

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Glenn A. Olsson, Chairman
Sgt. David Horte, Representative for Chief Olsson
Lt. John Haley, Representative for Chief Robert Olsson
Harry Sylvester, DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Francis Donlan
Clark Frazier

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn A. Olsson
RE: Minutes of January 25, 2017 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: January 26, 2017

PRESENT: Sgt. David Horte, Hingham Police Department
Lt. John Haley, Hingham Fire Department
Harry Sylvester, Hingham DPW
Francis Donlan
Clark Frazier

Sgt. Horte called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

A motion was made by John Haley, seconded by Harry Sylvester, to accept the minutes as written of the previous meeting on 10/26/16 with a unanimous vote in favor.

I. Request for traffic signs at the intersection of Prospect Street and Hoover Road

Hoover road resident Alixandra Nozzolillo presented a request for traffic signs at the intersection of Prospect Street and Hoover Road. This is a cut through road to avoid Main Street and has been increasingly busy with cars travelling through the neighborhood which has a lot of children. The busiest times are when the bus picks up in the morning and drops off in the afternoon. Increased speed enforcement will help as well. Harry Sylvester (DPW) suggested that a sign be posted on Prospect to say 400-500 feet ahead, next left to 228. This would be heading east on Prospect Street at intersection of Prospect St., Amber Road and Forest Lane. Harry also suggested that gutter lines be painted on Prospect Street from Longmeadow Road to Main Street. This will make it clearer for drivers and hopefully reduce traffic on Hoover Road from people being confused as to where to go. Apparently Waze sends people this way as an alternate route to avoid the lights and traffic on Main Street/228. Clark Frazier made a motion to ask DPW to paint the gutter lines as stated above and install the sign advising of left ahead to 228. Francis Donlan seconded the motion with a unanimous vote in favor.

II. Request for Slow Children sign on Forest Lane

Bobbie Jo Hamilton of Forest Lane made a request for Slow Children signs on her street due to the large number of children and increased traffic. She would like the signs to be closer to Prospect Street. Harry Sylvester and Sgt. Horte both stated that an additional sign won't be much help since signs are everywhere and people can get immune to seeing more. Sgt. Horte said that he will increase enforcement on the street and will add it to the list for the Radar Trailer in the Spring. He said that he will assign an officer to be there at the busiest times of possible which are at 8:25 am. and 3:00 pm when the school bus does pick up and drop off. Bobbie Jo Hamilton request that they try to be at or near 60-70 Forest Lane in those timeframes.

III. Request for sidewalk from Fulling Mill Lane resident

Sara Gordon of Fulling Mill Lane requested that a sidewalk be installed from South Pleasant to Fulling Mill Lane to Main Street to ensure the safety of children who both walk to school and take the bus. Sara Gordon was not able to attend but asked that we discuss her request tonight. Harry Sylvester said that DPW has a list of streets that have requested sidewalks and this will be added to the list. After traffic volume, speed, crash data, etc. have been studied, these streets will be added to the recommendation which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen to request funding for the project as sidewalks are costly to install and maintain and these extra expenses aren't figured into the budget.

IV. Traffic count results for Lincoln Street (heavy commercial vehicles)

Sgt. Horte presented the results of the traffic count that was conducted by DPW using a tube counter during the period of 10/19/16-11/2/16. The results showed that there were 26,220 vehicles that used Lincoln Street and of that, 214 of them were trucks. This total includes 3 axle, 4 axle, 5 axle double, 6 axle double and 6 axle multi trucks. It translates to a percentage of .81% which is less than 1% of traffic. According to Mass DOT's Warrants, a street must meet certain criteria for Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion. Warrant A is that 5-8% of vehicles travelling the road are shown to be heavy trucks. It also has to be primarily a residential road. Lincoln Street is residential but it is also a collector road in a business zone. One warrant that it does meet is that the road is not in good condition. Harry Sylvester said that road work needs to be done and it is scheduled for 2018-2019. This could be a factor for residents' complaints of loud noises from trucks passing by when they hit bumps and potholes. Harry said that he will try to get this project accelerated. Lincoln Street residents Anne Marie and Charles Keane said the problem of truck noise and increased traffic has worsened considerably over the years. Curt Robinson of Lincoln Street said that he has hearing issues and uses ear plugs and a white noise machine and still gets woken up from the noise of passing trucks. Frances Cole of Lincoln Street said that the noise is the worst between 2-6 am. Sgt. Horte and Harry Sylvester said that this is due to trucks making deliveries during the early morning hours. Trucks can't be banned from travelling on the street since it's a straight and easily accessible route to the Square. It is a public way and a business zone. Harry Sylvester said that Hingham is turning into

Braintree in its size and scope with added retail and residential developments. Derby Shoppes and Hingham Shipyard factor into this greatly. Sgt. Horte said that he can increase speed enforcement on the street, specifically in the earlier morning hours from 3:00-6:00 am. to deter trucks from speeding in the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant