



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

James Shuris, Chairman/Director of Public Works
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April 25, 2018

Northbridge Board of Selectmen
Northbridge Memorial Town Hall
7 Main Street, Whitinsville MA 01588

REQUEST FOR 4-WAY STOP AT JEFFERSON AVENUE & LINCOLN CIRCLE

Steve Dupre, Resident

REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT 214 CHURCH STREET

Catherine Flayhan, Flexible Fundamentals

REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT 369 DOUGLAS ROAD

Russ Collins, Woonsocket Glass Fabricators

COMMUNITY MAILBOX AT CLUBHOUSE LANE

Police Chief Warchol

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT (RSA) AT PROVIDENCE RD/SUTTON ST/SCHOOL ST/UPTON ST

James Shuris, P.E., MBA - DPW Director & Town Engineer

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018** in the Police Station Conference Room. The following members were present: Chairman James Shuris, Police Chief Walter Warchol, Fire Chief David White; R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Steven Von Bargaen, Jamie Luchini (Alternate), and James Sheehan (Alternate).

George Murray and Peter Bedigian were absent.

The following members of the public were in attendance: Steve Dupre, Russ Collins and John Benoit

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Shuris called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made (J. Luchini) and seconded (W. Warchol) the Safety Committee voted (5-0-1 [Sheehan abstained] to ACCEPT the meeting minutes of February 21, 2018

II. CORRESPONDENCE

Safety Committee members acknowledged receipt of communications for agenda items to be reviewed/discussed.

III. REQUEST FOR 4-WAY STOP AT JEFFERSON AVENUE & LINCOLN CIRCLE

Steve Dupre, Resident

Chairman Shuris read email communication received November 11, 2017 from Steve Dupre concerning request for 4-way stop.

Steve Dupre reviewed with the Committee safety concerns of speeding vehicles along Jefferson Avenue and Lincoln Circle requesting that a 4-way stop sign be installed at the intersection to slow down traffic which has increased over the years with the continued buildout of Presidential Farms.

Gary Bechtholdt indicated that he supports the installation of stop signs within all residential neighborhoods. Jamie Luchini also expressed support of installing stop signs within the residential neighborhood.

Chief Warchol noted that he did not have an issue with installing stop signs, however wanted the Committee to base its decision on facts and not solely on a request. Chief Warchol reviewed traffic data compiled for the neighborhood once the complaint was received, noting the number of vehicles per day travelling on Jefferson was 159 with an average of 13 vehicles per hour during peak hours of 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM and the average speed was 27 MPH recorded during a 7-day span.

Chief White questioned if the Committee would be setting a precedence; Steven Von Bargaen believed the Committee should review requests case by case, noting often situations may be unique to specific locations; Gary Bechtholdt agreed, noting there is a hierarchy to streets (major/minor) and should be considered as part of specific requests. Chief Warchol agreed and wants the Committee to be consistent.

Upon motion duly made (G. Bechtholdt) and seconded (W. Warchol) the Safety Committee voted (8-0) to recommend installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Lincoln Circle.

IV. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT 214 CHURCH STREET

Catherine Flayhan, Flexible Fundamentals

Chairman Shuris read letter from Catherine Flayhan of Flexible Fundamentals requesting a crosswalk be placed at 214 Church Street to allow safe passage of employees and clients across Church Street to/from the plaza parking lot.

John Benoit, on behalf of Catherine Flayhan and Flexible Fundamental reviewed with the Committee concerns, noting there was a pedestrian crosswalk at the barber shop before the Church Street improvements were completed. Chief Warchol confirmed that there was a crosswalk before the streetscape projects was done.

Mr. Shuris briefly reviewed requirements for the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk (ADA, signage, etc.). Jamie Luchini noted there are many locations in town existing today that do not meet current standards; Mr. Luchini suggested if a crosswalk is to be (re)installed that it meet specifications.

Chief Warchol and Chief White agreed that a crosswalk should be reinstalled at the location for safety. Mr. Luchini noted that a parking space may be eliminated to accommodate the new crosswalk. Chief Warchol supported the request; Chief White also expressed support noting the crosswalk should satisfy ADA requirements.

Upon motion duly made (G. Bechtholdt) and seconded (J. Luchini) the Safety Committee voted (8-0) to recommend (re)installation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Church Street.

The Highway Superintendent shall review locations and report back to the Committee if there is an issue with locating crosswalk within this vicinity of Flexible Fundamental and the barber shop.

V. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT 369 DOUGLAS ROAD

Russ Collins, Woonsocket Glass Fabricators

Chairman Shuris read email communication received February 15, 2018 from Russ Collins requesting a pedestrian crosswalk on Douglas Road.

Russ Collins, on behalf of Woonsocket Glass reviewed with the Safety Committee request to install a crosswalk on Douglas Road to improve pedestrian crossing as a result of the need to relocate employee parking across the street (Picnic Point Business Park) to accommodate fire apparatus in the event of emergency. Mr. Collins reviewed with the Committee site layout showing buildings and parking locations.

Mr. Collins noted Douglas Road has a slight curve in its layout which makes it difficult for drivers to see people crossing the roadway. Chief Warchol agreed, noting there are stretches along Douglas Road where sight distances is impaired as a result of the roadway alignment, creating a blind curve.

Chief Warchol suggested if a crosswalk was to be installed flashing lights and advance warning signage should also be considered. Chief Warchol expressed concerns with promoting pedestrian crossing within a potential unsafe location; Mr. Bechtholdt agreed.

Mr. Shuris explained a crosswalk needs to have a level landing area on both sides of the roadway and should not connect driveway to driveway; a pad transition area outside the travelway should be provided. The Committee noted the installation of flashing lights at the Whittin Mill (Alternatives); Mr. Luchini indicated that the property owner purchased the flashing lights. Mr. Shuris asked Mr. Collins if Woonsocket Glass would be willing to purchase flashing lights. Mr. Collins indicated that they would be willing to do so; Mr. Luchini indicated the purchase price was about \$1,600.00 per light.

Upon motion duly made (J. Luchini) and seconded (D. White) the Safety Committee voted (8-0) to recommendation installation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Douglas Road, where the Owner (Woonsocket Glass) shall purchase the required flashing lights (2) to be installed under the direction and supervisions of the Department of Public Works.

In making its recommendation, the Safety Committee noted the pedestrian crosswalk installation shall include advance warning signs and appropriate landing and transition areas as discussed.

VI. COMMUNITY MAILBOX AT CLUBHOUSE LANE

Police Chief Warchol

Chief Warchol explained to the Committee that he witnessed a potential safety issue where an occupant exiting a vehicle to access the community mailbox almost clipped a passing car. Chief Warchol believes the location of the community mailbox located at the intersection of Clubhouse Lane and Linkside Court is not safe and promotes illegal parking within the intersection for those retrieving their mail.

James Shuris agreed with Chief Warchol, noting he recently had discussions with the Town Manager, Highway Superintendent, Town Planner, and Planning Board Chairman on community mailbox locations and specifications.

Jamie Luchini acknowledged same, noting we hope to avoid similar situations moving forward. Gary Bechtholdt suggested the community mailbox be relocated to other side of the roadway along the backside of the sidewalk. Chief Warchol indicated that he would like to see these mailboxes away from intersections as they create safety issues.

Upon motion duly made (W. Warchol) and seconded (D. White) voted (8-0) to have the Safety Committee send a letter to the Homeowners Association directing them to relocate the community mailbox due to safety concerns and parking violations within the intersection.

Chief Warchol and James Shuris will met with representatives of the association to discuss concerns and identify a new location.

VII. ROAD SAFETY AUDIT (RSA) AT PROVIDENCE RD/SUTTON ST/SCHOOL ST/UPTON ST

James Shuris, DPW Director

James Shuris reviewed with the Committee the agenda for the Road Safety Audit (RSA) for Providence Road (Route 122) at Sutton Street, School Street and Upton Street scheduled for May 09, 2018 (10AM to 1PM). Committee members expressed support of this process, noting the intersection has long been a concern within town.

VIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a) MassDOT's Complete Streets Program

Gary Bechtholdt suggested Linwood Avenue, from the Middle School through to the Linwood Mill may be a good option to consider the State's Complete Streets Program (grant funds). Jamie Luchini briefed the Committee on the Complete Streets Program, noting the town would need to adopt certain standards for pedestrian, bike and vehicle transportation. James Shuris indicated that he along with Mr. Bechtholdt and Mr. Luchini will be meeting later this week with Dan Daniska from CMRPC to discuss the Complete Streets Program. Chief Warchol thought this may be a good opportunity for the town to improve this section of Linwood Avenue.

b) Next Safety Committee Meeting Dates: (Wednesday, May 09, 2018)

See Road Safety Audit (RSA) discussion above.

c) Status of Action: 21 February 2018 Safety Committee Meeting

Steven Von Bargaen noted once layout and design of the Balmer School have been finalized same will be forwarded to the Safety Committee. Jamie Luchini informed the Committee that the blinking signs on School Street (Rockdale House) will be installed within the next few weeks.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business, the Safety Committee adjourned its meeting of WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 at or about 10:50 AM.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shum', written over the printed name.

James Shum, P.E., MBA
Director of Public Works & Town Engineer
CHAIRMAN, NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk
Lt. Timothy Labrie
/File

Northbridge Town Manager
Russ Collins

Steve Dupre
John Benoit/Catherine Flayhan