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

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Francis O'Brien Meeting Room, Town Hall  
Tuesday, Jan 20, 2015 - 7 p.m.**

**Present:** John Bethoney, Chairman  
Richard Schoenfeld  
Mark MacLean  
Jason Mammone, P.E., Director of Engineering  
Richard McCarthy, Planning Director  
Chief Michael D'Entremont, Dedham Police  
Residents of Highland Avenue

Mr. Bethoney called meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Mr. Bethoney – One item on the agenda – Continue discussion on Highland Street.

Mr. Mammone can you bring us up to speed as to where we are as of today.

Mr. Mammone read over the major points and stated that there was no speeding issues as far as the data was concerned – looked at sight line issues and determined there are sight line issues and made a recommendation for advance warning systems for those that had sight line issues. Also looked at crash data and determined there was not a significant amount of crashes that would indicate there was a problem with the geometry of the roadway. We also talked about creating neighborhood associations and talking to the schools. There was also some discussion about the traffic light on Highland/Washington Street with respect to signalization.

Mr. Bethoney – has anyone contacted the State with regards to those lights.

Mr. Mammone – yes – Joe Flanagan and myself met with Mass Highway and had them look at the residents' concerns with people stopping short of the stop line and it not triggering the light if they stopped short of the driveway so they extended their vehicle detection camera to spread the spectrum out to allow more cars to go thru. We also asked them to maximize the green light on that cycle so you can get as many cars out as possible and it is max out as much as they can without effecting the other intersections.

Mr. Bethoney – so to follow up - You met with Mass Highway they expanded the camera to trigger the lights so they actually go and made that light as green as long as possible. So you have identified thru your studies that the issues are really about the curves and the sight distances associated with them. Your recommendations to that were the advanced warning signage and paint on the ground. When we left here last meeting we asked if those recommendations were something that the neighborhood would embrace. “Go Slow” written on the ground and diamond sign with the curve symbol in it with the advisory speed limit on it. Loretta was asked if she met with her concerned neighbors and talked about the study, the findings and the potential recommendation.

Loretta DeBlasio – we did and we agreed to go in front of the selectman –

Mr. Bethoney stopped her and said we did not agree to go in front of the selectman unless all of the concerned neighbors agree that they would want that. We would not want to go the Board of Selectman and have this recommendation and have someone say they do not like that idea.

Loretta DeBlasio – didn’t we all agree last time we were here that we agreed. Yes

Mr. Bethoney – we said if you did not agree and wanted to contact the Town Planner or communicate with us by email your other ideas – I have not received anything. So does anyone want to talk on these recommendations and these findings? Is everyone happy with the recommendation?

Loretta DeBlasio – we were happy with that as a start.

Mr. Bethoney – if it does not work you will meet with a future advisory committee will see you again and if it works well you guys are good.

We cannot call for a motion to recommend the mitigation because we are short some people so we will have to put it off until we have more members here. You don’t have to come back because that is the vote I am going to call for. The report and the findings are available on our website.

Mr. Mammone – the Selectman do not have to approve this one because it is not regulatory, but we want to present this to them so that they are aware of the situation. This is probably one of the first major recommendations that the Traffic Committee is putting out.

Mr. Bethoney – who would put these measures in place?

Mr. Mammone – the Public Works Dept. We wouldn’t be able to do it until the spring. We should be able to just give the Selectman a letter that updates them on the situation without having to go before them at one of their meetings.

Loretta DeBlasio – made a comment about the driving around town and seeing some newly paved roads that had the yellow line down the middle. And said so are they illegal?

Mr. Mammone – No, it depends on the average daily traffic of the particular roadway and engineering judgment. Highland Street does not meet the average daily traffic or warrant the placement of a double yellow line.

Mr. Bethoney – we will be in touch when we are going to vote on that. We don't have a meeting date yet but someone will contact you with an email and if you could spread the word.

Old/New Business:

Mr. Bethoney – Does anyone have anything to add to Old /New Business – NO

Mr. Ralph Agostinelli and Mary Beth Rook – 63 Highland Street  
He has concerns about the traffic on the left you take onto Martin Bates. They have lived there for over 30 years. Can't walk or back out of their drive way. The students and parents are taking the left to use as a cut thru and when they come down the road they are taking the turn too fast and wind up on the gravel on the side of the road.

It has created an unsafe environment. Taking that left has a large volume of cars in the am. They tried to widen the road and added gravel and now it has all been washed away. Now there is a gulley on the side of the road. So we wanted to see if there is something the Town could do about it – maybe put no left turn at certain times. Also why is Lowder a one way?

Mr. Bethoney – I am not sure what you are asking – Jason do you have any input?

Marybeth Rook said she had talked to Mike Feeley and he has been wonderful – he had put out speed signs – I don't think it is really a speed problem and I don't think it is an enforcement issue because the police have tried.

Mr. Bethoney – so what do you think can be done – you have been there that long.

Marybeth Rook– ideally I would like it to be between 7-8:30 no left turn.  
Roger - Maybe reroute it. Like the way the road is near the Dexter School. Our neighbor backs her car into her driveway so she has a better sight line when she is coming out of her drive way in the morning.

Mr. Bethoney – Chief are you aware of any of this discussion?

Chief D'Entremont – There are officers out there. I was not aware of the cut thru on Martin Bates. I can talk to Mike Feeley and address this with Mike.

Mr. Bethoney – is Martin Bates a private way? Jason – No it is not.

Mr. Mammone – I have taken a look at the situation and I have talked to Ms. Rook a few weeks ago and I knew of the concerns. One thing I looked at was to why Lowder Street was a one-way from Sawyer Drive to Highland Street and could it be changed to a two-way street. Unfortunately, due to the narrow width of the road coupled with the high stone wall adjacent to Ursuline Academy and insufficient sight lines, it would not lend itself to accommodating two-way traffic.

Mr. Bethoney – what about the intersection of Highland and Martin Bates – is there anything we can do about minimizing or force people to more safely enter the turn. If they are going to take that route is there anything we can do to make that turn safer?

Mr. Mammone – I did a crash analysis for the intersection and over 11 years there have only been 3 crashes and one of them was related to weather. None of the crashes involved pedestrians. Since there had only been 2 fair weather crashes over 11 years it does not indicate that there is safety issue related to the geometry of the intersection.

Mr. Bethoney – have the neighbors ever gotten together and sat down with Ursuline and talked to them about the routing that the drivers use and having more respect for the neighbors and residential people in and around the school? Not to throw it back on you but that is certainly something that we talk about in this room.

Marybeth Rook – I have to say I have done it over the years but I have not done it in over 10 years. They just say they are doing their part by telling the students and parents to be careful.

Mr. Bethoney – sometimes the school will put out flyers and put as part of their handbook the rules and regulations and penalties for not following certain guidelines. Maybe the school could police themselves. Anyone else have anything to add?

Mr. Maclean – is there any curbing or sidewalks.

Mr. Mammone – there is a sidewalk on Highland opposite the intersection of Martin Bates.

Mr. Bethoney – certainly it is safer with a curve. The question is – is the problem addressable. It is not speed but more volume and folks driving more inappropriately. We have other people from other parts of town around schools and this is a common topic the ways the parents and the teens drive. I guess the question is if the problem is addressable and how. We can think about it and talk about it again when we have a full group here. We are town's people to put formality to issues. We will be in touch.

Mr. Bethoney – any other old/new business?

Motion was made to adjourn, and seconded. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m. Next meeting will be Mar 24th at 7 pm.