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TOWN OF DEDHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
O' Brien Meeting Room Town Hall
Tuesday, July 9, 2019 – 7 PM.

Present: John Bethoney, Chairman
James Antonizick, Vice Chairman
Charlie Packer, member
Daniel O'Neil, member
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Michal D'Entremont, Police Chief

Absent: Dennis Guilfoyle, BOS member

Mr. Bethoney open the meeting at 7:03 PM.

**Agenda Item # 1 - Traffic Calming Request #2019-001, Winfield St/Overlook Ave.
Discussion and vote on Decision letter.**

Mr. Bethoney asked for any comment or discussion on the Decision letter, being none, a motion was made by Charlie Packer to accept as drafted, 2nd Jim Antonizick, UA.

Agenda Item # 2 – Traffic Calming Request #2019-002, Upland Road, Initial Evaluation.

Mr. Bethoney opened with a brief description of the TAC's purview as an advisory committee. The criteria involves excessive speed and volume only. Any other traffic issues, stop signs, speed reduction, restrictions, etcetera need to be presented directly to the BOS as they serve as the "Street Commissioners".

Additional copies of the Initial Evaluation (dated May 30, 2019) were available for the 30 plus members of the public in attendance. Mr. Bethoney took comments from the public and explained the TAC would hear from the public then address concerns after all have been heard to avoid cross talk.

Amber Maroney of 82 Upland Road referenced the Report data only included # of vehicles on Upland Road and not those coming through Top Hill Ave. She asked if an additional study could be done to account for the traffic coming through Top Hill Ave. She asked how Amazon vehicles were classified as commercial or passenger – Mr. Bethoney stated they are determined by # of axles and size.

Don Reissfelder of 48 Top Hill Ave mentioned the excessive speeding and questioned the results of the testing not reaching the required 50 points. He disagrees with the conclusions that staggered parking and calling the police will have any impact on the problems. He mentioned there are over 25 young children in the neighborhood and he is concerned for their safety.

Joe Crissafulli of 24 Pine Grove Ave asked if the study could be re-done to include a meter (tub station) on the other end of East Street. He disagreed with staggered parking as he stated that causes blind spots for those backing out of driveways.

Mark Wesalowski of 934 East St feels the study data is flawed as it does not include cut through at Top Hill Ave. He feels if the meter was placed in a different location it would capture more vehicles and reach the 50 points required for traffic mitigation. He has 4 children and is concerned about the speeding and volume of cars.

Elliot Fould of 41 Top Hill Ave stated he has witnessed many near misses with people backing out of driveways and cars speeding through. He feels a serious accident is looming and requests the TAC please address the problem even though it does not technically meet the requirements. He asked if the 1000 Ft buffer area could be “rounded out” to pick up pedestrians walking to the commuter rail.

Carlo Prisco of 95 Upland Ave (Applicant) thanked Jason Mammone for the efforts he put in to the study but asked if it could be redone to include more pedestrian generators such as Paul Park and Greenlodge School. He asked if commercial vehicles could be restricted from both ends of Upland Rd.

William Whitley of 12 Top Hill Ave stated he has been a resident since 2005 and has seen a significant increase in volume and speed that is so dangerous he removed a basketball hoop from curbside where the kids would play. **Anna Whitley of 12 Top Hill Ave** mentioned there is a bus stop there and she has seen vehicles flying by.

Steve Mosca of 10 Upland Rd has witnessed accidents coming from East to Upland and is very concerned about the volume and speed that he has seen increase drastically over the years.

Jeanne Flannery of 79 Upland Rd. has been on the street for 45 years and is very concerned about the vehicles cutting through.

Tom Polito of 63 Upland Rd stated the early morning volume of vehicles has tripled with Amazon staff going to and from the facility on Sprague St

Mr. Bethoney asked TAC members for comment: Charlie Packer thanked the public for their input. He understands their concerns and agrees that staggering parked cars and Step 2 Child Alert System would not be practical. He asked Jason if crash data from intersections could be included in the report – Jason stated that would not be appropriate to include intersection crash data as intersection safety issues differ from traffic studies on a long stretch of roadway.

Charlie suggested that the installation of speed bumps, road striping or narrowing could potentially alleviate the issue.

Jim Antonizick pointed out that if the meter locations were re-done to include intersections it would reduce the speed classification as intersection traffic is slower. Jason agreed.

Dan O’Neil understand the neighbors’ concerns as he travels East St to access the highway and is often in the heavy back up from Endicott rotary to East St. rotary.

Carlo Prisco asked if the crash data collected was from the RMV accident database or the Dedham PD – Jason stated he collected the data from both.

Mr. Bethoney asked Jason if he felt an additional evaluation would bring the points to 50 or above – Jason stated he would redo the study if the TAC advised but he can not say what the results would be. Mr. Bethoney feels the neighbors need relief and asked the TAC to consider moving to the next phase of conducting a Traffic Needs Assessment Study (even though the 50 point criteria was not met) and provide alternatives to traffic mitigation. The time frame would be 6 – 8 months.

Charlie Packer motion to accept the 46 point result with the testimony of the neighbors and move to direct the Town Engineer to draft a Traffic Needs Assessment Study, 2nd Dan O’Neil UA.

Agenda Item # 3 – Traffic Calming Request #2019-003, Ridge Avenue, Decision on Request.

Jason provided an overview of the request that highlights the poor condition of the road rather than traffic issues. Road repair is not under the purview of the TAC. Jason stated Ridge Ave is being scheduled for re-pavement on the upcoming 3 year roadway program. Jason stated he can draft a letter to the applicant stating his application does not meet the requirements for traffic calming but it is scheduled for repaving. Jim Antonizick made a motion to deny the request, 2nd Charlie Packer, UA. Jason will draft a denial and include details of upcoming repaving.

Agenda Item # 4 – Traffic Calming Request #2019-004, Lowder Street, Decision on Request.

Jason provided a summary of the Request. He stated it is a very complex issue that expands beyond Lowder Street to the entire neighborhood. The applicants are Jim McGrail, a resident and Katie Levesque, the headmaster at Ursuline Academy. A neighborhood Traffic meeting was held on 5/28/2019 at Ursuline Academy. Numerous concerns were mentioned that are so complex that Jason feels it is beyond his scope of expertise as Town Engineer as many of the problems are related to the private property of the Ursuline Academy during school pick up and drop off. He believes a traffic management consultant would be better suited to address the concerns. He suggests inviting the applicants to the next meeting to determine the boundary limits for a study, the type of expertise needed to conduct a study and review the potential costs related to construction and design.

Jim Antonizick made a motion accept the request and invite the applicants to the next meeting on 8/13/19, 2nd Charlie Packer, UA.

Agenda Item # - Discussion on proposal to eliminate Sustainability Advisory Committee member from TAC.

Mr. Bethoney mentioned the difficulty of securing a member of the Sustainability Committee to serve on TAC and thus having problems obtaining a voting quorum. A change in the committee structure must be approved by the BOS.

Jason can draft a change to the structure of TAC and present to the BOS for approval. Before that step is taken, Mr. Bethoney will reach out to the Chair of the Sustainability one last time to see if they would like to maintain a seat on the TAC. Mr. Bethoney will advise at the next meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes 5/14/2019

Mr. Bethoney asked for motion to accept minutes as drafted, Jim Antonizick, 2nd Charlie Packer, UA.

Old/New Business

Regarding Chute Rd / Pacella Dr, Jason stated turn restriction signs went up in June and will be evaluated through September to see if they are curing the problem. Chief D'Entremont reminded TAC that "local traffic only restriction signs" are unconstitutional on a public road and that Step II Kid Alert System are NOT to be placed in the roadway.

Next meeting scheduled for August 13, 2019

Jim Antonizick made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM. 2nd Charlie Packer, UA.

