

## **Meeting Minutes of the Traffic Safety Committee Meeting held via teleconference on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 10:00 AM.**

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Present at Town Hall, Town Manager Joe Colangelo, and Executive Assistant Janet Tierney. Present via Zoom Video Conference Police Sergeant Tim Kane, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Kurt Kelley, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Cavallaro, and Parks and Recreation Director Lauren Rodday.

### **Call to Order**

The Town Manager (TM), called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

### **Presentation from Old Colony Planning Council on their Rte. 139 Corridor Study**

TM informed the Committee that the Old Colony Planning Council had performed the Route 139 Corridor Study and will be presenting the study to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. TM will be sending copies of the study out to the Traffic Safety Committee once received.

### **Old Farm Road**

The Committee discussed letters received regarding traffic issues on Old Farm Road. Sgt. Kane informed the Committee that the Police Department had dispatched a speed trailer to the area for about month and had also made site visits. It was noted that this street is not a cut through. Approximately 90% of those witnessed speeding were residents of the street with the other 10% being visitors and delivery trucks. Compliance with the speed limit improved with police presence, therefore the Police Department will be starting periodic directed patrols on the Street as well as deploying the speed trailer again for a couple of weeks in April. Sgt. Kane further recommended that the neighbors participate in a speed watch. Kurt Kelley informed the Committee that the solid yellow line is no longer the standard, therefore the newer end of Old Farm Road does not have the line and the DPW has been refreshing what is already there. However, Kurt agreed to look into it further and the Committee will revisit the topic at their next meeting. The Committee discussed the possibility of deploying a solar speed limit sign in front of the house of an autistic child on Old Farm Road. The Committee agreed to look over the letters received and discuss again at the next meeting.

### **Sunset Point**

The Committee discussed a letter received from a resident on Sunset Point. Sgt. Kane agreed to do spot checks on the time work is beginning and ending at PA Landers. The Committee discussed the use of jake breaks. Sgt. Kane agreed to look into the law and enforcement regarding their use and the Committee will discuss this further at the next meeting.

### **Walnut Hill**

The Committee touched on a request received regarding the intersection of Walnut Hill and Berry Street. A new sign is there and the road is not a traditional 90 degree turn, but more of a curve. The Committee agreed to look into squaring off the corner in order to force people to stop. Tm requested that the use of the Prep traffic mitigation funds to square intersections in that area be explored. Kurt Kelly will look into drainage impacts on making the above-mentioned improvements and in the meantime try out the layout with the use of cones. TM requested any public comments, seeing none. The Committee agreed to further discuss the Walnut Hill Area at their next meeting.

### **The Elms of Hanover**

The Committee discussed a letter received from an Elms of Hanover Resident. TM requested sightline monitoring and trimming at the Elms and Assinippi Park entrances. The Committee agreed to further discuss this at the next meeting.

### **Update on Other Traffic Safety Projects**

Kurt Kelly informed the Committee that lights had come down in the Four Corners area. One is currently being repaired and the other is irreparable. Sgt. Kane informed the Committee that since the solar powered signs have gone up towards the eastbound traffic on Broadway there has been great improvement.

Sgt. Kane informed the Committee that there seems to be a good handle on the challenges in the Center of Town with Center School. There has been a great deal of Police presence there to ensure that people are not queuing up on the roadway or blocking emergency vehicle access.

Also, together with the Middle School Administration work has been done on possibly staggering drop off times to improve the conditions there.

Deputy Fire Chief Cavallaro informed the Committee about moving the Covid Testing site from the COA to the Sylvester School, stating that the testing would be outside of school dismissal and with the COA opening more to the public, Sylvester looks like a good alternative. Furthermore, with the numbers down, he doesn't foresee a large turnout for testing. Sgt. Kane noted that currently nothing is going on there on Wednesdays and recommended queuing people up in the driveway as opposed to the roadway.

### **Report from Sergeant Kane on Accident/Incident Data**

Sgt. Kane discussed a trend of accidents taking place involving people coming out of Starbucks and people exiting the Merchants Row parking lots. Most commonly they are happening when someone stops to let people out and the other lane is unaware and keeps going. The Police will continue a strong presence on route 53.

TM requested to see a pave list for the next meeting and agreed to recirculate the letters received regarding traffic concerns for discussion at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

TM requested any public comments, seeing none.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended and adjourned at 10:55 am.