

TRAFFIC AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE (T&SC) MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 7:00PM

Weston Police Training Room

180 Boston Post Road By-Pass

Committee Members Attending:

Jay Doyle (Chair), Tom Benson, Andrew Chase, Richard Gula

Ex Officio Members Attending:

Steve Fogg (Town Engineer), Captain Tom Kelly (Weston Police Department)

Public Attending:

Dan Hill, Hill Law, 6 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

Paul Griner, 27 Pine Summit Circle

Warren Heilbronner, 3 Briar Lane

Joel Angiolillo, 326 Conant Road

1. *Introductions of Committee Members*

2. *Approval of minutes from previous meeting/posting of old minutes/assign someone to take minutes*

- The June minutes were approved, unanimously.
- Tom Benson volunteered to take minutes for tonight's meeting

3. *Public Comments / Letters from Residents*

Public Comments

Paul Griner – concerned about the intersection of Highland and Route 20 regarding the “high risk” designation by the state. Mr. Griner would like an update on the status of the activity regarding the concerns of safety. Steve Fogg said an inquiry was made of Mass DOT to see if they are going to undertake an investigation regarding the safety concerns. Jay said that procedurally a Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) should be conducted on the intersection. The committee would recommend to the Board of Selectman that such an audit should be done. Mr. Griner questioned to whom the report would be submitted. The answer is the report would be submitted to the town and Mass DOT. Next step would be to determine when the audit will be conducted. Richard Gula said frustration with this process is understandable and shared by him. When asked about money for studies, the town manager “rolled his eyes” and said not this year.

Letters from Residents

Update on Pine Brook letter – Andrew visited the site and observed the limited sight lines for drivers exiting the driveway. Emails received suggested that the issue is aggravated by the bushes blocking the view. The fire hydrant is hidden within the flowers on the edge of the roadway. Jay suggested Pine Brook should first attempt to ameliorate the situation by changing the things they can control, such as vegetation.

Update on Bullard/Byron intersection – Jay visited the site to assess the situation. DPW is looking at the site to determine whether there is a need for a yield sign or a stop sign. Tom Cullen is engaged in reviewing the data and DPW will take this issue forward with the support of the committee.

Joseph Dempsey requesting an update on the Love Lane work – DPW is conducting a study in conjunction with VHB and it is underway.

Route 30 sidewalks status requested by Jared Wilk.

CPC deadline for funding at Fall Town Meeting. September 10 is the deadline and the committee does not have any projects scheduled for funding at Fall Town Meeting.

Cat Rock update – Committee member Andrew visited Winthrop Circle on both a Saturday and Sunday to review the number of parked cars. Viewed 10 cars on one day and 8 cars the second day parked on the road. Did not see anything impeding traffic flow for cars or emergency vehicles. Captain Kelly noted that no police activity was reported since the last traffic committee meeting.

4. Updates on Walkway/Sidewalk projects

a. Merriam Street

- After our June meeting, we had a discussion about coordinating with the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen. about prioritizing projects with the DPW. This coordination should assist in better management of projects and expectations.
- From Cherry Brook Road and north, the work is proceeding with underground utilities. Concern that the sidewalk project costs would increase with the delay of the project to next construction season. It appears that any increase due to the delays would be absorbed by the DPW existing funding. Army Corps of Engineers now requires a permit due to the nature of the culvert work. This will add an additional delay. There is no work allowed in the water of the Cherry Brook after October 1. If the work is not completed by then, the next time to engage the work there is July 1, 2020.
- The North section – looking at the:
 - Utility poles to be moved
 - Eversource has been contacted so once their work is done it proceeds “down the pole”
 - Verizon
 - Comcast
 - Need clarity on legality of tying into existing drainage
- The Committee requests that DPW provide more clarity on the other aspects of the sidewalk project that would be done prior to July 1, 2020.
- Three out of nine easements have been acquired for the project.

b. Ash Street

- Case Estates and Legacy Trail construction is about ready to begin. Should commence in early August. A meeting with several people on June 18 to re-visit the Ash Street component to see what other alignments would work to get this going. Steve Fogg looking to get consensus with Weston stakeholders on what alternative might be preferred prior to re-engaging the town’s designer HSH. Steve has notes to review with Tom Cullen and will report back to the Committee.

5. TIP project design status

a. Route 30 (HSH)

- Questions from the last meeting regarding transitions between areas with the shared use path and areas that do not have the shared use path.
- Interest was expressed in looking at the integration of the Weston TIP project and the Newton work to cross Rt 128 with a similar biking and sidewalk configuration.

- Next step is to get feedback from HSH from the June meeting. Once we get that, we can then discuss this project in more detail and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to work toward a 25% completion design plan.
- Dan Hill, an attorney representing residents on Rt 30 was interested in the issue of sight distance and intersection alignment compliance for Hanover Weston and wondered why the town was interested in this TIP project. The answer was that since the town needs to resurface Rt 30 anyway, the town was interested in getting additional improvements the length of the corridor as part of the Rt 30 project by qualifying for state funding under the MassDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Hill was wondering if the 40B project was impacting this project design and whether any question about the Winter Street/Highland Ave/Rt 30.
- Hanover Weston (40B on Rt 30) has requested to present its traffic study to this committee.
- ZBA meeting on August 19, 2020.

b. Route 20 @ Wellesley St (VHB)

- Had meeting with Mass DOT district #6 regarding the plans

6. Updates: Projects/Designs/Studies/Issues

a. Rt 117 and Merriam project

- HSH is currently doing a traffic study
- Concern that current construction detours are impacting the actual volumes

b. Love Lane / Chestnut Street traffic mitigation

- Consultant suggested that we need to wait until the fall to get accurate traffic volumes
- Police Department will provide the traffic volume data that was taken earlier this year

c. School street speed study to be conducted in-house

d. Highland Avenue Pedestrian Crossing

- Recently received a memo from the town's traffic engineer who did a peer review of the Highland Meadows' traffic engineer
- Pedestrian crossing did meet standards for a crossing at both the North and South locations.
- Preference of Highland Meadows is for two crossings
- Need to determine how to fund the work – rough estimate is \$10K per crossing due to ADA compliance and other requirements.
- Motion to recommend the two pedestrian crossings of Highland Street consistent with VHB's July 11 memo. Motion passed unanimously.

7. DPW - Police - School Dept. requests

- None noted

Next meeting scheduled for August 14, 2019. – Meeting adjourned.