

Town of Natick
Safety Committee Minutes
July 29, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Brian Lauzon at 10:10 a.m.

Members in attendance:	Chief Mannix	Lt. Lauzon
	Chief Sheridan	Michael Melchiorri
	Ronald Ordway	Patrick Reffett
	John Slamin	Charles Sisitsky
	Robert Ward	Glen Glater

Also in attendance:	Mark Devane
	Brian Keefe
	Jeanette Szretter

Approval of the May 27, 2008 Safety Committee Minutes: The committee VOTED to approve the minutes of the May meeting.

New Business:

The committee took a moment to welcome its newest member of the Safety Committee, Mr. Glen Glater, who is also involved with the Natick Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Welcome, Mr. Glater!

Request for signs alerting motorists of autistic children in the area of Winter Street: The committee reviewed a letter from a Winter Street resident who is concerned about the safety of several autistic children living in the area. He also mentioned the fact that this is also the area of the Brandon School at 27 Winter Street and questioned why the area is not marked a designated school zone. The members explained that the Brandon School is a residential school and therefore does not have cars dropping off and picking up children every day and that is the reason it's not zoned as a "school zone." The committee also discussed the fact that the Brandon school will soon be erecting another building in this area. The committee VOTED to recommend the placement of two signs warning motorists of children in the area. A traffic study with speed enforcement will also be conducted by the department.

The request for designated parking spaces for the exclusive use of taxi cabs on the south side of North Avenue, as well as signage restricting parking near the intersection of Washington Street. Concerns were raised as to where pedestrians would wait for the bus or taxicabs. The committee VOTED to recommend two "live" parking spaces for cars picking up and dropping off passengers as well as two spaces exclusively for the use of taxis. The committee also recommended relocating the bus stop signage "no parking from here to corner," which would restrict cars from parking on the south side of North Avenue from North Main Street to the corner.

A request was made to address the fact that some neighborhoods are "landlocked" and can only be accessed by traveling by Fisher and Kansas Streets. The committee reviewed this issue which also involves Second Street, Third Street, and North Main Street. Mr. Sisitsky, the DPW Director explained that this is going to be addressed during the Rte. 27 project and will be revisited at a future meeting. No VOTE was needed for this issue at this time.

Parking issues on Lagrange Street: When cars park parallel to the fence in this area, emergency responders cannot get through. One possible solution would be to edge-line the pavement, essentially forcing motor vehicles to pull up closer to the fence. This issue will be TABLED until the next meeting to give committee members more time to review the area.

Request for stop sign at the intersection of Route 27 and Cottage Street: The committee discussed this issue and determined that this would cause a three way stop which would only cause further traffic delays. The committee VOTED to take no action on this issue.

Speen Street Safety Issue (trees): A resident brought forward a concern that two very large pine trees are blocking the view of cars pulling out of a driveway on Speen Street as well as pulling out of Crescent Street onto Speen Street safely. After reviewing pictures of the area, the committee determined that NO ACTION needed to be taken on this issue.

Parking for Loker Park on Belvidere Street: This is not the first time the committee has visited this issue. The last time the committee considered having motor vehicles park on the left and it was the committee's opinion that more needed to be done to provide "safe" parking on Belvidere. The committee VOTED to continue discussions with Mr. Cugini, the Natick Park and Recreation Director, to find a safe solution to this issue.

Sidewalk condition of Windsor Street to Dug Pond (across from the boat ramp): The committee reviewed a request for safer sidewalks for children walking in this area. The committee VOTED to recommend that no parking signs be posted on the northeast corner of Windsor Avenue from the DPW driveway.

Safety concerns at the intersection of Lake and Washington Street: A resident brought forward concerns that she has witnessed a couple of "near misses" and incidents that could have resulted in a motor vehicle accident. The committee VOTED that the railroad tracks yield sign should be removed. They also agreed to recommend a stop sign on Lake Street at the corner of Washington Street. The yellow lines also need to be repainted and DPW Director, Charles Sisitsky said he would take care of that.

Obstructed view due to overgrown bushes at the top of Pleasant Street at the stop sign: The committee reviewed pictures of this area and agreed that the shrubbery on the northeast corner of Pleasant Street, where it intersects with Park Avenue is obstructing motorist's view which is in violation of the town by-laws. The building inspector will discuss this issue with the owner of the property. NO VOTE needed to be taken on this issue.

Speed enforcement on Sylvester Road for vehicles traveling to and from Natick High School: Lt. Lauzon, the Traffic Safety Officer suggested a traffic count with speed enforcement should remedy this situation. No VOTE needed to be taken.

Hayes Street and Route 135 Intersection: Lt. Lauzon updated the committee on the progress being made and stated that this will be a fully signalized intersection.

Murphy Field Parking Situation: The parking lot on North Main Street has been underutilized, with motorists parking further down on the side of the field. This area is also under the care of the Route 27 redesign efforts and Mr. Sisitsky, the DPW Director, said that a pave line would help to advertise that cars should be utilizing the lot instead of the side of the field.

The committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m.