

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP



MINUTES

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

43 South Washington Street, North Attleboro, MA

Lower-Level Conference Room

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

1:00PM

DPW Director Mark Hollowell called the meeting to order at 1:10PM.

Staff Present:

DPW Director Mark Hollowell
Fire Chief Chris Coleman
Police Captain Jason Roy
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito
Executive Assistant Kerrin Billingskoff

Residents Present:

John Simmons - 40 Parmenter Lane
Kevin O'Donnell – 294 South Washington Street

Documents Reviewed:

June 1, 2022 Minutes
North Attleboro Traffic Calming Policy

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the June 1, 2022, Traffic Study Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Fire Chief Coleman moved to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2022.

Police Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

III. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Kevin O'Donnell was in attendance and addressed the Group. He explained that he is the advocate for the South Washington Street Residents and their request for the speed limit to be lowered from 30 mph to 25mph. Mr. O'Donnell wanted to know if everything discussed at the Public Hearing in June would be carried over at the next meeting.

Mr. Hollowell explained that yes, everything discussed at the Public Hearing would be continued at a future TSAG Meeting. Mr. Hollowell also explained that the Town Manager requested that the TSAG meet and come up with a Traffic Calming Policy of Procedures for which requests for 25 mph will be processed. The Traffic Study Advisory Group will come up with a policy that will then be presented to the Town Manager for approval. Once approved, we will address the pending requests.

John Simmons had two questions for the group:

- Has the crosswalk on Landry Ave. across from the Martin School been removed?
 - Mr. Hollowell explained that the crosswalk in front of Harold K. Waterson Drive was a temporary crosswalk, and it will need to be removed. We need a formal crosswalk in front of Harold K. Waterson Drive.
- Mr. Simmons requested that a “Blind Drive” sign be placed at the in front of 31 Whalen Drive near the intersection of Whalen Drive and Kennedy.
 - Mr. Hollowell advised Mr. Simmons to send in an ANR Report or go to Big Red 311 to report the problem and he will go out to take a look. If decided that a cautionary sign is needed, one will be added.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of the process to be implemented for the Town's Procedure of executing “The Town's Acceptance of MA General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C” for certain streets in Town when requested by a resident. Changing the speed limit to 25 mph

Traffic Calming Process/Policy adoption: Apply that standard to each request for 25 mph streets as requested by the Town Manager

Traffic Calming Policy:

Process and Requirements:

- Step 1- Speed Limit Reduction Requests/Data Collection and Review
- Step 2- TSAG Data Review, Evaluation, and Recommendation
- Step 3- Stage 1 Traffic Calming
- Step 4- Follow-up Data Collection
- Step 5- TSAG Data Review, Evaluation, and Recommendation

- Step 6- Neighborhood Support for Stage 2 Measures
- Step 7- Neighborhood Site Meeting and TSAG Review
- Step 8 – Design and Construction
- Step 9 – Follow-up Evaluation

The Proposed Traffic Calming Policy was reviewed, and some changes were suggested:

- Under “Process and Requirements”
 - If these measures do not provide the satisfaction sought by the resident who submitted the concern that the resident may request, **via an Action Needed Report be changed to “through a Formal Request (Big Red 311 or ANR)”**, that a data collection board be installed on their street.
- An Appeal Process be added to the Policy

Appeal Process:

Owners and/or residents abutting a street within the defined impact area may appeal a TSAG traffic calming recommendation by filing a written notice of appeal with the Town Manager. Written appeals must be received within 30 days of the decision.

Appeals will be heard by the Town Manager, who has authority to make all final decisions regarding Traffic Calming Policies.

The only issues that may be raised on appeal are:

- 1) Whether there is a public justification for the change (public justification is defined as meeting the policy’s volume and speeding criteria).
- 2) Whether the method chosen to gauge neighborhood consensus was properly completed as required by the Traffic Calming Policy.

There was further discussion amongst the Group and the Assistant Town Manager. Items discussed:

- 75% of Residents will need to be in agreement of the speed limit reduction
- Accessors will need to provide the addresses in the vicinity that will be affected by the speed reduction. Applicant will need signatures of 75% of these residents.
- Public Hearings will still be required
- There are Two Stages:

- Stage 1 Traffic Calming Measures: Use of Speed Monitoring Radar, Increased Traffic Enforcement, Signage and Pavement Markings
- Stage 2 Traffic Calming Measures: Physical Modifications to the Roadway/Intersection, Speed Limit Reduction
- This is a formal policy that will tell you what you will need to submit for the request.
- Radar Boards pull in actual data of the speed of traffic. Radar Boards/signs are accurate.
- If speeding is not found, by support of the Radar Boards, the criteria will not have been met, and this request will not move on to the next stage.
- Each of the current requests will need to be re-visited after this new policy is approved by the Town Manager
- The Public Hearing on June 1, 2022 was continued and these requests will be discussed at the continuation of the Public Hearing on October 12, 2022.
- At the end of this process, if the TSAG rejects this request, the resident does have the right to go to the Town Manager and plead their case within 30 days of the recommendation.

Chief Chris Coleman made a motion to recommend adoption of the Town of North Attleboro Traffic Calming Policy as amended changing “Action Needed Report” to “Formal Request” and adding a section for an “Appeal Process” to the Town Manager.

Captain Jason Roy seconded the motion.

Motion carried 3-0.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chief Coleman made a motion to adjourn.

Captain Roy seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0. UNANIMOUS

Meeting adjourned at 1:46PM