



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

James Shuris, P.E., MBA - Chairman/Director of Public Works & Town Engineer
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September 15, 2017

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

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PROVIDENCE ROAD, SCHOOL STREET, SUTTON STREET, & UPTON STREET: 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.

WILLOW STREET: PARKING

Police Chief Walter Warchol

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017** in the Police Station Conference Room. The following members were present: Chairman James Shuris, Chief Walter Warchol, Chief David White, R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Peter Bedigian, George Murray, and Steven Von Bargaen were in attendance with Jamie Luchini (Alternate) and Adam Gaudette (Town Manager) also present.

The following members of the public were in attendance: Sonia Zeyl (Whitinsville Christian School); David Brossi (Ashton Place); Michael Hassett (Guerriere & Halnon); Bruce Williams (Guerriere & Halnon); and Brian Fitzgerald (Winston Woods)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Shuris called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Committee members welcomed Steven Von Bargaen (School Representative) and Adam Gaudette (Town Manager) to the Safety Committee meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion duly made (W. Warchol) and seconded (P. Bedigian) the Safety Committee voted (5-0-2 [S. Von Bargaen and G. Murray abstained]) to ACCEPT the meeting minutes of AUGUST 03, 2017.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Shuris noted receipt of correspondence dated September 11, 2017 from Sharon Susienka, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager regarding Board of Selectmen vote to accept the August 03, 2017 recommendations (minutes) of the Safety Committee.

The following items were discussed WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 and are being forwarded to the Board of Selectmen as recommendations of the Northbridge Safety Committee.

IV. PROVIDENCE ROAD, SCHOOL STREET, SUTTON STREET, & UPTON STREET: INTERSECTION

Chairman James Shuris, DPW Director

George Murray reminded Committee members that the intersection of Providence Road/Sutton Street/Upton Street has been a topic of discussion for some time and would like to see concerns addressed (traffic conflicts, bus stop, trailer truck queuing, etc.). Police Chief Warchol described it as the most dangerous intersection in town. Peter Bedigian recalled that there was to be a study done to evaluate the intersection. Mr. Murray reiterated safety concerns.

James Shuris explained that he met with MassDOT in May 2015. Mr. Shuris reviewed with the Safety Committee a conceptual plan (handout) showing the intersection with the stop line for School Street extended out towards Providence Road and granite curbing to funnel the traffic at the intersection. Mr. Shuris suggested the area behind the proposed curbing could be utilized by students waiting for the school bus. Chief Warchol supported the idea however questioned if it would solve the overall problem with turning movements and multiply vehicles conflicts at the intersection.

George Murray recommended the town look to install signalized lights at the intersection; Chief Warchol agreed. Jamie Luchini, Highway Superintendent (Alternate) suggested the improvements made recently should be able to accommodate signalization.

Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (P. Bedigian) the Safety Committee voted to have the Director of Public Works meet with MassDOT on site and petition the state for signalization of the intersection. The vote was unanimous. The Police Department shall provide Mr. Shuris with accident logs, etc. in support of the petition.

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

Michael Hassett, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc

Michael Hassett (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.) on behalf of Brian Fitzgerald (Owner/Applicant) reviewed with the Safety Committee definitive subdivision plan application entitled "Winston Woods" dated August 16, 2017 for subject property located at the end of Spring Street. Mr. Hassett informed the Committee that a previous approval (October 2009) has since expired.

Mr. Hassett provided an overview of the proposal for up to nine (9) multi-family residential lots (duplex) terminating in a cul-de-sac. Mr. Hassett indicated offsite improvements will include sewer upgrades along Spring Street. Mr. Hassett informed the Safety Committee that since the original approval the Town (Planning Board) amended its Subdivision Rules & Regulations and as a result a number of waivers are now being sought. Mr. Hassett briefed the Committee on some of the waivers requested: right-of-way width (from 50-feet to 40); radius of cul-de-sac (from 52-feet to 50); pavement width of the cul-de-sac (from 37-feet to 24); elimination of sidewalks; length of roadway; and roadway grade (from 7-percent to 10).

Police Chief Warchol noted concerns with existing width of Spring Street and conflicts with on-street parking; Chief Warchol questioned if the lots proposed will provide for sufficient parking on site for more than 2 vehicles per unit. Fire Chief White shared concerns regarding existing roadway width and on-street

parking along Spring Street and the ability of emergency vehicles to maneuver around the proposed cul-de-sac (landscaped island). Gary Bechtholdt suggested if the Fire Department and/or the Safety Committee want to recommend to the Planning Board eliminating the landscaped island the Board would consider such request. Chief White questioned the size/condition of the existing waterline within Spring Street to service the additional residential units. Mr. Bechtholdt indicated that Whitinsville Water Company is to evaluate the existing waterline on Spring Street and may require upgrades and improvements as part of the subdivision development.

George Murray expressed concerns with the request to waive sidewalks, noting the bus stop location at Cottage Street. Mr. Murray recommended sidewalks be extended on both sides of the subdivision roadway, eliminate the landscaped island and install "no parking" signs around the cul-de-sac. Peter Bedigian agreed on the need to have sidewalks but not necessarily of both sides for the street.

Mr. Hassett reviewed waiver request seeking to allow for 10-percent grade a distance of 247-feet. Mr. Bechtholdt expressed concerns, noting the curve of the roadway. Peter Bedigian inquired about proposed streetlights; Chief Warchol indicated required streetlights shall following the town's Streetlight Policy. Chief Warchol reiterated concerns with on-street parking and the need for overflow off-street parking if the subdivision is to be approved.

Adam Gaudette inquired about bus stop location (Spring/Cottage Street), community mailbox and designated snow storage area(s). Mr. Hassett indicate that they have not reviewed mailbox locations, suggesting it would be up to the local Post Office if they will allow for individual mailboxes or require a community mailbox. James Shuris explained if a community mailbox is required that it be located in manner where ADA design standards are satisfied. Jamie Luchini indicated as long as there is enough frontage between driveways there should not be a need to designate snow storage areas.

Mr. Gaudette asked if Lot 5 & Lot 6 would be serviced by a common driveway, noting the steep slopes into the proposed lots. Mr. Hassett stated they have not investigated common driveways, adding if they had to they would however will try to avoid. Chief Warchol noted concerns with common driveways. Mr. Gaudette suggested because of the grading of the site the Applicant/Engineer should provide a plan showing proposed driveway locations as part of the subdivision review. Chief Warchol agreed that he too would like to review the individual lot layouts showing driveway locations, off-street parking provisions, etc.

Chief Warchol and Mr. Murray suggested tabling action, thereby providing additional opportunity for the Applicant/Engineer to review initial concerns and schedule a follow-up meeting with the Safety Committee. Mr. Bedigian agreed, noting he would like to review the Safety Committee minutes from 2009, when the project was originally reviewed. Chairman Shuris will provide copy of the meeting minutes for Safety Committee to review.

Having no additional questions and recognizing the need for the Applicant/Engineer to review and address comments Chairman Shuris sought a motion to continue the review. *Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (W. Warchol) the Safety Committee voted to continue its review of the Winston Woods subdivision application to its next scheduled meeting.* The vote was unanimous.

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

Bruce Williams, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.

Bruce Williams (Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.) on behalf of David Brossi (Owner/Applicant) reviewed with the Safety Committee site plan entitled "Residential Building Addition at Ashton Place" prepared by Guerrier & Halnon, Inc. dated July 20, 2017 for proposed construction of a 16-unit apartment and other associated site improvements at 2356 Providence Road. Mr. Williams noted the Zoning Board granted Special Permit [10-SP-2017] in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw to allow for the 16-unit apartment building. Mr. Williams explained that the application has been before the Conservation Commission and Planning Board for site plan review.

Mr. Williams provided an overview of the lot layout, building orientation, site access, parking locations, and overall site circulation. Mr. Williams reviewed with the Safety committee proposed removal of the lower-level stairs directly off Providence Road (RT. 122). Mr. Williams reviewed planned pedestrian circulation within and around the subject property. Committee members indicated support of removing the lower-level stairs as they terminate at the roadway. Committee members commented on the location of existing school bus stop locations within the locus area. Chairman Shuris suggested when the Committee discusses the Providence Road/School Street/Sutton Street/Upton Street agenda item they consider bus stop location.

Fire Chief White expressed concerns with upper-story access to the proposed building and questioned if his ladder truck and other fire apparatus would be able to make the turn into the proposed parking area, new driveway curb cut off the Beaumont Drive right-of-way (tight turning radius).

Committee members reviewed access grades, width of proposed driveway and distance of the 2 ½ story building from the paved areas. Chief White summarized concerns with the proposed site layout of the building, elevations and overall access to the building. Chief White stated his review is based upon life safety factors, noting his concern with the limited access to all sides of the building.

After some additional discussion on site and building access Chairman Shuris suggested the Applicant/Engineer meet with the Fire Chief to review concerns and looked to the Committee to continue its review. George Murray suggested the footprint of the proposed building be marked out in the field for the Fire Department and Committee members make site observations prior to the next meeting.

Upon motion duly made (W. Warchol) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted to continue its review of the Ashton Place site plan application to allow the Applicant/Engineer an opportunity to meet with the Fire Department and review concerns. The vote was unanimous. Committee members were encouraged to visit the site in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

VII. WILLOW STREET: PARKING

Police Chief Walter Warchol

Chief Warchol updated the Safety Committee, explaining that he reached out to the middle school principal who will be sending out a ConnectEd notification on parking restrictions for Willow Street. Chief Warchol mentioned that he wanted to give parents fair warning before the Police Department starts ticketing violations.

VIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**a) Next Safety Committee Meeting Dates: 20 December 2017 (10:00 AM)**

Chairman Shuris noted next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2017, however may be subject to change. *Safety Committee voted to schedule a meeting for Wednesday, October 18, 2017 (10:00 AM) for the continued review of the Winston Woods and Ashton Place agenda items.*

b) Status of Action: 03 August 2017 Safety Committee Meeting

Jamie Luchini informed the Committee that the Highway Division has inventoried signs for replacement and will look to replace signs over the winter, adding they will also look to change out the pedestrian crosswalk signs from yellow to the standard florescent green. Mr. Luchini noted the "speed limit" sign on Douglas Road has also been relocated.

James Shuris advised the Committee that he met on site with MassDOT regarding traffic concerns along Linwood Avenue (Middle School, Christian School & High School). Mr. Shuris noted they discussed a number of options; one being a possible roundabout at the Christian School location. Mr. Shuris sought feedback from the Committee on the idea of a roundabout. Chief Warchol and others questioned if a roundabout was appropriate for this location, noting traffic concerns are from 7:00 AM to about 8:00 AM during the school year, where approximately 700-plus vehicles travel along Linwood Avenue. Committee members did not support the idea of a roundabout on Linwood Avenue and encouraged the DPW Director to look at other alternatives.

c) Other

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business the Safety Committee adjourned its meeting of WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 at or about 11:30 AM.

Respectfully yours,

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

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Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk
Lt. Timothy Labrie
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Northbridge Town Manager
Bruce Williams, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.
Northbridge Safety Committee

Northbridge Planning Board
Michael Hassett, Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.
Sonia Zeyl, Whitinsville Christian School