

**Meeting Minutes
Wakefield Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting
August 21st, 2020 via Zoom**

Members Present:

Lt. J. Anderson, W. Renault, M. Kealey, D. Benjamin, L. Benjamin,
J. Conway, R. Hudson.

Item 1 – Call to Order 8:33 AM

Item 2 – Attendance

Item 3 – Public Participation

Web submission from Deborah Ulrich a resident of 15 Lafayette St. She wrote to request that the Common St. traffic pattern be changed back to two-way traffic. Cites an increase of traffic on Lafayette St. Excessive speed, difficulty exiting driveway, quality of life issues with the increase in traffic. She requested the traffic configuration be revisited. W. Renault provided insight into reasoning for reconfiguration. He has not received any positive or negative feedback since the change. At this point the only changes that were made were line painting, signage etc. and it could be changed back in the future if requested by Town Council.

Item 4 – Parking Restrictions

A. Crescent St. near Brightview Development – update.

Complaint received about parking causing a reduction in roadway width causing only one lane of traffic at a time or risk head on collision.

W. Renault provided measurements. Available road width does not support parking.

Majority of the curve is under 25' which does not support two 10' travel lanes and 7.5-9' for on-street parking.

J. Anderson suggested Brightview could look into moving the sidewalk onto their property to support on-street parking if they wanted.

No representatives from Brightview present.

Public participation by resident Bronwyn Dellavolpe. She asked about measurements prior to Brightview and what the next steps are.

D. Benjamin was concerned about clipping mirrors driving by, concerned because it is a main access road by the fire department.

Resident Christopher Blauvelt asked where the displaced parking would go. Cited issues on Eaton St. with parking.

J. Anderson made a motion to restrict parking in front of Brightview from Eaton St. to Centre St. on a temporary basis and see if Brightview is interested making any improvements.

Second by W. Renault. Motion passed with all in favor.

B. Eaton St. near Crescent St. No Parking Here to Corner

J. Anderson presented a complaint received by a group of Eaton St. residents regarding parking on both sides of the entrance to Eaton St. from Crescent St. Additionally, Brightview staff and visitors park on Eaton St. and congest their street.

Resident Bill Blauvelt 3 Eaton St. has difficulty backing out of his driveway due to cars being parked on both sides of the road. Difficulty with trash pickup. He is in favor of a No Parking Here to Corner restriction which would start near his house.

Resident John Ross 1 Eaton St. reports visiting nurses, guests etc. even with the COVID visitor restrictions. Suggested resident parking only.

Mary & Bob Judge residents of 16 Eaton St. is concerned about parking moving further up the street.

J. Anderson addressed resident parking only and the issues it can create. There is currently only one street in town that is resident only parking due to special circumstances on that street.

J. Anderson & W. Renault agreed that the biggest concern is the congestion at the intersection of Crescent St.

Resident Donna Papalardo of 11 Eaton St. reports people with scrubs on are parking on Eaton St. She believes they are staff of Brightview or visiting nurses. Asked about resident parking only.

Resident Emily Seward 7 Eaton St. spoke about people parking at the intersection of Eaton and Pleasant St. obstructing the view of on-coming traffic. J. Anderson had looked at this end of Eaton St. needs to be posted to reinforce the "corner law", no parking within 20' of an intersection.

J. Anderson made a motion to restrict parking from #3 Eaton St. to the corner of Crescent St. on both sides and have DPW install no parking here to corner signs on Eaton St. within 20' of Pleasant St. Second by W. Renault. Motion passed with all in favor.

C. Perham St. No Parking Here to Corner

Resident Jamie Charles of 9 Perham St. represented a group of Perham St. residents. He reports parking on both sides of Perham St. makes it nearly impassible for passenger vehicles and impossible for emergency vehicles. Not enough clearance for two vehicles to enter and exit the street at the same time. Difficult to see cars turning toward Perham from Butler.

Mr. Charles is concerned with emergency vehicle access since smaller vehicles have difficulty getting down the street He has children with allergies and is concerned about the ability for emergency vehicles to access his neighborhood.

J. Anderson suggested no parking here to corner of first driveway and one side parking only.

Motion by W. Renault to restrict parking on the even side of the Perham St. and restrict parking to corner based on measurements to be determined by DPW engineering.

Second by J. Anderson. Motion passed with all in favor.

D. Emerson St. Resident Parking Permits

J. Anderson received an e-mail from Pat Doherty resident of Emerson St. requesting residents be able to purchase resident parking permits for the section of Emerson St. from Chestnut St. to Prospect St. There is a 2-hour parking restriction in this area. The rest of Emerson St. is able to purchase a resident permit however this section appears to have been missed.

J. Anderson made a motion to allow residents of Emerson St. between Chestnut St. and Prospect St. to be able to purchase resident parking permits. Second by M. Kealey. Motion passed with all in favor.

Item 5A – Fox Rd. and Newell Rd. Stop Sign Request

J. Anderson received requests from residents for a stop sign at the intersection of Fox Rd. and Newell Rd. to establish a right of way.

Resident Chris Hunt spoke about the amount of kids in the neighborhood playing, volume of delivery trucks and cars cutting through using their GPS for a short cut etc. He indicated that it looks like there is only one street and traffic does not see the intersection. Fox Rd. is hidden by trees. Traffic does not slow or stop at the intersection.

Resident Danielle Crawford agrees it is a safety hazard and is in favor of a stop sign there.

Resident Brian Collins also agrees. A lot of kids in the neighborhood including his. The intersection is strange as it stands. He supports a stop sign.

Resident Laura Livada sent a letter in and attended. Cars are flying through and she supports a stop sign.

W. Renault clarified that this is for a stop sign on Newell Rd.

Chris Hunt pointed out that a No Thru Way sign was added to the end of Newell Rd. but it hasn't helped the intersection.

J. Anderson read an email from resident Amy Leeman. She has witnessed many near misses and is in support of a stop sign or a 4-way stop.

M. Kealey clarified that the stop sign should be on both sides of Newell Rd.

W. Renault made a motion to install stop signs on Newell Rd. in both directions. Second by M. Kealey. Motion passed with all in favor.

Item 5B – Update on Signage for Handicap Parking 66 Greenwood Ave.

W. Renault believes the spot would be out of place in the middle of Greenwood Ave. with no current delineated spots.

J. Anderson will reach out to Disability Commission regarding possible advisory signs.

D. Benjamin notes that it appears the residence has off street parking. Handicapped spots are available to anyone with the proper plate or placard.

Item 6 – Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda

L. Benjamin asked about the status of the approved Autistic Child awareness sign near Bateman Court.

J. Anderson noted that the sign request was sent to DPW to order and he will check on the status.

D. Benjamin asked about line painting on Richardson Ave. and in the square.

W. Renault updated the group on the line painting scheduled.

J. Anderson asked about 103 Water St. which came up at a previous meeting due to cars blocking the driveways there.

J. Anderson informed the group that long time Traffic Advisory Committee member Marc Luca has stepped down from his position due to personal reasons. Mr. Luca was our resident representative for many years and his contribution to the committee will be greatly missed. We wish him well in the future. The position will be sent to Town Administrator S. Maio for posting.

M. Kealey asked about formal submission for 40b development on Crescent St. none yet.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.