

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

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

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of September 25, 2019 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: September 26, 2019

PRESENT: Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy, Hingham Police Department
Deputy Chief William Powers, Hingham Fire Department
Randy Sylvester, Hingham DPW
Richard Wehter

Sgt. Kilroy called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

A motion was made by Richard Wehter, seconded by Bill Powers to accept the minutes of the previous meeting on 3/27/19 followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

1. Request for street light on pole#7 on Downer Avenue

Tupelo Road resident Lawrence Malone sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that a street light be installed on pole #7 on Downer Avenue. The reasons being that he commutes by bus and it is very dark in that area in the early morning and evening hours. There is a crosswalk and bus stop at that location and the installation of a street light would greatly enhance visibility and safety for pedestrians and commuters as well as drivers. It was confirmed with HMLP that it is pole #7 and they advised that a 73 watt LED light should be installed since it overhangs a crosswalk and bus stop. Bill Powers made a motion to recommend that a street light be installed on pole #7 on Downer Avenue which was seconded by Richard Wehter and approved by a unanimous vote. The Traffic Committee will send their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

2. Request for stop sign at Wompatuck/Kimball Beach/Foley Beach Roads

Kimball Beach Road resident Tamara Budz sent an online request to the Board of Selectmen for a stop sign to be installed where Wompatuck meets Kimball Beach and Foley Beach Roads. There is already a stop sign coming from Foley Beach Road and Kimball Beach Road but nothing on Wompatuck. There is a park at the end of Wompatuck that gets a lot of use, especially in the summer months. It would be safer to have a stop sign since there is

a crosswalk there as well. Randy Sylvester said that there need to be signs installed alerting people of the crosswalk as there are no signs currently posted at that location. Logistically, the stop line would need to be at 30 Wompatuck. Bill Powers said that it seems like a valid option and that it would be helpful. Randy Sylvester said that it seemed to be a good idea but the Board of Selectmen would need to approve it and that it would need to meet the warrants necessary to install a stop sign. Sgt. Kilroy, Deputy Chief Powers and Randy Sylvester will take a closer look at it tomorrow.

3. New speed limit signs on either end of Hingham Square

Chief Olsson asked Sgt. Kilroy to put this on the agenda since speed in Hingham Square is an ongoing problem. The speed limit is currently 30 MPH which is way too fast for that area. The goal is to place speed limit signs on each end of the square; at the sections of the square by Lincoln Street and near Tosca. Sgt. Kilroy said that HPD recently purchased two speed signs through a grant. The next step is to determine the placement of the signs for maximum impact and to not encroach on parking spaces, which are at a premium. Also the actual posted speed needs to be determined as well. Other ideas raised were to post yellow suggested speed signs (of which there are some around Town). These signs do help but they are not enforceable signs. Ronald Hutchins suggested rumble strips that can be removed in the winter months so they don't interfere with the plows. Randy Sylvester said that when speed bumps were installed on Beal Street, there were numerous complaints due to the noise and that they were removed within four months. This issue will be revisited at meetings in the near future.

4. 262 Gardner Street – numerous accidents at dangerous turn

There have been numerous accidents at this location (3 this year alone) and has poor visibility at night and in inclement weather. Sgt. Kilroy would like to look into illuminating signs on either side of the road to alert drivers to the dangerous curve. Bill Powers suggested coordinating with Rockland to deter truck traffic. Randy Sylvester said that illuminating signs would definitely stand out. Sgt. Kilroy said that two of his HPD officers are taking an interest in writing grant requests and will be applying for funding which could be put towards these signs. The issue will be addressed again.

5. Kilby Street at Chief Justice Cushing Highway

Sgt. Kilroy presented the fact that there have been 45 crashes at that intersection, 14 of which occurred this year. Something needs to be done to improve safety. MassDOT has been contacted since Chief Justice Cushing Highway (3A) is a State road. Ronald Hutchins suggested that the traffic light be put back there and that would rectify the matter. Sgt. Kilroy also said that if funding is the issue, one solution is to close off the short street between 3A and 228 so that traffic would not be able to go straight across to/from Kilby Street. Dan Miller of Kilby Street said that many cars use Kilby Street as a cut through and it would be far less desirable if the option wasn't there to go straight across. Bill Powers said that residents of the area have been involved in accidents too and it might be a good idea to narrow the road so that cars don't have the option to create left and right turn lanes. Richard Wehler suggested making

it either left or right turn only as an option. Sgt. Kilroy is waiting to hear back from his contact person at MassDOT. He will keep the committee and interested residents posted on any new developments.

6. Crosswalk at Grenadier and Main Street

Carrie Howlett contacted Sgt. Kilroy regarding the crosswalk at the end of Grenadier crossing over Main Street. Cars speed right by without stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. She was afraid to cross herself after a scary experience and didn't want children to have to go through the same thing. Sgt. Kilroy contacted SRO John Walden who placed traffic supervisor Michelle Casey there on a temporary basis to assist children in crossing the street for the next week or two but if approved by the Chief (funding-wise) it might be made permanent. Sgt. Kilroy reminded everyone that parents need to be proactive and take turns assisting their children along with others in the neighborhood to get safely to school and back again. DPW/Tree & Park have been helpful in trimming trees to improve visibility as well. The addition of the crossing guard both morning and afternoon has been helpful but this can't be done everywhere. Sgt. Kilroy said that illuminating crosswalks would be helpful and they might be able to be obtained through a grant.

Tom Belyea, Advisory Commission liaison to the Traffic Committee, reminded the committee that the deadline to submit warrant articles for Town Meeting is January 20, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant