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Amesbury

Traffic and Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 18, 2022

Start: 7:02 PM In-Person Meeting, City Hall Auditorium

Attendees: Lauren Tirone, Robert Desmarais, Christopher Falcos, Jonathan Hickok, James Nolan and Owen Corcoran. Absent: Christine Miller

- Minutes from the May meeting was approved (Rob motion to approve, Lauren 2nd, Roll call to approve: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-abstain).

Old Business

- Request for a 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Pond Street and High Street by Gage Foley.
 - Councilor Wheeler asked if this item was still waiting on a traffic study. Rob stated it was still in the works. Councilor Hickok suggested it remain on the agenda, to which Rob agreed. Jon made a motion to keep on the agenda with Jim 2nd. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion approved.
- Abutter notices by Rob Desmarais.
 - Rob stated there was nothing new and asked that it remain on the agenda.
- Speeding issues and bus stop safety at 19 Woodman Road by D'Ann McBryan.
 - D'Ann was not present. There were no public comments on the matter. Motion by Rob to remove from the agenda since it has been on for several meetings. Jim 2nd. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion approved.
- Request for speed bumps on Lakeshore Drive by Stephen Mason.
 - Mr. Mason was not present and Lauren had emailed him regarding the meeting with no response
 - Chris stated there was no sense putting speed bumps on that road, and from Mr. Mason's complaint, it appeared that the issue was trucks driving up onto his lawn. Suggest Mason place sticks up delineating his property. Chris made motion to remove the item from the agenda with Jim 2nd. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion approved.

- Speeding and safety issues on Beacon, Merrimack Street by Linda Hansen-Rodier.
 - Linda was present at the meeting. Linda stated that other roads are being monitored for speeding however Beacon is not. She requested speed study and police monitoring and consideration for her street.
 - Councilor Hickok recommended continuing the item until later when items regarding Merrimack River District are discussed. Motion to continue to by Jon, 2nd by Jim. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Chris-yes. Motion passes.

- Parking issues on Main Street at Clarks Road and Evans Place by Tracey Chalifour
 - Tracey was not present. Councilor Hickok recused himself from the issue. Tracey stated that there was nothing new to say that she has not said before. Tracey stated she knows there is a lot going on, but that there needs to be short term solutions. There were no other public comments on the item. Owen did say that we will be discussing the Merrimack River District item later on in the meeting. Motion to continue by Jim 2nd by Chris. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion passes.

- Main Street Traffic Improvements Update for Point Shore updates and calendar review by John Stevenson
 - John was present for the meeting. John said he would wait until after the Merrimack River District presentation.
 - Motion to continue by Chris 2nd by Jon. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion passes.

- Appeal of TTC decision regarding speed bumps on Spindletree Lane by Lynn Hutchinson-remanded down from City Council on March 8, 2022.
 - Lynn, who lives at 2 Chapman Way, was present. Lynn stated that the speed limit signs were finally changed to 25 mph. Lynn also requested more police presence and that a flashing speed sign be placed out. Lauren explained that a speed and volume study was done previously, and that another should be done now that the speed limit signs had been changed. Lynn did not understand why this needed to be done. Chris stated that this would allow a comparison to be done to compare the speeds before lowering the speed limit and after.
 - Another resident by the name of Eric who lives at #10 stated he was thankful for the study and the notification of the meeting. Eric also said he thought re-doing the speed study was a good idea.
 - Councilor Hickok made a motion to continue until the next meeting, Chris 2nd. Roll call vote: Lauren-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Jim-yes, Owen-yes, Jon-yes. Motion passes.

- Request that No Parking 10am-7am at 7 Orchard Street by removed by Sandy Laing.
 - Laing was not present and Lauren stated she did reach out to her and this is the 2nd time this has been on the agenda.
 - Rob stated the DPW installed the signs for Lake Gardner overflow; however he will look into the actual purpose for which they were installed. Jim thought it was because it was due to COVID. Jon recommended it say “seasonally.” Jim stated that there were events that happen on any given day and not just on weekends. Owen asked if alternating or moving it regulatory. Councilor Wheeler said that in

- Macy Street counts were collected by MassDOT in 2021
- Elm Street counts were collected by MassDOT in 2019
- South Hunt Road and Route 150 counts were collected by TEC, Inc. in March / April 2018.
- 85th Percentile Speeds- Average of Eastbound and Westbound recorded 85th percentile weekday speeds in October 2019



- Total Crashes 2017-2021-1 injury crash involved someone while biking in 2019



- Sidewalk, Shared Use Paths, and Crosswalks



- The Problems: Traffic Volume, Traffic Speeds, Sight Lines, Poor Pedestrian & Bike Accommodations, Lack of Signage, On Street parking, Development Pressure, Drainage, Waterline.
 - From East End Smart Growth Neighborhood Meeting 2/23/2021

- Previously Suggested Transportation Improvements



- Additional Notes: Landscaped median islands are also proposed along Main Street as well as potential Amesbury Riverwalk connection.

- What We Have Heard

- Main Street is a scenic roadway (minor arterial) and cut-thru traffic should be discouraged, keeping traffic on Rt. 110
- High traffic volumes and speeds
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Some residents are willing to accept impacts to accessibility in exchange for lower traffic volumes

- Draft Ideas for Discussion

- Short-Term: Safety

- Most recent traffic data collected is at least two and one-half years old (pre-COVID). Collecting new data (summer) would be useful to record current conditions and can be used as a base for any before-and-after monitoring studies. Needed to evaluate all-way Stop control
- Speed Feedback Radar Signs
- Movable In Street Yield to Pedestrians Sign
- Pedestrian flags and canisters at crosswalks
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon or Hybrid Beacon at crosswalk on Rt. 110 east of Rocky Hill Road
- Install No RTOR on Rt.110 eastbound/Clark's Road
- Evaluate All-Way Stop at Main Steet/Merrimac Street-would improve pedestrian crossing
- Consider 20 MPH Safety Zone at Alliance Park

- Short-Term: Circulation Changes

- Conduct Pilot Study for changing Main Street to reduce westbound traffic onto Main Street
 - Option A – Install No Left Turn sign from Merrill Street northbound onto Main Street
 - MassDOT jurisdiction, requires approval
 - May create U-turns on Merrill Street
 - Continue to allow southbound right turn (option to prohibit this movement)
 - Two-way traffic on Main Street

- Reduces traffic volumes, low impact on resident accessibility
- Can reduce volumes to acceptable levels to consider traffic calming
- Option B – Designate Main Street one-way eastbound
- Greater impact on resident circulation and access
- Any bicycle westbound bicycle facilities need to be contra-flow
- Creates additional space for new/improved sidewalks, bike facilities, parking
- Conduct Pilot Study for changing Rocky Hill Road to one-way northbound and Clark's Road to one-way southbound
 - Do Not Enter signs
 - Will reduce traffic volume on each road, may increase speed on Clark's Road
 - Will increase delay for Clark's Road southbound approach at Main Street under current control, may impact safety. Can consider all-way Stop control which will increase delay for all approaches but may be acceptable.
 - Additional space for new/improved sidewalk and bicycle facilities
 - Option for Rocky Hill Road one-way northbound and keep Clark's Road two way
- Short-Term: Speed Reduction Devices
 - Conduct Pilot Study for installing temporary vertical traffic calming devices (raised crosswalks, intersections) on Main Street at a few locations such as:
 - Evans Place
 - Clark's Road
 - Rocky Hill Road
 - Midway between Andrews Lane and Eastman Lane
 - Alliance Park
 - Swett's Hill
 - Main Street is not typically a good candidate for vertical traffic calming devices due to roadway classification (minor arterial) and volumes (9,400 ADT)
 - Devices may also reduce traffic volume
 - Emergency vehicle impacts to travel time
 - Noise impact
 - ADA, drainage, and driveway modifications
- Long-Term: Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities
 - Provide new sidewalk on Main Street between Crum Hill and I-95
 - Consider shared use path on north side of Main Street
 - Would provide separated bi-directional facility for pedestrians and bikes
 - ADA and streetscape improvements on Main Street
 - Rebuild sidewalk on Merrimac Street

- New sidewalk and/or crossing at marina redevelopment and boat ramp & driveway access/egress improvements/consolidation on Merrimac Street
 - Complete shared-use path on Rt.150 between Summit Avenue and Beacon Street
 - Questions?
 - Chris Falcos asked if they considered horizontal measures instead of vertical and pinch points or chicanes (s-curves). Jeff said no but pinch points w/crosswalks/bump outs could still be on the table. Chris stated that bump outs improve sight lines. John said thank you for the presentation and was curious how they evaluate what is the greater good and that some will be happy and some will not. ENDED HERE.
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- I AMesbury 2030 Master Plan Mobility Element Goals and Actions discussion.

Next meeting scheduled for September 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Meeting adjourned at 9:12p.m.