



Amesbury

Traffic and Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2015

Start: 6:30 PM at Amesbury City Hall

Attendees: Eric Eby, Anne Ferguson, Lauren Tirone. Craig Berard, Steve Buonomo absent.

New Business

Request for No Parking Here to Corner sign on Elmwood Street. Resident of Elmwood Street explained how when a car is parked close to the corner of Congress Street, road is too narrow to accommodate entering and exiting vehicles at the same time. Committee will contact DPW to install NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign 20 feet from intersection on south side of Elmwood Street, as per state law. If that doesn't solve the problem, Committee could reexamine the situation and possibly further restrict parking.

Request to move crosswalk on Market Street near Clinton Street. Committee discussed reasons crosswalk could not be moved. New crosswalks require wheelchair ramps and there are none at the other location. Sightlines at the Clinton Street corner are blocked by trees along the Day Care frontage. Should be at least 20 pedestrians crossing per hour to warrant a crosswalk. No action was taken on this item.

Request for Blind Driveway sign for 14 Kimball Road. Councilors McMilleon and Bezanson, along with the resident of 14 Kimball Road, presented their case for the sign. Committee asked about the other Blind Driveway sign already nearby. Committee will conduct a site visit and take measurements to determine if driveway meets sight line criteria. Will have a recommendation at next month's meeting.

Request for No Parking Here to Corner sign on Friend Street west of Greenleaf Street. Motion by Anne to have DPW install NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign on south side of Friend Street at corner of driveway to Friend's Meetinghouse, 50 feet from intersection with Greenleaf Street. Seconded by Lauren. Approved 3-0.

Request for SLOW sign on Tuckers Lane. Lauren provided results of speed study conducted on Tuckers Lane. Average and 85th percentile speeds are well below the legal speed limit of 30 mph. Motion by Anne to deny request for sign. Seconded by Lauren. Motion passed 3-0.

Parking on Hanley Court next to Bella Bridal Shoppe. Lauren to research ownership of parcels, determine current ordinances on parking spaces. Report back next month.

Intersection of Elm Street, Railroad Ave. and Clark Street. Motion by Anne to further examine the visibility at the intersection. Seconded by Lauren. Approved 3-0.

Request for Blind, Deaf, Disabled signage at Senior Center on Railroad Ave. Motion by Anne to contact Senior Center to better determine type and placement of desired signs. Seconded by Lauren. Approved 3-0.

Intersection of Merrimac Street and Swetts Hill. Committee to make site visit, discuss further at next meeting.

Old Business

Parking on Poplar Street. Lauren and Eric discussed what they have seen with parked cars facing the wrong direction, blocking abutters driveway and parking too close to the corner of Cedar Street. Street is also too narrow for two-way traffic when parked cars present. Motion by Anne to prohibit parking along both sides of road, from Cedar Street to a point 425 feet north of Cedar Street, which is the driveway to the parking lot for the mill building.

Dunkin' Donuts' driveway at Route 110 – Eric reported on his discussion with MassDOT the previous week. MassDOT has denied the proposed left-turn lane proposed by Dunkin' Donuts' traffic engineer. However, they have not yet made a final decision as to what they will do to address the City's concerns.

Lake Gardner entrance – Bruce McBrien again asked if something can be done to improve visibility and safety of the driveway intersection with High Street. Request to move Lake Gardner sign closer to High Street so it can be seen from drivers approaching on High Street. Fence on abutter's property blocks sight lines at driveway. Abutter and town don't have funds to relocate fence. A crosswalk requires a wheelchair ramp in the sidewalk. STOP sign and stop line could be added to the driveway approach. Warning signs of the Beach Entrance or Intersection Ahead could be installed on High Street. Eric to contact DPW to determine which signs can be installed.

Clark Street one-way flow. David Martin, new owner of the Mill 77 building on Elm Street, and Evan Kenney, mayor's assistant voiced their opinion that the new one-way flow on Clark Street makes it very difficult for potential tenants to find the potential parking lot for the building on Fruit Place. Anne explained that the Committee did not make the change on a whim. It took many meetings over the course of a year or more, with residents and business owners both asking for changes. Committee members reached out personally to each of the businesses on the street, as well as the fire department, to determine if they had any reservations about the change, before the committee took action. The Committee is willing to work with the new landowner and other city departments to develop a comprehensive traffic plan for the area. Such a plan would need to address the utility pole at the corner of Clark and Market, and possibly the R Street bridge as well. Just keeping trucks off of Clark Street would not solve the problem, as all vehicles must turn wide to avoid the pole at the top of the hill. Anne or Lauren to participate in the next meeting with city staff to discuss project. Will report back to the Committee next month.

Anne mentioned that she will be introducing legislation to the City Council to add members to the Committee. Members will be a representative from the DPW and one from the Fire Department. Committee minutes will also be presented to the City Council for their approval.

Next meeting will be October 19, 2015.

Motion to adjourn by Anne, seconded by Lauren at 9:00. Motion passed 3-0.