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TOWN OF DEDHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
Remote participation via ZOOM
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 7 PM.

Present: John Bethoney, Chair
Jim Antonizick, P.E. Vice Chair
Charlie Packer, P.E. Member
Dimitria Sullivan, BOS
Dan O'Neil, Member
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Michael D'Entremont – Chief of Police

Absent:

Mr. Bethoney open the meeting at 7:05 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols. A roll call attendance was taken- all TAC members present.

Agenda Item # 1 – Traffic Calming Request #2021-001, Colburn Street: Jean Connally of 299 Colburn St (Applicant)

Mr. Bethoney asked Mr. Mammone to provide a detailed summary of the Request.

Jason stated the request was made for the section of Colburn St adjacent to Motherbrook covering the area from Colburn to Maverick Streets. The concerns referenced in the Request are speeding, high volume of trucks and cars and limited parking make it very dangerous particularly between 3-5 PM. Jason then asked to hear the concerns of the applicant and residents in attendance.

Mr Bethoney recognized and welcomed Mr. Connally.

Jean Connally of 299 Colburn St -He has lived in Dedham for 6 years with his wife and 2 young children. He stated he has had a car totaled while it was parked in front of his house. He said trucks speed through the neighborhood at all hours of the day and evening making it very dangerous for the residents. He mentioned the street lighting in the area is very dim adding to the problem in the evening hours.

Mr. Bethoney opened to other residents who wished to speak by a show of a hand raised and asked each speaker to provide their name and address for the record.

Matt Dominici of 315 Colburn St – stated he has lived here for 2 years with his wife and 2 children (2 and 5 years of age). He stated the situation on Colburn Street has become very unsafe and he has previously emailed Asst. Town manager Nancy Baker to make the town aware of the problem. For his own knowledge, on a Sunday morning between 10:30 and 10:45 AM he counted 43 cars – he calculated this would be 172 cars per hour. This was very concerning for him as this was on a Sunday and he stated during the week it is much worse. He stated many 18 wheelers are coming through the neighborhood at all hours and many times they are too wide to navigate the road and wind up hitting parked cars.

Mr. Bethoney asked if he knew the company name on the 18 wheelers, Mr Dominici was not sure.

Arthur Freitas of 281 Colburn St – Mr. Freitas has lived on the street for 50 years and he has seen the traffic get worse. He sees UPS trucks all week long and many gravel trucks cutting through to the West Roxbury Crushed Stone facility. He says it has been on going for several years with the use of GPS and the traffic has gotten totally out of hand. He stated the traffic light at Bussey & Colburn was damaged by a truck and has not been repaired. He stated that when the town added sidewalks years ago it only made the situation worse as the roadway was narrowed. This situation is very dangerous.

Jihane Beljacques of 295 Colburn St - Has been a resident for 5 years and agrees with what other residents shared. She has children and it is very dangerous taking them in and out of the mini van with cars and trucks speeding by so closely.

Annika Cox of 291 Colburn St – Just moved to town one year ago and is one of the fortunate residents with a driveway. He agrees with what others have shared and also has witnessed the speeding and volume. His landscaping wall was damaged by large trucks from UPS, Amazon and Fed Ex. The trucks are so large they do not realize the damage caused and just keep going.

From the “Chat” function – Patricia Connally Sanchez, Kim Bevans and Brian Smith all agreed with what all residents shared.

Mr. Bethoney then asked TAC members for any questions or comments.

Dan O’Neil stated he lives on Maverick St and is aware of the residents’ concerns; he supports an evaluation of the area.

Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to conduct an Initial Evaluation on Colburn Street – Dimitria Sullivan, 2nd Dan O’Neil – by roll call vote – all in favor.

Mr Connally was recognized by the chair and asked what the time -line would be.

Jason stated that data collection would begin immediately and would be compared to data collected in the area over the past 10 years.

The report would be drafted in the order it was received by the TAC and two other applicants are pending that were received before this one but could have the report by May or June for review.

Mr Dominici ask through the “chat” function if the study should be delayed due to the pandemic as it may not reflect the accurate data.

Mr Bethoney stated the TAC had already voted and report would be presented to the TAC and made available to the applicant and interested parties as soon as possible.

Approval of meeting minutes from 12/8/2020 & 2/9/2021

Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to accept the minutes as drafted from 12/08/2020, Motion, Jim Antonizick , 2nd Dimitria Sullivan, Charlie Packer was absent that meeting so he abstained from voting. Roll call vote – Dimitria, Dan, Jim -all in favor to accept as drafted.

Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2/9/2021/ - Charlie Packer made one edit – motion to accept with edit, Charlie Packer , 2nd Dan O’Neil , Jim Antonczick abstain as he was not present for the meeting. Roll call vote, Dimitria, Dan, Charlie -all in favor.

Old/New Business

Jason mentioned a new Traffic Calming Request was received for Fox Meadow Road. The request includes Greenlodge Street. Jason asked the TAC for their recommendation to accept the application as there is an accepted request application for Greenlodge Street in progress. The TAC suggested that Jason ask the applicant to revise the application to Fox Meadow Lane only and to let them know of the Greenlodge application already in progress.

Charlie Packer asked if the letter head and associated TAC documents could include his and Jim’s title as P. E. so the public will have knowledge that there are 2 Professional Engineers on the Committee– Jason will add title going forward.

Mr Bethoney suggested that the “chat” function be disabled for the public during meetings, he mentioned that cross talk is not allowed during in person meetings and should not be allowed for remote meetings. The chair will recognize anyone by a show of a raised hand. Jason will adjust this setting for future remote meetings.

Next meeting is April 13, 2021.

Being no further business Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM Dan O’Neil, 2nd Charlie Packer, roll call vote – all in favor.

