



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

James Shuris, Chairman/Director of Public Works

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October 18, 2017

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

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BARBARA A. CERRONE

(RE)PETITION TO EVALUATE STOP SIGN(S) REQUEST: CLUBHOUSE LAND & LINKSIDE COURT

Sherry Cosgrove, Clubhouse Lane

DPW UPDATE: PROVIDENCE RD, SCHOOL ST, SUTTON ST, & UPTON ST INTERSECTION

Chairman James Shuris, DPW Director

WINSTON WOODS (SPRING STREET): DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION PLAN

Michael Hassett, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

ASHTON PLACE (2356 PROVIDENCE RD): SITE PLAN REVIEW

Bruce Williams, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

ILLUMINATED CROSSWALK SIGN REQUEST: SCHOOL STREET (ROCKDALE HOUSE)

George Murray, on behalf of Residents

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017** in the Police Station Conference Room. The following members were present: Chairman James Shuris, Police Chief Walter Warchol, R. Gary Bechtholdt II, George Murray, Steven Von Bargaen, and Jamie Luchini (Alternate). Adam Gaudette, Town Manager was also present. Fire Chief David White and Peter Bedigian were absent.

The following members of the public were in attendance: Sherry Cosgrove (Clubhouse Lane); Normand Gamache (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.); Michael Hassett (Guerriere & Halnon); David Brossi (Ashton Place); and Brian Fitzgerald (Winston Woods)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Shuris called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Chairman Shuris noted Peter Bedigian and Fire Chief David White as absent. Jamie Luchini, Alternate member participated and voted on matters before the Safety Committee.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (W. Warchol) the Safety Committee voted (5-0-1 [J. Luchini abstained]) to ACCEPT the meeting minutes of SEPTEMEBR 13, 2017.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

None

The following items were discussed WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 and are being forwarded to the Board of Selectmen as recommendations of the Northbridge Safety Committee.

III. (RE)PETITION TO EVALUATE STOP SIGN(S) REQUEST: CLUBHOUSE LAND & LINKSIDE COURT Sherry Cosgrove, Clubhouse Lane

Sherry Cosgrove informed the Committee that traffic along Clubhouse Lane and within the Shining Rock Golf community continues to be a problem, especially during the morning and evening hour commutes. Mrs. Cosgrove explained the traffic creates a real safety concern for residents accessing the community mailbox, which is situated directly off Clubhouse Lane at the intersection of Linkside Court. Mrs. Cosgrove noted that this intersection is currently the only one within the neighborhood that does not have any stop signs. Mrs. Cosgrove requested, based upon the traffic; speed of vehicles and location of the community mailboxes there is a real safety concern and stop signs should be installed on Clubhouse Lane at the Linkside Court intersection.

Chief Warchol explained to the Committee that excessive speed does not appear to be an issue within the area, noting Clubhouse Lane, like many other through streets in town become cut-throughs. Chief Warchol does not believe installing stop signs will deter the cut-through traffic. Chief Warchol suggested relocating the community mailbox off Clubhouse Lane. Chief Warchol reminded Committee members that it's illegal to randomly place stop signs to deter traffic; installation of stop signs needs to satisfy several criteria, which the Police Chief did not believe to be the case in this instance.

Jamie Luchini noted he did not originally support reasoning to install stop signs at this location which was aimed to deter traffic. However, based upon his observations and safety concerns expressed he is in favor of the request understanding the safety concern with access to the community mailbox.

George Murray agreed with Mr. Luchini in support of the request. Mr. Murray explained that he too observed instances where access to the community mailbox creates a safety issue. Mr. Murray noted that he understands the Police Chief's position and that the roadway will always be a cut-through, however for safety reasons he supports the request to install a 3-way stop at Clubhouse Lane and Linkside Court.

Steven Von Barga also agreed with Mr. Luchini and Mr. Murray suggesting local safety concerns should take priority over design standards and override criteria. Chairman Shuris mentioned that he has observed other locations in town where there are 3-way stops in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Shuris voiced his support of the request to install stop signs based upon real safety concerns, noting the community mailbox is right off the roadway, where residents stand in the travelway, which is already a narrow street.

Chief Warchol reiterated that speed is not an issue and there have been no accidents in the area, noting no traffic studies were completed as required by DOT regulations. Chief Warchol suggested if the location of the community mailbox is the concern then the mailbox should be relocated. Mr. Luchini, Mr. Shuris and Mr. Murray stated the Rockdale Post Office determines locations, noting they (Town) had issues recently with the mailboxes installed along Sutton Street after the roadway improvement project. Mr. Murray noted the safety concerns along Clubhouse Lane exists today and the Committee, using a little common sense should support a

3-way stop at this location. Chief Warchol expressed concerns with violating MassDOT regulations and setting a precedence.

Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (J. Luchini) the Safety Committee voted (5-1 [Chief Warchol opposed]) to recommend & support request to install a 3-way stop at Clubhouse Lane and Linkside Court within the Shining Rock Golf Community.

Reference is made to email communication from Sherry & Jeff Cosgrove received by James Shuris Wednesday, October 04, 2017 (5:34PM).

IV. DPW UPDATE: PROVIDENCE RD, SCHOOL ST, SUTTON ST, & UPTON ST INTERSECTION

Chairman James Shuris, DPW Director

James Shuris informed the Committee since the last meeting he has communicated with MassDOT and a traffic engineer regarding possible solutions to the Providence Road, Sutton Street, School Street, Upton Street intersection.

Chairman Shuris presented the Committee with two (2) options:

1. Install pavement markings along approach of the intersection(s), a low-cost option for the town
or
2. Work with MassDOT to evaluate locus area and prepare a Road Safety Audit (RSA), at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00 to the town.

Mr. Shuris confirmed for Gary Bechtholdt that the pavement markings would not require any form or type of traffic analysis prior to installation. Chief Warchol indicated that he did not favor pavement markings, believing it would not solve the problem. Mr. Murray and other members agreed with the Police Chief.

Jamie Luchini suggested the town look to work with MassDOT for assistance to help identify solutions at the intersection, noting RSA projects are Chapter 90 eligible.

Upon motion duly made (J. Luchini) and seconded (W. Warchol) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to recommend the Board of Selectmen work with MassDOT to prepare a Road Safety Audit for the Providence Road, Sutton Street, School Street, Upton Street intersection.

Reference is made to email communication from John M. Michalak, PE (Nitsch Engineering) received by James Shuris October 12, 2017.

V. WINSTON WOODS (SPRING STREET): DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISION PLAN

Michael Hassett, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

Michael Hassett (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.) on behalf of Ryan Fitzgerald, Owner/Applicant reviewed with the Safety Committee the definitive subdivision plan proposed at the end of Spring Street.

Prior to his presentation Mr. Shuris reviewed Safety Committee meeting minutes from June 17, 2009 when this project was originally proposed. Mr. Shuris noted many the comments and concerns raised during the September 13, 2017 meeting were also noted back in 2009.

Mr. Hassett provided the Committee with a brief overview of the September 26, 2017 Planning Board Public Hearing. Mr. Hassett noted initial thoughts to remove sidewalk along Spring Street to address parking and roadway width concerns were not supported by residents attending the public hearing.

Safety Committee members agreed that sidewalks along Spring Street should be retained. James Shuris suggested the sidewalks along Spring Street should be improved as part of any roadway improvements (installation of sewer line, repaving, etc.), noting concerns with existing driveways and sidewalk side slopes.

Mr. Hassett reviewed concerns previously expressed by the Fire Chief (D. White -absent) as it relates to emergency vehicle access around the proposed landscape island (cul-de-sac). Safety Committee acknowledged and shared Chief White's concerns, suggesting the Applicant/Engineer seek a waiver to eliminate the landscaped island within the cul-de-sac.

Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (J. Luchini) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to support waiving the landscaped island within the proposed cul-de-sac.

Mr. Hassett reviewed the following waiver requests with the Safety Committee: elimination of sidewalk; width of pavement within cul-de-sac; diameter/radius of cul-de-sac; and slope (grade) of roadway.

George Murray reiterated prior concerns with eliminating sidewalks within the subdivision development, noting the school bus stop is located at Cottage and Spring Street. Mr. Gamache mentioned to the Committee that the prior approval, 2009 did not require sidewalk. Gary Bechtholdt reminded Mr. Gamache and the Safety Committee that the town's Subdivision Rules & Regulations have since been amended [March 2016], requiring sidewalks and other design standards the Applicant is requesting waivers for.

Upon motion duly made (J. Luchini) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) not to support waiver request to eliminate the required sidewalk within the proposed development.

Normand Gamache (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.) reviewed with the Safety Committee proposed grading of the roadway. Mr. Bechtholdt expressed concerns with the proposed slope and the curve of the roadway along the same grade. Mr. Hassett noted and reviewed with the Committee the proposed radius of the road, slopes, leveling areas, etc.

Chief Warchol questioned if there was an example of a 10% slope (grade) in town; Committee members suggested Prospect Street and/or Shining Rock Drive. Mr. Shuris stated Henry Street was likely more than a 10% slope. Mr. Murray, in reference to the Safety Committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2019 cited that Mr. Gamache had identified Prospect Street as having a 10% slope.

Mr. Bechtholdt felt the roadway layout (curve) and proposed roadway grade (slope) created a potential safety concern, especially during the winter months; Mr. Murray agreed. Chief Warchol shared concerns, however expressed concerns with lack of consistency, citing Shining Rock Drive. Mr. Bechtholdt noted he was not on the Safety Committee during the time Shinning Rock Drive was considered nor was he aware if Shining Rock Drive required a waiver to exceed the slope provisions.

Brian Fitzgerald (Owner/Applicant) expressed concerns of not allowing for certain waivers, noting the project viability will be impacted greatly. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the Safety Committee needs to look at all projects with an eye towards safety and does not get involved with the financial side of development proposals.

Upon motion duly made (G. Bechtholdt) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) not to support waiver request to allow for roadway grade of 10% a distance of 247-feet.

Mr. Bechtholdt asked Mr. Hassett if there were any other waiver requests the Safety Committee should be aware of to provide recommendation to the Planning Board. Mr. Hassett noted the additional waivers specific to the design and layout of the cul-de-sac may be withdrawn depending on what the Planning Board decides relative to the landscape island.

Mr. Bechtholdt suggested the Applicant/Engineer arrange to meet with the Safety Committee again, once the subdivision plan has been revised and shows individual driveways, off-street parking areas, sidewalk, location of streetlights, and other proposed improvements.

VI. ASHTON PLACE (2356 PROVIDENCE RD): SITE PLAN REVIEW

Normand Gamache, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

Normand Gamache (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.) on behalf of the Applicant/Engineer, David Brossi reviewed the (revised) site development plan. Mr. Gamache explained to the Committee that since the last meeting they met on site with the Fire Chief to review his previously noted concerns regarding emergency access. Mr. Gamache noted the proposed driveway (curb cut) has been enlarged to accommodate a fire truck and other emergency vehicles.

George Murray questioned if the Fire Department is now satisfied with access to all sides of the proposed building. David Brossi confirmed with the Committee that he met onsite with Chief White to review all concerns, adding that a "No Parking Lane" will also be added to the site driveway directly off Providence Road.

Upon motion duly made (J. Luchini) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to approve the revised Site Development Plan for Ashton Place, subject to receipt of correspondence from the Northbridge Fire Department (Chief David White) approving same.

Reference is made to site development plan prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. entitled "Proposed Building Addition 2356 Providence Road -Ashton Place" date July 20, 2017 and revised October 06, 2017 and Planning Board Certificate of Approval dated September 14, 2017.

VII. ILLUMINATED CROSSWALK SIGN REQUEST: SCHOOL STREET (ROCKDALE HOUSE)

George Murray, on behalf of Residents

George Murray explained to the Committee that he was approached by residents of the Rockdale House about installing illuminated crosswalk sign(s) on School Street. Mr. Murray noted concerns of visibility due to the geometry and slight elevation changes along the roadway. Mr. Murray spoke in favor of installing illuminated crosswalk signs, noting in order to access the sidewalk on School Street residents need to cross the roadway. Police Chief Warchol agreed with Mr. Murray, indicating the street is heavily traveled; adding illuminated crosswalk signs at this location would be helpful to the elderly population within the area.

Jamie Luchini also favored installation, noting within the town there is existing illuminated crosswalk sign(s) along Douglas Road which were installed by Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.

Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (J. Luchini) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to recommend installing illuminated crosswalk sign(s) on School Street.

VIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a) Next Safety Committee Meeting Dates: 15 November 2017 (10:00 AM)

Next meeting date/time of the Committee has not been confirmed -see Old/New Business item C below.

b) Status of Action: 13 September 2017 Safety Committee Meeting

Jamie Luchini informed the Committee that the Highway Division has installed new signs at the end of Willow Street and replaced other older signs along Linwood Avenue, Main Street and downtown Rockdale, Providence Road.

c) Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc. -School Feasibility Study

Steve Von Barga advised the Committee that the Architect (Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc.) for the Middle School Building Project would like to meet with the Safety Committee to review site layouts and proposed circulation as part of their design feasibility study.

Mr. Von Barga will contact the Architect to see what upcoming dates work, after which Chairman Shuris will confirm availability with Safety Committee members prior to scheduling a meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business the Safety Committee adjourned its meeting of WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 at or about 11:15 AM.

Respectfully yours,



James Shuris, Director of Public Works
CHAIRMAN, NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk
Lt. Timothy Labrie
/File

Northbridge Town Manager
M. Hassett, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.
N. Gamache, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

Northbridge Planning Board
Sherry Cosgrove, Clubhouse Lane