



## NORTHBRIDGE SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

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July 28, 2021

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

### SHINING ROCK TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA

Shining Rock Drive

Dear Board of Selectmen:

The Northbridge Safety Committee met **WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021**, in the Police Station Conference Room (1 Hope Street). The following members were present: James Shuris, Peter Bedigian, R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Fire Chief David White, Chief of Police Timothy Labrie, and George Murray. Richard Maglione, James Sheehan and Jamie Luchini were absent.

The following members of the public were in attendance: David Pickart, Conservation Agent and William LaBarge (resident).

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

### I. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

*Upon motion duly made (P. Bedigian) and seconded (G. Murray) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to ACCEPT the meeting minutes of June 16, 2021 & June 23, 2021.*

### II. SHINING ROCK TRAILHEAD PARKING AREA

Shining Rock Drive

James Shuris, Chair provided Committee members with summary brief of Board of Selectmen discussion (07/19/2021 -BOS meeting) concerning planned re-opening of the Shining Rock Trailhead parking area located on Shining Rock Drive. J. Shuris explained Committee shall review and consider signage; hours; restricting parking along Shining Rock Drive; activating existing streetlight; & maintenance/cleanup.

G. Murray suggested, the Committee did not provide a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen prior to closing of the parking area. J. Shuris and others agreed, noting DPW installed the barriers as requested by the Selectmen.

J. Shuris explained he met onsite with National Grid on Tuesday (07/27/2021) to review the streetlight (pole #6), which should be corrected in the coming weeks. P. Bedigian noted the streetlight location adheres to Northbridge's Streetlight Policy, positioned along curve of roadway.

J. Shuris indicated during his meeting with National Grid he noticed congestion and potential safety concerns with vehicles parked along Shining Rock Drive, noting Chief of Police T. Labrie performed some reconnaissance of the area, taking roadway measurements and visual observations.

T. Labrie explained Shining Rock Drive is a busy street, where vehicles parked along the roadway (especially the curves) create conflicts with vehicles traveling in the other travelway. T. Labrie suggested the Committee take a look at Shining Rock Drive at a subsequent meeting to consider restricting parking, where currently cars that are parked legally along the curve of Shining Rock Drive restrict the travelway and create a real safety concern.

J. Shuris welcomed David Pickart, Conservation Agent, who on behalf of the Commission offered suggestions and recommendations for the re-opening of the Trailhead Parking Area (Shining Rock Drive). D. Pickart reviewed his memorandum dated July 27, 2021 (copy attached hereto). D. Pickart explained the Shining Rock Golf development, as part of its review and approval designated and created the Trailhead Parking Area to provide better access to the Conservation Land (visitors & safety personnel).

D. Pickart indicated the Conservation Commission is committed to creating/installing new signage for the parking area. To include verbiage such as: open to dusk to dawn; use only designated/marked trails; pack-in/pack-out or use designated waste receptacles; no alcohol/recreational drug use; no dumping of household waste, landscaping, etc.; no graffiti or defacing of rock outcrops or vegetation; no fires; no hunting.

Committee members discussed potential times to be posted (hours of the day) for restricting use of Shining Rock Trail (e.g., dusk to dawn or 8pm to 6am); T. Labrie indicated for Police enforcement he would like to see specific times posted. William LaBarge (resident) reminded Committee during the winter months it gets darker earlier, suggesting 8pm in the months of November-April is too late, especially for the Shining Rock lookout area; Committee members agreed. T. Labrie suggested posting different hours for November-April (6pm-6am) and for May-October (8pm-6am).

Committee members considered posting signage restricting parking & issuance of fines (up to \$250.00) for violators of afterhours parking within the trailhead parking area. Committee members shall defer to the Board of Selectmen on appropriate fine amount (\$\$), noting offense should be high enough to deter visitors.

D. Pickart explained composition of Conservation Commission has changed, where members intend to monitor the use of the trailhead parking area and may assist the Town (DPW) in maintenance, noting the Commission may create a Trails Stewards Program to annually clean various Conservation Land in town.

Fire Chief D. White stated Shining Rock is a popular area and has been for years, noting alternative access directly from School Street is limited and not optimal for his personnel; having the trailhead parking area re-opened off Shining Rock Drive is preferred.

P. Bedigian and the other Committee members support the re-opening of the parking area, where the Police and Conservation Commission will actively monitor the property. D. Pickart suggested additional signs could be installed along private property to discourage trespass. J. Shuris explained that DPW will place a trash receptacle within the parking area, to be emptied similar to other locations in town (weekly).

Having no additional comment, the Safety Committee made the following recommendation.

*Upon motion duly made (G. Murray) and seconded (D. White) the Safety Committee voted (6-0) to recommend the re-opening of the Shining Rock Trailhead Parking Area provided the following is satisfied:*

- 1. Four (4) identical signs, to be prepared by the Conservation Commission, be installed: (a) within the parking area, (b) at the start of the trailhead, (c) at the top of Shining Rock, & (d) at the School Street access. Said signage to include verbiage, including time of closure, etc. as discussed;*
- 2. Separate parking signs noting fine/time restrictions be posted within the parking area (\$\$ amount to be determined by Board of Selectmen);*
- 3. Streetlight (pole #6) be (re)activated & operational;*
- 4. Trash receptacle(s) be placed within the trailhead parking area, near the main trail access; and*
- 5. General maintenance & landscape cleanup be completed before barriers are to be removed and access to the public once again authorized.*

In taking such action, the Safety Committee shall reconvene a site meeting for Tuesday, August 31, 2021 (10:00 AM) to review potential restricting of parking along Shining Rock Drive.

### **III. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

G. Bechtholdt noted receipt of definitive subdivision plan for subject property at end of Spring Street (Winston Woods) and the need for the Safety Committee to review and offer its recommendations to Planning Board.

### **IV. STATUS OF ACTION: JUNE 16 & JUNE 23, 2021**

June 16, 2021 -J. Shuris provided a brief update on the status of the Rockdale Signalization and safety improvements planned for Providence Road/Sutton Street/School Street/Upton Road. J. Shuris also provided an update on the Complete Streets Program for Linwood Avenue. Committee members suggested DPW seek additional town funds (2021 Fall Annual Town Meeting) to extend the planned sidewalk improvements through to Providence Road and not stop at the High School. J. Shuris will review and may seek additional funding. Committee members also suggested increasing yearly expenditure (\$25,000.00) so more sidewalks can be improved year-to-year. J. Shuris was thankful, noting receipt of \$50,000.00 from the Developer of the Stone Hill Condo project, where proceeds will address sidewalk improvements along Church Street.

June 23, 2021 -J. Shuris provided an update on Linwood Avenue/Whitinsville Christian School driveway improvement, where dedicated lanes will be added to the travelway along Linwood to improve vehicle circulation, noting the Mumford Riverwalk will be preserved and buffered with temporary barriers. J. Shuris explained this improvement will also be incorporated in the designs as part of the Complete Streets Program for Linwood Avenue. J. Shuris informed G. Bechtholdt and others before final designs the Safety Committee will have an opportunity to review and offer input.

### **V. NEXT SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

Site Visit -Tuesday, August 31, 2021 (10:00 AM, Shining Rock Drive)

Regular Meeting -TBD

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no additional business, the Safety Committee adjourned its meeting of Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at or about 11:05 AM.

Respectfully yours,



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

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Cc: Northbridge Town Clerk  
D. Pickart, Conservation

Northbridge Town Manager  
W. LaBarge, Resident

Safety Committee Members  
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