

Traffic Safety Committee
Minutes of April 25, 2018

Called to order: 10 07 AM by Chair Beltis

Members present: Jerry Beltis, Aram Goshgarian, Lincoln Hooper, Linda Cebula

Others present: Steve Tupper and Dave Nolan (Cape Cod Commission) and members of public
(list attached)

Minutes approved for meeting of None

Update on Pleasant Bay Route 39, completing of improvements

DPW has completed basic improvements designed assist in sight lines , including island made road thinner upon approach.. Roundabout concept on hold to see if these improvements make a difference. Roundabout should be taken off the capital plan. Application made to move telephone pole.

Report on proposed improvements from Steve Tupper on the intersections of Miles/Pleasant/South

Tupper noted that this is first traffic study for this intersection, traffic count completed in July/August 2017 (Saturday and Sunday used as believed to be heavier traffic usage). Reviewed as 2 separate intersections: Forest/Miles/South and Miles/Pleasant. Also reviewed the turning movements around the corners.

Miles/Pleasant- yield is on Pleasant/approx 50% of traffic obeys the yield sign (per Tupper, a generous percentage). Traffic slightly heavier on Pleasant(approx. 60% vs Miles 40%). Additional stop sign (on Miles) might not find favor due to low volumes of traffic and sight distances. Area public comments very concerned on the dangerous nature of this intersection: sight lines are terrible, compliance with yield sign, very difficult to turn from one street to the other.

- Options:
1. Leave as is. Increase visibility by painting lines on road
 2. Stop sign at Pleasant. Compliance an issue with yield sign. No natural point to stop and limited sight lines to right.
 3. Stop sign on Miles. Less volume. Would need to look way back onto Pleasant and that could be difficult for driver.

Hooper suggested that the DPW could move the yield sign to be more visible, and paint lines in road to alert drivers to the yield ahead.

Forest/Miles/South-approx 80% of traffic on Forest/South (towards route 28) takes the left through the slip lane (the little island with telephone pole and memorial). Only 20% turn left at other end of the island. Many area resident public comments on the dangerous nature of this left turn- sight lines terrible, drivers going too fast, car parked in driveway (legal) but hinders sight lines, the crossover nature to Miles/Pleasant.

- Options:
1. Eliminate the slip left turn altogether. Would need to review the turning area at South onto Miles- very tight. Might need to move telephone pole and memorial in order to obtain more room for safer turning.
 2. One way only at the slip lane, so no left turn.
 3. One way on either side of the island.

Hooper indicated that he would feel more comfortable if any changes to the flow should be discussed with the Board of Selectmen. Tupper to formalize the options/findings for committee review and possible request for an agenda item for The Board of Selectmen.

Update on Chatham Road/Route 39/Lover's Lane intersections

Long standing intersection issues(known by neighbors as Hope and Go). Surveyed recently by Paul Sweetser: hedge on the right of way line at both intersections. . If turning right or left from Chatham Road onto route 39, line of sight significantly impacted by telephone pole/trees. The option to square off the Chatham Road/Route 39 intersection would take significant planning and funding and would probably need some ability to use land that is not the town's.

Resident Art Bodin (800 Route 39) made several comments about this intersection's safety:

- *residential area, high volume of traffic of all types
- *rate of speed at 45 is too high and traffic goes faster than that.
- *Major enforcement issue.- where are police? Why no traffic stops?
- *Driver issues: distracted by horns, cell phones, texting et al
- *Drainage issues during major storms. Acknowledged upgrades done by DPW as having made improvements but area needs more.
- *Road does not have adequate shoulders
- *the angle severely impacts sight lines
- *noted his family has been hit from behind twice while trying to turn into their driveway,

Possible options suggested by Bodin:

- *reduce speed on route 39
- *enforcement of traffic rules.
- *3 way stop at Chatham Road/Route 39
- *reconfigure the intersection, square it off.
- *continued drainage improvements
- *caution signs, markers

Hooper/Tupper noted that asking MA DOT to do a speed limit study with recommendations can backfire. If 85% of traffic is going faster than the posted 45, then possible that they would recommend that the speed limit be increased. That was the result when Dennis/Harwich requested an analysis of Great Western Road- the result was a suggestion to increase the speed limit. May not get the answer that is desired.

Options

Fix the intersection.

Residents to petition police department for enforcement, use of speed trailer.

Update on crosswalk policy and Preliminary discussion on sidewalks:ADA compliance, improvements, new construction.

Beltis noted that this was started but there is a new Town Planner:,this effort is in process.

Preliminary discussion on improving intersections that may be dangerous/problematic

Brief discussion of top 50 crash locations across the region, no listing specific to Harwich.

Discussion on parking in Harwich Port business area not done

Any other business that may come before the committee

Beltis reported on his correspondence with Staci Robichaud regarding the speed limits and traffic levels around Vacation Lane (Queen Anne Road area). Thickly settled area and speed is a factor in safety. Police Department has reviewed the issues. Noted that GPS tells drivers to use exit 10, then QAR to get to Chatham. Committee agreed to remand the issue to Police department. Beltis to respond to Ms Robichaud.

Ginny Hewitt, Town Librarian, noted continuing issues in Harwich Center at the Library building. Bank street difficult to cross due to its width and the incline. Drivers taking a left from route 39 onto Oak Street do not stop for people in the crosswalks. Hewitt agreed to put issues in writing for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:55 am

Minutes by Linda Cebula

Date approved by committee 9-12-18

4/20/18

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