fire Department; Denied request without prejudice. Item Closed. (Chief to see Town Manager for a replacement Committee member.)

2. **0515-02 – Speeding Cars on Riverview Drive, Woodpond Road and Woodruff Road; Request Speed Bumps**-(Carlos Hernandez) – Lt. Buckley reported that the speed sign was put out for 6 days and the findings were the road is posted at 20mph and had an average of 125 cars per day. The average speed was 19 mph, the high speed was 36 mph, and the lowest speed being 5 mph. 85 percentile speed was 21mph. Committee denied the request for speed bumps as the Town no longer has a program for their installation, and their overall effectiveness is questionable. This Item Closed.

3. **0515-04 – Request Yellow Flashing Lights near Pilgrim Path on Rte. 4 and Speeding Cars & School Bus Issues** – (Sharon Friend) – Matt Blume reported that he had spoken with Dawn Grayson, the Board of Education’s Transportation Coordinator about bus operations in this area. Dawn stated that the bus drops off and picks up children on the closed side of the street so children crossing the street is not critical. With respect to cars not stopping for the bus when the lights are flashing, the Police Department can take enforcement action with a written statement from the bus driver. Based on a review of the past several years of calls, passing the bus with lights flashing has not been reported by the drivers. It was also noted that Pilgrim Path is a private road so buses cannot pick up children on Pilgrim Path due to State Statutes. It was reported that flashing yellow lights may not help but we will request them from the DOT. There were 19 accidents in a 3 year period and all but 2 were following too closely and one was an animal in the road. This Item Closed.

4. **0515-05 – Request All-Way Stop Control at River Road Intersection at Longridge Court/Brightwood Road** – Matt Blume – Chief Melanson reported that he believes that on the right side of the road it does need more clearing of brush for a better site line. Matt reported that the sightline to the left is limited by a vertical curve, which will be further impacted by vegetation and/or snow cover. Chief Melanson and Russ Arnold will take a better look at this area before the next meeting with recommendations. This Item tabled for next TRB meeting.

II. New Business:

1. **0515-03 – Requesting to Turn High Street into a Cul-de-Sac or Place Speed Bumps** - (Jackie Pisani, Chris Harrison & other neighbors) – Several residents discussed the safety issues, the historic value of the homes on this road and they also gave the Committee a petition signed by the High Street Residents. The residents were concerned about both the Brickwalk and Parsons Parcel of land being expanded and the impact to

High Street. The residents would like to see a Cul-de-Sac with a gate and a remote for emergency vehicles. Another person suggested making High Street a One-Way street with a pedestrian and bicycle access way. After residents spoke, Chief Melanson reported to the group that the TRB Committee can only make recommendations and that the final decisions remain with the community as a whole and the Town Council (especially when recommendations may impact the town budget and capital projects). It was discussed that there could be other potential alternatives that need to be vetted. The committee mentioned that every alternative has impacts to other roads and intersections, and those impacts need to be evaluated to determine their viability. There was discussion about keeping the residents of High Street informed as the process advances, and it was decided to correspond with the residents via email. Some of the committee members wanted to try some cost effective solutions first, such as restricting left turns from Mountain Road onto High Street at peak hours, or using temporary barricades to gauge potential impacts. Jim Platosh suggested restricting a left turn onto High Street from Rte. 4 during peak hours and perhaps removing the No Right Turn on Red sign for the northbound approach to the intersection of Main Street at RT. 4. It was noted that if a Cul-de-Sac were installed, portions of property may have to be obtained. Matt Blume suggested that we develop a list of potential alternatives with their benefits, impacts, and relative costs for the next meeting.

2. **0615-01 – Request a “Children at Play” sign for Junior Road and Enforce Speeding cars.** –(Crystal LaPointe)
Matt Blume reported that this sign is no longer supported by the MUTCD. After discussions, it was decided to conduct selective enforcement in the area and have the Police Department speak with residents if appropriate. Crystal LaPointe should be informed that if she notices specific vehicles that appear to be speeding, to inform the police department for them to discuss with the vehicle’s owner. The speed trailer will also be installed. Item Closed.

III. Issues:

1. **TRB 0515-01 – Hatters Lane – Follow Up per Lt. Buckley** – Lt. Buckley reported that there was nowhere to place the speed sign so an officer was placed there for 7 days, 1 hour each morning and afternoon. The average speed was 28mph on a 25 mph road, the high speed was 35 mph and the low speed was 19 mph. There were 3 speeding tickets issued during that time. Item Closed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next TRB meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room .**

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Golas, Confidential Secretary