

Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee
May 10, 2011
Flynn Building, 9:30 am
Minutes

Present: Jody Kablack (Dir. Of Planning and Community Development), Bill Place (DPW Director), John Whalen (Asst. Fire Chief), Rick Glavin (Police Chief)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. Old Framingham Road stop sign request:

Thomas Travers, 32 Old Framingham Road, was present to discuss the need for stop signs on Old Framingham Road at the intersection of the Mahoney Farms/Grouse Hill roadways. Mr. Travers stated it is more of a problem for the Grouse Hill residents, as the sight distance to the south is impaired due to the hill. After discussion, the Traffic Safety Committee supported the suggestion to install "Dangerous Intersection – Slow" signs on Old Framingham Road warning drivers of the new developments. Mr. Travers will also work with the developer to install stop signs at the exits from the developments.

2. Traffic Calming Petition, Old Lancaster Road:

This agenda item was removed due to the inability of the petitioner to attend the meeting, and will be rescheduled.

3. Grouse Hill numbering:

A resident of Grouse Hill has contacted the Committee regarding the unit numbering at the development. Units are numbered 32 Old Framingham Road, Unit #__. This resident lives at Unit #32, and delivery people, postal workers and even public safety workers have confused her unit # for others. The Police Chief tested the 911 emergency system, and reported that calls are received by Unit #, so there is no public safety issue. This is also the same reporting system for the Fire Dept. It is hoped that over time deliveries and mail will adjust to the numbering system, as the development is relatively new. Persistent problems should continue to be reported.

4. Great Road/North Road intersection:

The Board of Selectmen was requested to look into the safety of this intersection by a resident, Sam Merra, who noted that a serious accident had occurred there recently. It was reported by Bill Place that he has been working with St. Michael's Church to obtain an easement which would enable the intersection to be reconstructed and more safely aligned, and that they have recently agreed to the easement. Church officials have requested some tree removal and replanting along Great Road as compensation for the easement. Jody Kablack and Bill Place have also had conversation with the property owners at 552 North Road regarding reconfiguration of their driveway as part of this project, and they seem willing to cooperate. It was decided that a recommendation would be made to the Selectmen regarding this project, and Ms. Kablack will follow through with the Church and the neighbor regarding the relevant easements and licenses.

5. Concord Road School Zone at LSRHS:

A site visit by the Central Transportation Planning Staff was conducted on May 6, 2011 to see if they have any recommendations for improvements to the intersection. One of the staff members reported that the new Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices changed the definition of a school to grades K-12 (whereas the definition in the Massachusetts Amendments to the

MUTCD defines schools only up to grade 8). This has been the difficulty in assigning such a designation to LSRHS. It was agreed that a memo will be written for presentation to the Selectmen asking our elected state officials to pressure MassHighway Dept. to amend their definition to be consistent with the federal definition, as this would then allow us to designate the area with flashing lights.

6. Walkway Prioritization:

Work on this issue was not completed, and will be presented at a later meeting.

7. Update on Route 20 Corridor Study:

The draft report has been received and edits have been recommended by Bill Place and Jody Kablack. It is anticipated that this will be unveiled at a Selectmen meeting sometime this summer.

8. Update on Landham Road signalization:

No change from the February minutes regarding this project.

MassHighway Dept. does not seem favorable to allowing the construction of a traffic signal at the Landham Road intersection, however the Town will complete the design plan which can be used for construction of the light in the future.

9. Update on Town Center project:

Rick Glavin expressed concern about the functioning of the lights recently, and questioned when they will be replaced. Without funding, this project may not be completed for years. John Whalen suggested using an opticom traffic control system when the lights are replaced. This system automatically controls the lights when public safety vehicles are entering the intersection.

10. Follow through from Feb. 17, 2011 meeting:

Bill Place reported that the pedestrian activation button at the North Road traffic signal will be installed once the walkway is completed.

Rick Glavin reported that he has had conversations with the Nobscot Road residents regarding traffic speed along that road. He has also sent data to the Old Lancaster Road residents.

The minutes of Feb. 17, 2011 were approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.