

Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2022

8:30 AM via Zoom

ITEM 1 / Call to Order

8:32 AM

ITEM 2 / Attendance & Approval of Minutes

Present: Lt. Joe Anderson, Steve Maio, Joe Conway, William Renault, Dan Benjamin, Lois Benjamin, Matt Kealey

ITEM 3 / Pledge of Allegiance

Led by: Dan Benjamin

ITEM 4 / Public Engagement

Any member of the public who wishes to address the Traffic Advisory Committee is asked to submit any comments or concerns to <https://www.wakefield.ma.us/publicparticipation> at least two hours prior to the start of the meeting. Alternatively, members of the public are invited to participate via the Zoom virtual meeting, using the instructions listed above.

None at this time.

ITEM 5 / Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 3rd, 2021 & November 5th, 2021.

Second W. Renault, M. Kealey. All in favor on both sets of minutes.

ITEM 6 / Intersection Review

Citizen request to review restrictions at 4-way intersection following a recent crash and history of motor vehicle crashes.

Pleasant Street/Salem Street intersection. Resident of 69 Pleasant Street has requested a 4 way stop sign at this intersection. 7 crashes have been reported from 2010-2018. Lt Anderson said it's hard to illuminate crosswalk because of the position of utility poles. Town will consider moving crosswalk. W. Renault to look into this further and discuss at next meeting.

ITEM 7 / Northeast Metro Tech School

Consultants from NISCH Engineering gave a presentation on adding an additional driveway (access road) from Farm Street to the new Northeast Metro Tech High School. They would like to add a signalized light at the intersection of Hemlock Road and Farm Street. They would remove the pavement markings and mill & overlay the street. The traffic signal would only turn red when cars would approach the signal. Mainly between the hours of drop off and pick up. The town engineer requested they also look into a round about option, but this would take up a lot of the towns ROW. The east side is owned by Metro Tech but the west side is owned by the Wakefield. Light Department. NISCH feels this option would much more costly.

The access road would be used for cars/buses only. Not for pedestrians or bicycles. No sidewalks would be available on this road. NITSCH Engineering will propose a more detailed plan at the next TAC Meeting.

ITEM 8 / Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements

This was presented by the Metro Area Planning Council. David Loutzenheiser and Jessica Boulanger spoke on behalf of the MAPC. They would like to build on the complete streets policy to establish a bike action plan for the town. Their action plan would be to create a shared use path with Reading, add bike lanes, especially around Lake Quannapowitt and throughout the Town. Lt Anderson has concerns about parking on Main Street and around the lake, as these bike lanes would remove parking from one side of the street. He does not want to force people into neighborhoods, causing parking issues for those residents.

M. Kealey also has concerns with eliminating parking around the lake.

S. Maio suggested using a lot near 200 Quannapowitt for additional parking. MAPC would have to do a traffic study.

ITEM 9 / Other Business

Water Street & Butler Ave intersection. A resident is requesting a traffic signal at this intersection. W. Renault and Lt Anderson will look into crash history.

Lt Anderson spoke about the Rail to Trail Project, and how the police department will be using this as a means of police travel, especially for the police motorcycles. He's asking if a developer would like to fund the purchase of new motorcycle for the town, it would be greatly appreciated.

Lt Anderson will be out on a leave of absence from Mid-July to Mid-September. He has motioned for W. Renault to be the acting chair for the TAC, while he is out.

Second by S. Maio.

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 A.M.