

Meeting Minutes
Wakefield Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting
November 1st 2019

Members Present:

Lt. Anderson, S. Maio, J. Conway, W. Renault, M. Kealey,
P. Reavis, D. Benjamin, L. Benjamin, M. Luca, B. Schiaroli

Meeting brought to order by Lt. Anderson at 8:31 AM

ITEM 1 | Possible Crosswalks

a) Church St. and North Avenue.

Citizens are concerned about vehicles turning right on red onto North Ave. from Church St. while pedestrians are crossing North Ave. near Vets Field.

An illuminated *No Turn on Red* sign that is activated by the pedestrian signal would alleviate this concern and keep traffic flowing from Church St. when no pedestrians are crossing.

Lt. Anderson pointed out this item was already approved by the TAC in 2016.

S. Maio requested the item be sent as a capital request.

b) Hall Park/North Ave.

No updates at this time.

c) North Ave. and West Water St.

Councilor Santos expressed concern for children crossing this intersection heading toward the Galvin Middle School during peak hours when cars are turning into this busy intersection.

Lt. Anderson obtained a quote for flashing pedestrian signs. W. Renault and M. Kealey pointed out that those signs are not the right application for this intersection.

M. Kealey will look into any other options for this crosswalk.

P. Reavis pointed out that street lighting doesn't seem adequate in that area.

J. Conway will look into possible repainting.

Lt. Anderson suggested hi-visibility signage to at least draw attention to the existing crosswalk.

ITEM 2 | Parking

a) 642 Main St.

Lt. Anderson spoke about the current no parking sign that is confusing to motorists. The sign was originally there to restrict parking near a fire hydrant and the corner of the driveway to Dunkin Donuts.

Attorney Brian McGrail was present with the developer Mr. Ray Lawton. They asked that one parking space be allowed prior to the fire hydrant.

Lt. Anderson asked if there was any concern about visibility exiting the new parking garage. No one expressed any concern.

Attorney McGrail pointed out that the development would have some office space or small commercial space on the ground level and a parking spot there would be ideal.

W. Renault suggested painting one parking space at that location 10' from the fire hydrant so that it is clear only one vehicle can park there.

Lt. Anderson proposed the area be posted No Parking Here to Corner - 10' from the fire hydrant with an arrow pointing north toward Dunkin Donuts/Nahant St.

It was agreed by all TAC members present to have the signage installed with one painted parking space.

ITEM 3 | Parking Permits

The TAC meeting was well attended by members of the public for this agenda item.

Lt. Anderson said he has received a number of complaints from residents of neighborhoods with time restricted parking.

Multiple residents spoke in favor of increasing the number of streets that are approved to purchase resident parking permits as it has been a hardship on their families, visitors and in some cases healthcare aides.

S. Maio made a motion to offer resident parking permits to the residents of the following streets:

- Pitman Ave.
- Cedar St. from Albion to Chestnut St.
- Murray St.
- Oak St. to Greenwood Ave.
- Chestnut St. from North Ave. to Cedar St.
- Gould St. from Albion St. to Cedar St.
- Greenwood Ave.
- Emerson St. from Gould to Chestnut St.

It was agreed by all TAC members present to allow resident parking permits for the above listed streets.

ITEM 4 | Traffic Assessment 200 Quannapowitt Parkway

Attorney McGrail & Giles Ham of Vanasse & Associates presented a preliminary traffic assessment for the redevelopment of the existing building at 200 Quannapowitt Parkway. The planned use is a research & development lab. The parking lots will be repaved and improved where needed. Input was solicited from the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt. MassDOT was consulted by Vanasse & Associates. A review by MassDOT is not required.

M. Luca asked about the impact on traffic exiting on the Lowell St. side near Honey Dew Donuts.

Based on the traffic assessment M. Kealey reviewed he is comfortable with the assessment. Calculations appear appropriate for the proposed project.

ITEM 5 | Possible Intersection Improvements – Lowell & Salem St.

M. Kealey of VHB provided TAC members with two concepts for this intersection.

W. Renault informed the TAC that the DPW needs to do some outreach to abutters before moving forward as there are driveways and a road, Hope Terrace that would be impacted by any changes.

A resident of Hope Terrace spoke and expressed the need for a crosswalk in this area. W. Renault informed the TAC that a crosswalk has been designed for this area pending any intersection improvements.

ITEM 6 | Possible Signage

a) North Avenue & Yale Avenue – Don't Block Intersection Request.

Lt. Anderson received a request from a Yale Ave resident for a Don't Block Intersection sign due to traffic that backs up on North Ave. past Yale Ave creating gridlock for turning cars.

It was agreed by all TAC members present to have this signage installed.

b) Hawes Avenue & Hawley Road – Stop Sign Request

Melrose DPW Director Rick Stinson and Melrose City Engineer Elena Ellis were present to discuss a request from both Wakefield and Melrose residents to install a stop sign on Hawes Ave in Wakefield at the intersection of Hawley Rd. Melrose.

E. Ellis provided a list of several complaints received recently by both Wakefield and Melrose residents.

Currently this four way intersection only has one stop sign on Hawley Rd. and it is not clear who has the right of way. The current setup has led to many near collisions.

It was agreed by all TAC members present to have this signage installed.

J. Conway offered to have the Wakefield DPW install the sign.

Meeting Adjourned by Lt. Anderson at 10:35 AM.

Next meeting date: TBD (December)