



# TOWN OF NATICK

## Meeting Minutes

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### Safety Committee

Natick Police Department

Date: November 1, 2011 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called to Order: 10:07 AM

Attendance: Chief Hicks, Lt. Lauzon, Tom Hladick, Bill Hurley, Mike Melchiorri, Patrick Reffett, John Slamin, Robert Ward

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the September 27, 2011 Safety Committee Minutes - 1 abstention

Natick Center Associates, Inc. Recommendations. Could street lights be installed at corner of South Main and Pond Street.

Patrick Reffett addressed that the MassDOT has restrictions on distance between traffic signals, they should not be closer than one quarter mile (1,320 feet). However there are extensions the state will entertain a "design waiver request" if Mass Dept of Transportation can be convinced to that the situation warrants. Based on Patrick Reffett's report the committee voted unanimously to take NO ACTION. Chief Hicks will follow up with a letter to the NCA to explain the committee's findings.

Request to replace No Parking Signs on East Central Street Discussions went back and forth on what type of sign should be posted "No Parking" vs. "Share the Road". John Slamin expressed concerns this particular sign should be for pedestrian not the bicyclist. The committee agreed that it likes to stay within the four corners of the MUTCD whatever the state approves should be used. Lt. Lauzon made a motion that "No Parking" signs be posted on both sides of the street from Mansfield to Lincoln Square. Tom Hladick suggested we amend the motion to extend area to Brigham Court and Lincoln Square install six signs in total on both north and south sides of East Central Street. Committee VOTED to install signs on both sides of East Central Street with one Opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request SLOW CHILDREN sign be installed in front of 1 Centre Street. In addition remove a NO PARKING sign that was installed in the 70's to deter businesses using the streets to park. Problem has resolved over the years and sign no longer necessary. (September ATTACHMENT 6)

Committee feels the current No Parking sign is working and by removing the sign in its absence parking may become an issue. A unanimous vote was taken to TAKE NO ACTION on removing the current No Parking sign.

Committee discussed the Slow Children sign and felt there is no justification or consistency to warrant the need. Committee voted unanimously to take NO ACTION.

Install Dead End sign at the intersection of Rice and North Avenue. Increase in traffic volume due to misconception that it is a “cut through” between North Avenue and Marion Street. Committee VOTED to install “No Outlet” to warn people prior to taking turn. One Opposed, no abstentions.

Safety Hazards on Walnut Street. Resident voicing concerns of rate of speed and illegally parked vehicles on Walnut Street. Requesting that North Ave to be made into a two way street from Walnut to Route 27. Natick Police Department has tried to regulate with enforcement. Committee voted unanimously, to take NO ACTION.

Parking Restrictions on Wahington Street. Resident wrote with a concern of change in parking enforcement on Washington Street. Committee held discussions signs have faded over the years and were replaced. Chief Hicks has asked Patrol Officers to enforce in all areas of town. Committee VOTED unanimously to TAKE NO ACTION as it is an enforcement issue. Chief Hicks to send response to Selectmen and Complainant.

Ken Barber Requesting Commuter Parking Restriction be placed at Home Avenue

Home Ave being utilized for parking for commuters. Committee is not aware of parked vehicle posing a hazard vehicles are not impeding traffic or emergency vehicles. Committee VOTED unanimously to TAKE NO ACTION; no abstentions.

Citizen Request to address Safety Issues on corner of Massachusetts and Connecticut Aves: It is difficult to turn left onto Connecticut from Mass Ave due to the following:

1. Double Utility Pole
2. Verizon yellow box 2 ½ feet from new pole obstructing view
3. Overgrown trees and branches on town property
4. Difficult to see STOP sign due to branches on Mass Ave

Safety Committee does not have control of double poles or the Verizon box. Are overgrown trees towns property or homeowners? Tom Hladick will look into. Committee VOTED to TAKE NO ACTION will refer to DPW.

Citizen Request for Street Lights on Mill Street No lights between 182 and 185 Mill and area is extremely dark. Requesting lamps be placed on every electric pole

Suggested we ask Wilmington Wire to look into changing existing bulbs at 182 and 185 Mill Street. Committee agreed to TABLE pending further investigation – Wilmington Wires availability in changing bulbs.

Preliminary discussions regarding Boden Lane Community Group Presentation

Preliminary discussions held regarding presentation provided to Boden Lane Community Group.

Chief Hicks will have discussions with presenters prior to November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Patrick Reffett is available to join Chief in meeting. Chief will make sure presenter understands they can come and present concern however Safety Committee cannot take any action.

Next Meeting November 29, 10:00 AM