

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Glenn A. Olsson, Chairman
Sgt. Robert Mansfield, Representative for Chief Glenn Olsson
Dep. Chief William Powers, Representative for Chief Steven Murphy
Harry Sylvester, Engineering/DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Richard Wehter

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of January 30, 2019 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: January 31, 2019

PRESENT: Sgt. Robert Mansfield, Hingham Police Department
Deputy Chief William Powers, Hingham Fire Department
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Harry Sylvester, Engineering/Hingham DPW
Thomas Molinari, Engineering/Hingham DPW
Richard Wehter

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

A motion was made by Sgt. Mansfield, seconded by Bill Ramsey to accept the minutes of the of the previous meeting on 11/1/18 followed by a unanimous vote in favor. Bill Ramsey also announced the upcoming retirement of Sgt. Mansfield and thanked him for his 38 years of dedicated service to the Town. The committee joined Bill Ramsey in extending Sgt. Mansfield their thanks and well wishes.

1. Request for lighted walk/crosswalk signs

Sgt. Mansfield presented the request from Halstead Road resident Carol Waite for lighted walk/crosswalk signs at Lincoln Street, Beal Street, Main/Cushing/S. Pleasant St. and Main/Winter Street to improve pedestrian safety and improve visibility for drivers. Sgt. Mansfield said that that the traffic division is dedicated to provide speed enforcement in high traffic areas. Harry Sylvester said that there are no warrants for crosswalks and that they are not recommended to have midblock crosswalks installed on roads that have speed limits of 30 MPH or more. He also cited that there were lime green signs and markings posted a few years ago which many people never noticed even though that color is supposed to stand out. People can get desensitized to them and they can be overused. We need to establish a crosswalk policy. Also, there is no funding for these signs. Recommendations would need to be made to the Board of Selectmen. We need to be selective as to where the signs are placed for maximum effectiveness. Solar signs can be costly. Pedestrians need to be cautious as well. Bill Ramsey shared that there will be traffic calming measures implemented on North Street with the upcoming Settles Glass development.

2. Request for blinking light at Union Street fields crosswalk

Sgt. Mansfield a request from Ted Healey of the Hingham Youth Soccer Board for a blinking light or sensor at the Union Street fields crosswalk to make people aware that pedestrians are crossing there which would improve pedestrian safety and visibility. Harry Sylvester said that there is a high visibility crosswalk there now and is well marked with signs. He suggested that Mr. Healey contact the School Dept. since it's a school zone. He might get quicker action for his request since currently the Town has no funding available for these signs or lights. Another option would be to contact the Hingham Sports Partnership. A sign would cost approximately \$6,000 per Harry Sylvester. Sgt. Mansfield said that there is speed enforcement in the area. Harry Sylvester suggested that the radar trailer be placed at Union St. to collect speed data, volume, etc. Sgt. Mansfield will get the accident data for the next meeting as well.

3. Discussion of new Sidewalk Policy

The committee discussed the need to create a sidewalk policy with guidelines to follow. All abutters would have to sign a petition and agree that a sidewalk be added at that location, regardless of which side of the road it is installed. If not everyone agrees to it, the request is denied. At that point, next steps would consist of an engineering study, traffic history, density, urgency of need, merit, sight visibility, etc. There needs to be clear criteria to follow. There is no money in the DPW budget for sidewalks. All of this information for creation of a policy is needed before it can be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

4. Commercial truck/large vehicle traffic on Cushing Street

Sgt. Mansfield presented the letter from Cushing Street resident Michaela McSheffrey regarding the number of commercial truck and other large vehicles on Cushing Street who asked if anything could be done about this. Sgt. Mansfield said that there is already traffic and speed enforcement done on Cushing Street. Harry Sylvester said that not much can be done about this since there are not that many alternate routes. He also said that there is no weight issue on that street. Most truck traffic is on Main Street and Cushing Street is a connector road to Rte. 3 and it is not viable to eliminate commercial trucks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant