

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Interim Police Chief David P. Jones, Chairman
Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy, Representative for Interim Chief David Jones
Dep. Chief William Powers, Representative for Chief Steven Murphy
Randy Sylvester, Engineering/DPW
Daniel Miller Dempsey
Matthew Person

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Interim Chief David P. Jones
RE: Minutes of August 26, 2020 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: August 27, 2020

PRESENT: Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy, Hingham Police Department
Dep. Chief William Powers, Hingham Fire Department
Randy Sylvester, Hingham DPW
Daniel Miller Dempsey
Matthew Person

Sgt. Kilroy called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:04 PM.

The minutes from the previous meeting on 6/30/20 were approved unanimously.

1. Request for stop sign at Manatee/Volusia Road

Sgt. Kilroy updated the committee that it was determined that the installation of a stop sign at this location meets MUTCD criteria and Randy Sylvester of DPW concurred that the Traffic Committee can make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. This was approved unanimously.

2. Request for speed sign on Garrison Road.

Garrison Road resident Charlie O'Connor requested speed signs on Garrison Road since it is busy street and cut through road from Central Street to Rte. 228 and cars travel fast on the street. Sgt Kilroy said that it is thickly settled street. Randy Sylvester said that "Thickly Settled" signs can be installed on the street. Sgt Kilroy said that he will put the speed trailer on Garrison Road as well.

3. Request for no commercial vehicles signs-Kilby St./Rte. 3A

Sgt. Kilroy presented the requested from Kilby Street resident Keith Jermyn requesting that no commercial vehicle signs be installed at Kilby Street/Rte. 3A as well as on Rockland Street so that the trucks have notice before they have committed to travelling on Kilby Street. Sgt. Kilroy said that Officer Scott Tracey met with Town Engineer JR Frey and it was determined the majority of truck traffic on Kilby Street comes from Rockland Street; not 3A. They would like to install no left or right turns for trucks on both 3A and Rockland Streets. They are waiting for the state's approval. Keith Jermyn who is also a member of the 3A Task Force said that once the road diet is implemented, the problem will be even worse. He asked for information on the time frame for the signs to be installed. Sgt. Kilroy said that he will follow up with the state and will put up sign boards in the meantime and will increase enforcement. Mark Buonagurio of 10 Cliff Road asked about crosswalk at the bottom of Kilby onto Rockland Street to connect the two. Visibility is limited and he would like to see reduced speed. The speed limit goes from 35 to 40 MPH going towards West Corner. A traffic study would most likely not result in reducing the speed limited since it goes by the 85th percentile. It was mentioned that there might be a way to communicate with apps such a Waze that people use for GPS directions to steer people away from using Kilby St. as a connector road to 3A and 228. Sgt. Kilroy said that JR Frey will research that possibility. Jason Hanna said that most GPS services aren't designed for commercial vehicles and the apps might not support modifications to CDL routes. There should be a way for them to know. It was stated that JR Frey would look into this as well. Lisa Shetty of East Street said there should be a 4 way stop by East School and flashing signs at the Kilby Street end. Randy Sylvester said that they are expensive and there is no money in the budget for them. Four way stop signs also need to meet MUTCD warrants. In addition he said that 4 way stops tend to make people increase their speeds afterwards to "make up time." Enforcement and education is needed as well in order to increase pedestrian safety. They are looking into grants to get flashing stop signs for the Town but these also need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. An Autumn Circle resident asked if there is a budget line item for signs to which Randy Sylvester replied that there is and it was suggested that it be increased to allow for more signs to be posted near schools. Randy said that they have changed many of the signs to lime green to make them more visible to drivers. DPW is also checking signage for compliance. The DPW Budget for signs is approximately \$15,000 with a sign costing an average of \$75.00 per sign. Sgt. Kilroy said that they are working on securing a grant to improve safety at 12 locations. Each crosswalk would have rapid flash beacons. The locations they are targeting are near schools and the grant would be for \$300,000. Each crosswalk would cost approximately \$24,000. Randy Sylvester said that drivers need to be more responsibly as well and that signs cannot do everything. People must use caution when they are driving and slow down.

4. Crosswalk on High Street at Plymouth River School

As a result of the recent incident of a driver hitting a young boy who was in a crosswalk on High Street, this issue has been added to the agenda. The driver passed a car that had already stopped for the boy and hit him. Randy Sylvester asked if proper signage was in place and Sgt. Kilroy said that it was. It was definitely the fault of the driver for passing a car that was already stopped for a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Mary Maloney of High Street said that speed has gotten worse over the years and has been steadily escalating. It was suggested that additional signs be added at intersections, Plymouth River School and

Cross Street. The town engineer will look at possible stop signs at High/French/Ward Streets as there are sight line issues. There will continue to be increased enforcement and the traffic trailer has been placed on High Street. Ray Estes said that as a former member of many committees in the town, he is aware of the procedure that any recommendations that the Traffic Committee makes go to the Board of Selectmen for approval before they can be implemented. It was also suggested to increase education and awareness for drivers and children for when they go back to school via newspapers and social media. SRO Katelin McGillicuddy will have bike/crosswalk safety classes for students. Randy Sylvester said that he would share any studies that pertain to the High/French/Ward Street location such as information from the Riverstone development study. . Mary Maloney asked what the next steps would be. Sgt. Kilroy said that he will keep everyone updated with the status of the potential grant and will continue to increase enforcement. There is a crosswalk grant going on now with additional officers assigned to enforce crosswalk compliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant