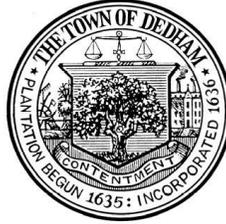


COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CHARLIE PACKER, P.E. VICE CHAIR
DIMITRIA SULLIVAN
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ADRIENNE T ALBANI
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

TOWN OF DEDHAM
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
Remote participation via ZOOM
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – 7 PM.

Present: John Bethoney, Chair
Charlie Packer, P.E. Member
Dan O'Neil, Member
Dimitria Sullivan, SB

Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works
Michael D'Entremont, Dedham Police Chief

Absent: James Antonizick

Mr. Bethoney opened the meeting at 7:07 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and protocols.

A roll call attendance was taken- above listed TAC members were present. Jim Antonizick absent.

Committee Reorganization – Jason Mammone shared that James Antonizick has resigned from the TAC as he has moved out of Dedham. Thus, the position of Vice Chair is vacant. Dimitria Sullivan nominated Charlie Packer for the vacancy. John Bethoney asked Charlie if he would accept the nomination. Charlie accepted the nomination and is delighted to serve as TAC Vice Chair. Dan O'Neil provided 2nd to motion to appoint Charlie Packer, all in favor by roll call vote.

Agenda Item # 1 – Traffic Calming Request #2019-007, Central Ave, Kristina & Jeff Hibbard (Applicants) – Discussion and Vote on Initial Evaluation.

Mr. Bethoney asked if all TAC members had a chance to review the Initial Evaluation (all replied in the affirmative) and then asked Jason Mammone to provide a summary of the request and details of the Initial Evaluation.

Jason first thanked the applicant and neighbors for their patience in waiting until the MWRA work was complete. Jason stated he kept the applicants updated on progress.

Jason described Central Ave as unique in it has a green strip median the entire length of the street. The section from Wentworth St to Rustcraft Rd has no sidewalks. The findings in the Initial Evaluation were placed in the scoring table. The combined criteria of speed, volume, pedestrian route, traffic collisions, pedestrian generators and residential density scored a total of 26 thus not meeting the 50 point minimum required for traffic calming. The data revealed Central Ave to have many pedestrians thus sidewalks are recommended on both sides of Central Ave. This will improve walkability throughout the area.

While traditional traffic calming measures are not recommended the Town's Engineering Department offered low-cost measures that could be utilized. These include a Step 2 Kid Alert warning system could be placed at the end of residential driveways, having neighbors park their vehicles on the street to narrow the road, request a "Your Speed Is" indicator sign from Dedham PD for various times throughout the year.

Jason turned the floor back to Mr. Bethoney who thanked Jason for his thorough review and asked TAC members for any comments.

Charlie Packer thanked Jason and had no further comment.

Dimitria Sullivan thanked Jason and had no questions or comments.

Dan O'Neil thanked Jason and had no further comment.

Mr Bethoney recognized the applicant Kristina Hibbard who thanked the TAC and Jason for the thorough evaluation and is hopeful that sidewalks will be installed. A petition in support of sidewalk installation was previously submitted and signed by 26 residents. Mr. Bethoney acknowledged receiving said petition.

Mr. Bethoney opened to public comment and recognized:

Kim Tierney of 298 Central Ave who thanked the TAC for their evaluation and recommendation. Kim is a mother of 3 small children and stated safety is her main concern. She feels Central Ave is becoming a cut through for drivers to avoid East St. She supports sidewalk installation and welcomes any other traffic calming measures.

Chuck Jenest of 51 Wentworth St – stated he walks on Central Ave regularly and has seen an increase in traffic and vehicles traveling the wrong way. He suggested the installation of One-Way signs would be helpful.

Mr Bethoney asked Jason about One – Way signs- Jason stated that when sidewalks are installed any associated signage would be integrated into the project.

Being no further public comment Mr. Bethoney asked Jason how the sidewalk installation would proceed without the TAC (as it did not meet the 50 point minimum)

Jason stated that Engineering Department would have a list of Capital Expenditure projects that would be presented to the Finance Committee for approval.

Jason stated he will keep the applicant updated as the process of presenting to the Finance Committee gets underway.

Being no further comment from the TAC or public Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to deny the request for Central Ave as it did not meet the requirements, Dimitria Sullivan motion, Charlie Packer 2nd – all in favor by roll call vote.

The TAC will support the installation of sidewalks as recommended by the Engineering Department thus, Mr Bethoney sought a motion of same. Motion to support, Dan O’Neil, 2nd Charlie Packer, all in favor by roll call vote.

Agenda Item # 2 -Traffic Calming Request # 2020-001, Wentworth Street: Kylie Calzone (Applicant) – Discussion and Vote on Initial Evaluation.

Mr. Bethoney recused himself from this item as he lives on Wentworth Street. He will leave the ZOOM meeting and rejoin when the discussion is complete. Vice Chair Charlie Packer will proceed with this item.

Mr. Packer asked Jason to provide a summary of the Initial Evaluation for Wentworth Street.

Jason stated that at the time the Traffic Calming Request was submitted MWRA was conducting a water main project thus normal traffic patterns in the area were disrupted. Upon approval from the TAC, The Traffic Evaluation was conducted a few weeks after the completion of the MWRA project.

The speed and volume data were collected from June 7th – June 11th showing an average mph of 30.9. The volume of vehicles has shown to have decreased over the past 10 years by 19%. The crash data findings from 2018-2021 show 2 crashes that were due to driver error and did not involve pedestrians or bicyclists.

The collected data was plugged into the scoring table with a total score of 44 points, short of the required 50 point minimum. As such traditional Traffic Calming measures are not recommended for Wentworth St. The Engineering Department suggests low cost calming measures that could be utilize by the residents. These include a Step 2 Kid Alert warning system could be placed at the end of residential driveways, having neighbors park their vehicles on the street to narrow the road, request a “Your Speed Is” indicator sign from Dedham PD for various times throughout the year.

The Engineering Department supports sidewalk installation as a safety measure and a way to fill in a gap and provide connectivity for pedestrians.

Charlie Packer thanked Jason for his summary and agreed that the low cost measures and sidewalk installation should be considered. He also stated that a police presence during various times would be helpful. Chief D’Entremont stated the PD has had a presence at various times and will continue.

Mr. Packer opened to TAC comments or questions.

Dimitria Sullivan asked if Jason could explain the process for sidewalk installation as members of the public may not have been on the call for the previous agenda item and may not have heard the process. Jason explained that certain streets in town are

earmarked for sidewalk funding and the process is for Engineering Department to make the request to the Finance Committee.

Being no further comments from TAC members, Mr Packer opened to the public and recognized the **applicant, Kylie Calzone**.

Kylie thanked Jason and the TAC for their review and recommendations. She stated that many residents are already parking on the street in an effort to slow the traffic speeds and also utilizing the Step 2 Kid Alert system, but she remains concerned about the hill on the street and the danger of speeding vehicles. She noted that a score of 44 is so close to 50 point minimum and perhaps the TAC could review it further.

Charles Jenest of 51 Wentworth St - Thanked the TAC and Jason for the review and finding but has some questions. He stated he is a career data manager and wondered about the numbers. He stated that he has seen a police presence in the past and thought it could have impacted the numbers. Vehicles would slow down and thus the numbers in the report could be skewed. Jason did not believe the PD was present when the data was collected but will confirm with the PD logs.

He also questioned the Traffic Data Station numbers, stating the ADT may not have considered ½ days.

Jason explained the different algorithms and methodology in gathering the data.

Alex Clarke of 56 Wentworth St- Thanked the Chief for the police presence on the street but wanted to make sure they were not there during data collection as it would have been a deterrent to motorists and could have impacted the numbers keeping the score below 50 points. He also questioned the 1000 ft buffer for pedestrian generators, he feels it is too restrictive. Jason stated 1000 ft buffer are established guidelines for a length of when people are encouraged to walk.

Mr. Clarke thanked the TAC and Jason for considering his comments.

Mr. Packer opened again to TAC comments. Dimitria Sullivan asked if Jason could confirm with the Dedham PD logs and if they were in fact present during data collection the TAC could revisit the issue.

Mr. Packer sought a motion for TAC table the matter until the next meeting as to ascertain if the Dedham PD logs show their presence during data collection. Motion made by Dimitria Sullivan, 2nd Dan O'Neil all in favor by roll call.

Mr Packer asked for Mr Bethoney to rejoin the meeting.

Mr. Bethoney rejoined the meeting at 8:14 PM to take over as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda Item # 3 – Traffic Calming Policy Discussion – Possible change to policy that would require a certain number of signatories for a traffic calming request to be

considered by the TAC. At-large member qualifications and “Affected Area” notification for requests that are approved for traffic calming measures.

Jason mentioned that at our last meeting the suggestion was a minimum of 40% of homeowners must sign on for a Request to be considered by the TAC.

Dimitria Sullivan asked Jason to compare the TAC Application to the Private to Public Way Petition.

Jason stated when he composed the Private to Public petition every property owner must sign the petition for it to be considered. So 100% of owners must sign in support of the petition.

Charlie Packer supports the 40% minimum. He stated it would prevent potential issues like those that arose on Upland Ave. when traffic measures were being installed, residents were not aware of the issue and felt they should have been informed.

Dimitria Sullivan can make the recommendation to the Select Board to amend the Traffic Calming Policy to include 40% of resident’s signatures.

Discussion continued about the at-large members qualifications. It was discussed that at least one member should have practical experience in the field of traffic or be a Civil, Professional or Traffic Engineer. Dimitra suggested those qualifications be “preferred” not “required” in the policy changes.

The vacancy posting for Jim Antonizick has been sent to Asst Town Manager.

Jason mentioned the Affected Area notifications will be drafted for the next meeting.

Approval of meeting minutes from June 8, 2021

Mr. Bethoney asked if members had a chance to review June 8th minutes and if they had any proposed edits.

Dimitria Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted, 2nd Dan O’Neil – all in favor by roll call John B , Dan O & Dimitria S(Charlie was absent June 8th)

Old/New Business

Jason stated the next meeting is tentative for September 14, 2021. No meeting is scheduled for August.

Jason updated the TAC that speed humps have been installed for Top Hill and Upland Ave and ballots are being prepared for November or December mailing.

Being no further business Mr. Bethoney sought a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM Dimitria Sullivan, 2nd Charlie Packer -roll call vote – all in favor.

