

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

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

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of June 27, 2018 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: June 28, 2018

PRESENT: Sgt. Robert Mansfield, Hingham Police Department
Capt. William Powers, Hingham Fire Department
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 Richard Wehter, seconded by Harry Sylvester to accept the minutes of the of the previous meeting on 5/23/18 followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

1. Request for crosswalk at Thaxter Street and Bradley Park Drive

This issue was revisited from last month after Harry Sylvester confirmed that the sight lines and landing zones were in place for the proposed crosswalk. After finding both to be in compliance, the request to have a crosswalk installed was approved by the committee unanimously. Kristin Niemi who presented the initial request was in attendance. According to Harry Sylvester of DPW, the crosswalk will likely be installed in the next few months.

2. On street and overnight parking on Elm Street

Alison Ferrante of Elm Street requested clarification of parking regulations for on street and overnight parking. Her neighbors park on street during the day as well as overnight on a regular basis and have two wheels on the street and two on the curb which partially obstructs the sidewalk. Alison Ferrante was not able to attend the meeting. Sgt. Mansfield stated that on street parking is restricted during the winter and there is no overnight parking as well which is strictly enforced. This issue will be revisited at a future meeting when Alison Ferrante is able to attend. Also the resident(s) who regularly park on the street will

be invited to attend as well.

3. Request for crosswalk at Fort Hill St./Charles Everett Way

Fort Hill Street resident Ray Estes requested that a crosswalk be installed at Fort Hill Street and Charles Everett Way, which is a bus stop for Hingham Middle School and Hingham High School. There is no sidewalk on his side of the road which requires pedestrians to walk north to cross the street. Mr. Estes said that in many instances, cars fail to stop at the base of New Bridge Street when turning on to Fort Hill Street which creates unsafe conditions for pedestrians. Cars often exceed the speed limit and pass on the right if a car is turning into Conservatory Park. Harry Sylvester said that it is not recommended to have a crosswalk installed on a street with speed limit exceeding 30 MPH. If actual average speed is an average of 38 MPH, a crosswalk is not recommended. It also needs to have a volume of pedestrians that would use it. Drivers aren't expecting to see a crosswalk when it's not in a school or business zone. Fort Hill St. is a heavily travelled road and it could be dangerous. Sgt. Mansfield will put the radar/speed trailer there in the near future. Ray Estes said that more enforcement is needed. Harry Sylvester said that a speed study can backfire if the average speed is higher than the speed that is posted and the posted speed could be increased. The results obtained by the radar trailer will be shared at a future meeting.

4. Gardner Street final design overview

Roger Fernandes of the Project Engineering Dept, presented an update of the Gardner/Whiting/Derby Street project which is being done by Mass DOT. Bids are due on 7/9 and this project will start when the Derby St. project finishes. This is a dangerous intersection for accidents. The fix will be to open up the corner and have a dedicated left turn lane with an arrow. Vehicles will no longer be able to turn right on red from Whiting to Gardner Street. When it has been finalized, the State will provide the construction schedule. Gardner Street resident Diane DiNapoli asked about islands with flowers to beautify the area as well as a Welcome to Hingham sign. Roger Fernandes said that residents can petition the State for islands and residents can also provide flowers, such as Neighborhood Associations or Garden Clubs. Harry Sylvester stated that Hingham begins quite a distance away from that intersection so it wouldn't make sense to have a sign at that location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant