

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Glenn A. Olsson, Chairman
Sgt. David Horte, Representative for Chief Olsson
Lt. John Haley, Representative for Chief Robert Olsson
Harry Sylvester, DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Francis Donlan
Clark Frazier

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn A. Olsson
RE: Minutes of August 24, 2016 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: August 25, 2016

PRESENT: Sgt. David Horte, Hingham Police Department
Lt. John Haley, Hingham Fire Department
Harry Sylvester, Hingham DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Francis Donlan
Clark Frazier

Sgt. Horte the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

A motion was made by Harry Sylvester, seconded by Francis Donlan, to accept the minutes as written of the previous meeting on 6/29/16. Unanimous vote in favor.

I. Request for speed and blind drive signs on Harvard Drive

Harvard Drive resident Renee Rudolph requested a 20 MPH speed sign on Harvard Drive along with a Blind Drive sign at 15 Harvard Drive due to cars speeding in the neighborhood. Mrs. Rudolph cited a recent incident in which a dog was hit and killed by a young driver (18 years old) who was visiting. This happened outside of her house. This did cause drivers to slow down a bit but the speeds are still excessive. Mrs. Rudolph said that she has lived here for 37 years and this is the worst that it has been. She is afraid that if something isn't done, it could be a child who gets injured or worse. Sgt. Horte explained that signs such as the 20 MPH sign are suggested speed signs (yellow) and are not enforceable. Harry Sylvester said that the Town has an abundance of signs to which driver become immune and no longer notice them. It was also noted that there have been many people who have requested signs for neighborhoods who have been turned down. Most signs that are approved are on connector roads which are more heavily travelled. Bill Ramsey suggested that the Committee approve the Blind Driveway sign for Mrs. Rudolph. Harry Sylvester suggested that we take another look at this request next month after he inspects it further. He also asked that Sgt. Horte place the speed trailer there for a day or so with the suggested speed of 20 MPH on it to remind drivers to use caution on the street. It would also make residents aware that the Police are

aware of the speed issue in the neighborhood which will hopefully encourage them to slow down. The matter will be revisited in the next month or two.

II. Crash histories of JC Way/Kilby, JC Way/Summer and JC Way/East St.

Sgt. Horte presented a comparison of crash histories of the three intersections over the past 3 years. The data showed that the redesign of Rte. 3A at Summer St. with traffic light control is quite safe with a total of 5 crashes in 3 years with no injuries, 3 vehicles required to be towed, most of which were rear end collisions. JC Way at East had 12 collisions over the 3 year period which is one less than JC Way at Kilby but there were no injuries reported from any of those crashes. There were 5 at JC Way/Kilby, 4 of which were classified as serious with incapacitating injuries. The crashes at JC Way/East were a combination of rear end, side swipe same direction, angle and one single vehicle crash. Every crash at JC Way/Kilby was an angle type of collision. Crashes at JC Way/East resulted in 5 vehicles being towed compared to 22 being towed from JC Way/Kilby. Based on this data, JC Way/Kilby is a significantly more dangerous intersection in terms of the amount of personal injury and a higher level of property damage. Summer at JC Way has proven to be an efficient and safe alternative to JC Way/Kilby and it seems likely that the closing of the proposed section of Kilby would not cause a more hazardous condition than what exists now. Harry Sylvester said that Mass DOT should be contacted with his information so that they can do a Road Safety Audit. Officer Kilroy's powerpoint presentation will be included as well. This way the entire area will be able to be included in a comprehensive study. Clark Frazier said that this is not a good idea due to the fact that it would increase traffic on Summer Street and that residents in those neighborhoods would likely not be on board with this solution. Clark Frazier also stated that the lines at the stop sign at Kilby and JC Way are faded and it would be helpful if they were repainted. Harry Sylvester said that Mass DOT is responsible for this and they need to be notified. This can be included in the request for the Road Safety Audit as well. Sgt.Horte said that Mass DOT could be bypassed entirely by closing short Kilby St. It was discussed further and determined that the best course is to request the Road Safety Audit by Mass DOT with a unanimous vote in favor.

Smith Road resident Craig Caudill attended the meeting and said that he had been playing phone tag with Sgt. Horte and figured that he'd come to the meeting to learn about the process and discuss his issue. Since it wasn't on the agenda, nothing can be voted on tonight. The issue will be put on the agenda for next month. The issue is that Smith Road is a cut through road to the Transfer Station and cars tend to go faster than they should in a neighborhood with many children. Mr. Caudill would like there to be a suggested speed sign posted.

III. Bike Routes in Hingham

Harry Sylvester stated that there are three primary destinations for bikers travelling through Hingham: The Square, Wompatuck State Park and Hull. To this end, he would like to put bicycle route symbols and associated signs along the following routes: Rte. 228 (from Queen Anne's Corner to West Corner), Free Street, Union Street, Middle

Street, Pear Tree Hill, Main Street to Elm Street, Central St. from Main to Elm The fog lines (white lines on edge of street) would remain and the line would be to the right of the fog line. This would be a safer zone for bikers. . Harry Sylvester made a recommendation to do this, seconded by Bill Ramsey will all in favor. There will be a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to designate the above routes as bike routes and have DPW mark them accordingly. If approved, this could be done in October. designate the above routes as bike routes and have DPW mark them accordingly. Bill Ramsey made a motion to make this recommendation, seconded by John Haley, With a unanimous vote in favor.

Next month's meeting is scheduled to be held on 9/28/16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant