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RICHARD SCHOENFELD  
NEWCOMB STILLWELL  
MARK MACLEAN**

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

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PLANNING DIRECTOR

SUSAN WEBSTER  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Francis O'Brien Meeting Room, Town Hall  
Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 7 p.m.**

**Present:** John Bethoney, Chairman  
James Antonizick, Vice Chairman  
Carmen Dello Iacono  
Richard Schoenfeld  
Newcomb Stillwell  
Mark MacLean  
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering  
Joseph Flanagan, Director of Public Works  
Sgt. Michael Feeley, Dedham Police

Mr. Bethoney called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Transportation Advisory Committee Policies</b>
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Mr. Bethoney reviewed the last meeting's MAPC presentation by David Loutzenheiser. He said he did not really get much from his interpretation/perception of traffic calming and potential measures that could be taken on those streets identified as having problems with volume and speed. Therefore, this avenue has been researched.

The Committee was given a copy of the Traffic Calming Policy dated January 26, 2012. This gives everyone the opportunity to once again see what the committee is responsible for evaluating. The policy sets the criteria that streets must meet in order to seek action and ultimately recommend to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bethoney discussed this with Mr. Mammone and Mr. McCarthy, and says that as a group, the committee is at an impasse. The committee needs to figure out whether it will go by the policy, in which case evaluations would be continued. If not, the committee needs to figure out what it finds to be unacceptable and then recommend changes prior to going through any more evaluations. He asked the committee how it felt and whether it is prepared to continue under the direction of the traffic calming policy.

- Mr. Schoenfeld said he was satisfied with the policy.
- Mr. Antonizick said the problem is the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed and the need to be 5 mph over it to qualify; the rest is comprehensive in regard to traffic calming and what the committee can do. If the criteria are changed, there would have to be significant changes.
- Mr. Stillwell said it is an excellent report. The real issue is speed and what the Town wants the committee to do. Based on petitions so far, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile reflects what

people want and the committee should follow that. He asked if it was the right standard. If the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile/5 mph over reflects what the people want, the committee should follow that. He said that, based on the fact that people are bringing these petitions, this is not the standard that is really wanted. He suggested that the committee soften it somehow, i.e., take it out and leave it to the committee's discretion. Circumstances differ from one street to the next. He deferred to the rest of the committee for the right standard, but thought that the committee should consider telling the Board of Selectmen either that the standard is too loose, or that it should trust the committee to apply a standard or have some kind of say in the standard.

- Sgt. Feeley suggested educating applicants about the Commonwealth's rules for speed.
- Mr. Flanagan brought up signage on streets. People want the signage, but not in front of their house. A lot of the issue is perception of speed. Granite curbing will tell people where to park, but this is a capital expense. He said that residents can do certain things to help, i.e., flagmen and parking on the street, not the sidewalk.

Mr. Bethoney noted that the traffic calming policy was adopted by the Board of Selectmen in 2012, and anything the committee does has to go back to them. Mr. Mammone said that people reach out to the Town Manager's office with complaints. The Board of Selectmen felt that there should be a committee to handle these inquiries and then pass them to the Board when necessary. He said that if any of the established criteria are loosened, it will bring more complaints and potentially unnecessary applications. Mr. Stillwell again said that it does not seem that these criteria are what people want. Mr. Mammone said that this policy, minus the balloting aspect, is what the Engineering Department has used right along, and the Board of Selectmen has agreed to it. Mr. DelloIacono thinks the Board of Selectmen would prefer keeping things as they are.

Mr. Bethoney said that if the Committee is not happy with the policy, it needs to modify it before considering any further applications, and then take it to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. If not, the policy will remain as it is. He said he was happy with the current policy. Mr. MacLean said that Mr. Stillwell's thought sound reasonable based on what the neighbors want.

After considerable discussion, the committee decided to keep the policy as is. Mr. Stillwell made a motion that the Transportation Advisory Committee work on assessing applications based on the traffic policy adopted on January 26, 2012, and to report to the Board of Selectmen in October 2015 as to any recommendations the Committee may have to modify the traffic calming policy. Mr. Schoenfeld seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Bethoney said that if the standards change after a year, the previous petitioners should be notified for another review. He and Mr. Mammone will work on a memorandum to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Stillwell made a further motion to allow Mr. Mammone to amend the October date for the convenience of his department, and amend the draft minutes and the memorandum to reflect what works for his department.

Mr. Bethoney asked Mr. Mammone whether any of the applicants has met the action level to date, and none have. Mr. Bethoney would like letters sent to the applicants stating that they do not meet the criteria to warrant traffic calming. Mr. Mammone said that the Committee needs to present the initial evaluation to the Jersey Street applicant. Mr. Bethoney asked if there is a way to notify the residents by phone. Mr. Mammone suggested notices/postcards to those who signed the application (the applicant has moved). Mr. Antonizick wondered if, in the denial letter, the Committee could make formalized recommendations to applicants who did not meet the criteria, specifically what the residents can do themselves. Mr. Mammone gave examples of what they could do, i.e., develop their own pamphlets to hand out to the neighborhood to let them know that they have a concern about the street and speeding, work with the schools, etc. Mr. Stillwell

suggested that he make a form letter that includes this, and Mr. Mammone agreed. Mr. Bethoney advised putting a link on the website.

The next application will be for Kiely Road. The study has been done, but it has not yet been evaluated. It will be ready for the next meeting. Mr. Bethoney asked the Committee what it would like to do about a summer schedule. His concern is that residents may wonder why the Committee is meeting during summer vacation time. The Committee decided to have a meeting on July 15, 2014, for now, and then figure out August. Mr. Mammone said that the Committee will go over the initial evaluation for Kiely Road at that time and have residents in from Jersey Street. Mr. Bethoney said that the Board of Selectmen should send letters to parents of schoolchildren, and suggested that Mr. McCarthy do this.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jason L. Mammone, P.E.  
Director, Department of Engineering