



Town of Danvers

Traffic Advisory Committee

1 Sylvan Street, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923
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Aaron Henry, Chair – Land Use
Daniel Bennett, Selectmen Liaison
Anthony Calascibetta, Electric
Justin Curewitz, BETA
Rob Dever, DPW Director of Operations
Mark Hannon, DFD
Renee Hunter, Engineering
Robert Sullivan, DPD
Kathy Ciman, Parking Officer

Minutes January 25, 2022 2:30 PM Toomey Room, Town Hall

The meeting was led by Aaron Henry, Chair and Director of Land Use and Community Services. Members, except Anthony Calascibetta, Mark Hannon, and public attendees, were present.

NEW BUSINESS

- PUBLIC COMMENT

- ROUTE 62 @ BELGIAN ROAD

Rapid beacon was approved and might be a cost that the school committee could fund since this impacts school age children. Henry stated as a side note, working with another institution on safe routes to school program.

Next Steps:

Explore funding options.

- ROUTE 62 @ BAYBERRY

This is a bigger conversation. Henry stated that there needs to be a traffic calming. At the last meeting RFB was discussed and installing advanced warning signs. A rapid flashing beacon was discussed at the last meeting, and installing advanced warning signs. A pedestrian or full traffic signal would be ideal but unless there is a lot of walking traffic, it will probably not be approved.

Next Steps:

A request will be submitted to the School Committee to change the bus route for the safety of the children.

- CENTRE STREET @ COLLINS STREET; PINE STREET @ VINEYARD STREET; MAPLE STREET @ POPLAR STREET;
WESTBOUND TRAFFIC AT INTERSECTIONS ON MAPLE STREET & COLLINS STREET

Request to install signs that require the driver to use turning signals to allow at specific intersections. Legally, drivers are not required to use their blinkers. The town could install advisory signs, but these are unenforceable. Maybe striping and curbing would be a solution.

Next Steps:

Discuss with DPW pavement options. If need be, fall back on the installation of signage.

- GOULD STREET

Kathy Ciman, Parking Officer, brought to the attention of the Commission that there are eight (8) cars believed to be from the apartment building, parking on grass, a right of way, next to the cemetery. The cemetery wall has been damaged and during snowstorms, the snow is being dumped into the cemetery.

If “No Parking” signs are installed, this will only cause these tenants to park on surrounding streets.

Henry suggested maybe adding pavement to the area closest to the apartment building, however this would only allow for four (4) cars.

Next Steps:

Need to research the right of way. Henry will speak to DPW about adding pavement. If they disagree and regulations do not allow, then this will require another conversation.

- **DAYTON STREET**

Resident requested to lower the 40 mph speed zone which is a few blocks from a church and daycare.

Henry stated that a request to repeal the 40 mph speed zone will be submitted to the state. Due to the increase in housing developments, this being the narrowest part of the street, addition of a bus stop and a crosswalk, he is hoping that MassDOT will be willing to lower the speed limit. The request will be to continue to the 30 mph into the 40 mph zone.

The McGinley's informed the Commission that the middle school and elementary buses are stopping at Anna Street, pulling across the road and backing down the street, placing those children on the bus at risk. Lieutenant Sullivan will reach out to the school resource officer.

Justin Curewitz, BETA, suggested including petitions from the neighborhood with the repeal letter to MassDOT.

Next Steps:

Henry will draft up a repeal letter for MassDOT.

- **PORTER STREET**

At the last meeting, the Commission did not support the request to eliminate parking from the corner of High Street to the requester's driveway.

Ciman spoke to the business and the homeowner. It appears that visitors from the apartment building are also parking in this area, not just the overflow of cars from the business across the street.

If the signs were approved, it is a regulatory issue and would require approval from the Select Board. Mr. Bennett, Select Board Liaison, suggested stripping parking spaces instead.

Next Steps:

Check with DPW on stripping two (2) parking spaces. Fire will check if the apparatus can make the turn with cars parked there.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SCHOOL STREET**

This agenda item was tabled for this meeting.

- **ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL PARKING ISSUES**

Henry stated that the abutter cards that included a resident parking survey were sent to all those on surrounding streets to Essex Tech. There were 37 residents who responded. The poll asked if residents would be opposed to a parking permit for each car registered at their home, and a couple of guest passes for their visitors.

Most were in favor of the resident stickers, five (5) wanted more information and four (4) were a hard no. Those residents on Hazen Street and beyond asked to be dropped from the resident parking program. Henry explained that if they may be impacted should resident parking program be implemented in other portions of the neighborhood. A request to extend the resident parking to 5:00pm was suggested due to school sports within the field.

The Commission was made aware by a resident that the Tech has placed boulders on Preston Street, next to field in hopes of eliminating parking at the ball park. This is not allowed and the Town will reach out to the school.

The residents on Grandview have never seen it so out of control. They notice empty spaces in parking lot and have been told that students are avoiding parking on the school grounds to skirt the parking fee.

Lieutenant Sullivan requested that the regulation needs to be crafted to identify specifics in order to enforce Resident Parking.

Justin Curewitz stated that the only way this will be successful if there is money in the budget to enforce it.

Ciman monitored the area and assessed that students will park there to avoid the traffic which will continue until proper signage is installed. She will continue to monitor the area.

Hannon is supportive that something needs to be done, however thinks the emphasis should be on the school, not the Town. Bennett and Calascibetta are in favor of the Resident Only parking.

- **OPEN ITEM STATUS UPDATES**

Henry asked the Commission if they would be available to hold a Special Meeting in February to discuss some of the pending agenda items. This meeting will be held on February 8, 2023. The February 22, 2023 will address a request from several neighbors within a neighborhood.

NEXT MEETING

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for a Special Meeting on February 8, 2023, in the Toomey Room, Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm