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**TOWN OF DEDHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, December 16, 2013  
7:00 p.m., Francis O'Brien Meeting Room**

**Present:** John R. Bethoney, Chair  
Richard Schoenfeld  
Paul Reynolds  
Mark MacLean  
Paul Reynolds

**Ex-Officio:** Jason L. Mammone, P.E.  
Richard J. McCarthy, Jr., Planning Director  
Chief Michael D'Entremont  
Joseph Flanagan, Director, Department of Public Works

Mr. Bethoney called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. It should be noted that Member Paul Reynolds arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Flanagan said there are serious problems with High Street and Recreation Road, and suggested either exit from Whiting Avenue or some kind of lights at High Street and Recreation Road. There is a pedestrian light there now. He said it is a dangerous area because of blinding from the sun, and he fears someone may be killed. Mr. MacLean asked the Chief if the driveway behind the Middle School is two-way. The Chief said it is restricted as one-way from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. There is also a time restriction on East Street. Entrance is one way in from East Street, and exit is via Mount Vernon Street. People do not want to go onto Whiting Avenue coming from Mount Vernon Street. Mr. Bethoney said that, for the record, the Planning Board did not review the Middle School, but did review the Avery School.

Officer Ronald Pucci had come before the Planning Board regarding this issue, and the Board said it was willing to do anything necessary to increase public safety and make things better. However, Officer Pucci cannot propose changes to someone else's property. The School Department, who owns the property, must propose a change. He and Planning Board Chairman Michael Podolski spoke with School Committee members, and were told that if they are interested in modifying the site in any way, they will come before the Planning Board.

LOCATION:	Barrows Street
REQUEST #:	2013-002
TOPIC:	Discussion and Vote

Mr. Mammone provided the Committee with the request, signatures, and a very detailed, specific report dated September 30, 2013, as well as a conclusion and recommendation. Mr. Bethoney asked for comments from the Committee and whether there was agreement with the conclusions and recommendation that nothing can be done. Speed is fair and reasonable on average, and volumes are equal to those of the rest of the streets similar to it. Turtle flagmen could be placed in neighborhoods to help with traffic calming. Discussion had taken place previously about giving neighborhoods these devices to place on the street. Mr. Flanagan said that if it is done for one street, it has to be done for every street. If people asked about them, they can be told that there are some available. Mr. Bethoney suggested buying 50 of them to be used for a week at a time. Mr. McCarthy said that neighborhoods are using them as a collective group, and they do work. There has been additional police enforcement over the past several weeks, which should help. Social media and outreach have been employed in this regard. Chief D'Entremont spoke about this, **although he could not be heard because he spoke so softly and the blower was being used.** [Mr. Reynolds arrived at 7:35 p.m., and was brought up to speed regarding the issue. He said that the reports are not bad what one thinks, but the residents may still need something to help ameliorate the situation. This brought the topic back to flagmen.] Another traffic calming measure would be staggering vehicles to discourage speeding and to not park cars on the sidewalk, which would narrow the street. Mr. McCarthy wondered if the committee could impart techniques that have been used elsewhere for neighborhoods to try.

Mr. Bethoney asked if there is money to purchase flag men for residential use. Mr. McCarthy said the Planning Board does not have any. Mr. Flanagan said it would come out of the Department of Public Works, but there is not much money available. The flag men cost about \$25 a piece. Mr. Reynolds suggested starting with ten to see if there is any interest. Mr. Mammone thinks there will be great interest in them. Details would need to be worked out. Mr. Bethoney did say that once people become used to seeing them, it does not have the same effect on them. They are not moved indoors, so people get used to them. If they were put out at different times of the day, it would certainly make more of a difference. Mr. Bethoney asked if there were any techniques that residents could use to create traffic calming measures. Mr. Mammone said that this is basically the only tool they have. Mr. MacLean asked if, during the design phase, there was a traffic management plan for the Middle School. If there was and it had a suggested route for the school, the School Department could encourage it. Mr. Flanagan said there is no parking on Abbott Road and no dropping off there as well. However, people do not listen and follow their own agenda. Mr. Flanagan people will often ignore any rules. They are typically in a hurry, running late, and pay little to no attention. Chief D'Entremont said that the police chase people around the schools every day. Officer Pucci writes down plate numbers and mails notices to the individuals. If there is no police presence, people will do whatever they want. Mr. McCarthy asked if there is a policy at school that forces more people to drop-off and pick up. The Chief said that working parents prefer doing a drop-off instead of using the bus. Mr. Bethoney asked about outreach from the School Department, i.e., flyers given to people waiting for pickups. This would remind them about respecting side streets around the school, staying on main roads, parking and dropping off in assigned locations. He did realize that it is hard to give out handouts.

Mr. Bethoney suggested that the Committee make a position list and then vote and act on this. He did not think that any position should be taken without letting the petitioner know. The peti-

tioner would be notified by letter to come in to discuss this. If they do not come in, it would be fine. If they come, suggestions will be given to help them.

Mr. Reynolds said this is the first tangible case and it is a good opportunity to discuss the purview and function of the Committee. Mr. Mammone said that the idea is purely for traffic calming implementation.

Mr. Bethoney said that Barrows Street does not meet eligibility for traffic calming measures. The Committee will come up with a recommendation list. The Applicant will be notified via letter that this has been studied and this is the final decision. He will be given an invitation to the next meeting to discuss this.

Mr. MacLean said that, if he lived on Barrows Street, he would want to know if there is a traffic management plan for the area. If the project was not reviewed by a regulatory board, the neighbors would put one together. The normal procedure is that, as a development is reviewed, those types of plans are a requirement in order to be permitted. However, the Middle School did not go through that process, so there is no traffic management plan. Mr. McCarthy will research compiling a recommendation list, which will be circulated by e-mail and tweaked, and then it will be circulated to the neighbors.

With regard to the turtle flagmen, Mr. Schoenfeld felt that Mr. Flanagan is not in favor of these. Mr. Flanagan said he is concerned about the cost of buying these. Instead, petitioners will be told that they are available and they can buy them online. He said they are about \$30. The issue is distributing them. He said that a petitioner can be given one as a trial, and told where they are available for purchase. The Police Department has a limited number of these for limited time use. Mr. Flanagan thinks people will use them, but he noted an issue with speed on his own street. The neighbors park so that cars must slow down and make room for cars coming in the opposite direction. It is very effective.

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Harvard Street
<b>REQUEST #:</b>	2012-001
<b>TOPIC:</b>	Discussion and Vote

A request was received from Meaghan Santom regarding Harvard Street being a cut-through from High Street to Washington Street for people going to the Dedham Plaza. She felt that there should be speed bumps on the street. Mr. Mammone presented the Committee with a very detailed, specific report dated September 30, 2013, as well as a conclusion and recommendation. The conclusion was that the street did not qualify for traffic calming measurements for three reasons:

1. It does not meet the eligibility requirements for traffic calming as a means to mitigate speeding since the measured 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 25 mph is not greater than 5 mph above the prima facie speed of 30 mph.
2. Although it is used as a cut-through for vehicles trying to access Washington Street, the average daily traffic of 407 vehicles is pretty consistent with other residential streets in the Town.
3. Pedestrian and bicycle safety do not appear to be issues on Harvard Street since there are sidewalks along the entire length of the westerly side of the street and along a majority of the easterly side of the street. There is also an extremely low percentage of accidents.

The Committee agreed with Mr. Mammone's report. Mr. Schoenfeld said that the applicant should be notified to attend the next meeting when the Committee will take a position. A copy of Mr. Mammone's report should be included in the invitation. Included in the invitation letter should be a sentence that interested parties should also be notified to attend.

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Selection of Next Traffic Calming Request
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The Committee first needs to finalize Barrows Street and the rest of the requests from 2012. Jersey Street is next, but Barrows Street and Jersey Street should be finalized before discussing that. Mr. Mammone will supply the report to the Committee. Jersey Street will be a discussion on the initial evaluation.

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2013
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This was tabled because the minutes are not ready.

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Old/New Business
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**None**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, in the Selectmen's Chambers. A letter to the applicants for Harvard Street and Barrows Street will be mailed by January 7, 2014.

Mr. Schoenfeld made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Reynolds. The vote was unanimous. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Webster  
Administrative Assistant  
Town of Dedham Transportation Advisory Committee