



TOWN OF NATICK

Meeting Minutes

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Safety Committee

Natick Police Department

Date: September 27, 2011 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called To Order: 10:03 AM

Attendance: Chief Hicks, Chief Sheridan, Lt. Lauzon, Tom Hladick, Patrick Reffett, John Slamin, Robert Ward, Ronald Ordway, Glen Glater, Bob Linehan, Nick Mabardy

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Approved Minutes of the June 28, 2011 Safety Committee Meeting

Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety on South Main Street, near Hometown Paint. The installation of a bump out was discussed, but might pose a problem with drainage and parking space elimination, concerns that would not necessarily be a factor if the standard pedestrian crosswalk signs were to be constructed. Debate continued on best way to give pedestrians greatest ability to safely cross street. Many options were discussed on how to slow traffic down and grant motorists greater visibility of pedestrian's. Patrick Reffett made a motion that the Safety Committee recommend to the Board of Selectman to authorize funding to build bump outs with proper drainage on both sides of street at South Main near Home Town Paint. Going forward with this in a timely manner may allow the town to utilize solicit Mitigation Funds for construction. Motion was second vote taken in favor of motion with one opposed.

Liberty Street: Lt. Lauzon reported back to the Committee that the "Children" sign is not at the proper height and is in a poor location. Lt Lauzon made a motion that the Safety Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that the existing sign be replaced with a "CHILDREN" sign in the proper location and height alerting the South to North motorists. In addition a second "CHILDREN" sign be installed alerting traffic coming off Pine Street in the North to South direction. Safety Committee unanimously VOTED to make recommendation to Board of Selectman.

Natick Federal Bank: There are no pedestrian crosswalk signs on Main Street at South Avenue leading into the bank. Many options were discussed on how to increase safe pedestrian access throughout the entire Main Street corridor. Angular parking makes it difficult for motorists to see pedestrians. Lt. Lauzon made a motion that the Safety Committee should refer to the MUTCD for appropriate surface markings to be painted on the roadway in advance of the crossings in the spring. The Committee VOTED unanimously to delay any recommendations until the MUTCD can be researched for proper surface markings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natick Center Associates, Inc. Recommendations. At Natick Center Associates Merchants Council meeting on June 30, 2011 Chief Hicks suggested to council that they submit safety concerns to Safety Committee for consideration. July 18 received letter from Natick Center Associates, Inc with the following recommendations (Attachment 1)

1. Assignment and enforcement of a 20 mph speed limit in Natick Center. Chief Hicks stated that a speed study must be done in the area prior to requesting that a speed limit be changed.
2. Overall crosswalk safety – placing of small reflective signs saying “State Law Must stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalks”. The Committee does not support this concept.
3. Illegal maneuvers by vehicles particularly on Main Street should be ticketed. Chief Hicks feels responsibility of this falls on the enforcement of the Natick Police Department.
4. Many cars do not come to a full stop but proceed through stop sign without checking for other vehicles at location of South Avenue and Washington Street four way stop. Natick Police Department to Enforce.
5. Could street lights be installed at the corner of South Main and Pond Street? Chief to confirm with NCA that they mean a signal light as opposed to a street light. MUTCD has restrictions on distance between traffic signals similar to the situation at TJX. Chief to address with NCA. Mr. Reffett to locate the required distance required by MassDot and forward to Chief Hicks.

Lawn Service Vehicles Parking on Streets. Request received that Safety Committee look into and offer course of action. (Attachment 2)

Lt. Lauzon recommends that we need to refer to the Traffic Rules and Orders for streets that parking is not allowed. Dynamics of many of the streets has changed since 1976 we need to review additions and deletions of NO Parking streets and report back to the Safety Committee in the spring. NO ACTION AT THIS TIME

Request to replace No Parking Signs on East Central Street Sergeant Mark St. Hilaire emailed a request that the Safety Committee address with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that the No Parking signs that were removed when road was rebuilt several years ago be replaced. No Parking signs need to be posted from Lincoln Square to Wellesley Town Line to alleviate evening and overnight parking from Morse's Tavern and the condo complex. (Attachment 3)

Discussions held regarding the 4 foot lanes are not denoted as bicycle lanes. John Slamin suggested that the NPD determine number of vehicles that are actually parking on the street. This roadway is now under the jurisdiction of the Town of Natick and not MassDot. NO ACTION awaiting report back on number of parked vehicles.

Request for 3 Three Way Stop Signs on Winter Street. Susan Kehoe resident of 17 Winter Street is requesting 3 three way stop signs be placed at the following intersections: (Attachment 4)

1. Winter Street and Nancy Drive
2. Winter Street and Frost Street
3. Winter Street and Rathbun Road

Residents intent is to slow vehicles down. Safety Committee does not recommend that stop signs be used for speed control. Lt. Lauzon met with Rivers School and expressed concern of residents. Resident of the area, Mr. Linehan, was in attendance and spoke against this recommendation, which he described as ill advised and suggested it would just create stop and go traffic along a scenic roadway. It was recommended that the Safety Committee TAKE NO ACTION.

Request for Cross Walk Union Street and Arrow Path. NPS School bus does not enter Algonquin Drive for Natick High School students. The Designated bus stop for Natick High School Students who live on Algonquin Drive is on Union Street at the entrance to Arrow Path. Students must cross Union Street to reach the bus at the entrance to Arrow Path. (ATTACHMENT 5)

Lt. Lauzon had discussions with Ginny Constantine from the Natick Public Schools Transportation office and they both agreed that the bus stopping with STOP SIGN FLASHING and no pass bar enabled is more effective than a crosswalk. Committee VOTED TO TAKE NO ACTION.

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. (ATTACHMENT 6) DELAYED until October meeting.

Install Dead End sign at the intersection of Rice and North Street. Increase in traffic volume due to misconception that it is a “cut through” between North and Marion Street. (ATTACHMENT 7) DELAYED until October meeting.

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. (ATTACHMENT 8) DELAYED until October meeting.

Parking Restrictions on Washington Street. Resident wrote with a concern of change in parking enforcement on Washington Street. (ATTACHMENT 9) Glen Glater provided Marylee Watkins with an additional letter from resident to this regard. DELAYED until October meeting.

STOP Signs Intersection Oak Street North & Rte 9: Stop signs were erected at intersection of Oak Street North and Route 9 with a painted stop line as part of the overall MathWorks construction project. Signs are inconsistent with the traditional dynamics of rotary. State has agreed and will remove STOP signs and replace with proper YIELD signs. Discussions were held to paint lane delineations for the flow of traffic to stop motorists from weaving in and changing lanes as they go through the rotary. Patrick Reffett explained there is not enough room to paint lane delineations.

Traffic Rules and Orders: Chief Hicks discussed the need to update the Traffic Rules and Orders for the Town of Natick. The current copy is dated September 1976. Marylee Watkins has gone back through Safety Committee Meeting notes and Board of Selectman Memos to find any additions and/or changes since 1976. Patrick Reffett made a motion that the Safety Committee Request of Town Meeting and the Board of Selectmen funding to provide professional and legal expertise in reviewing revisions of the Rules and Traffic Orders. Safety Committee VOTED unanimously that the recommendation be brought forward to Town Meeting and Board of Selectman.

Ken Barber Requesting Commuter Parking Restriction be placed at Home Avenue DELAYED until October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM with note that Agenda Items missed will be picked up at October Meeting.

Next meeting: October 25th 10:00 AM