



# **Town of Hudson**

## **Internal Traffic Committee**

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## **Minutes of Meeting 9-27-2019**

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A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, *September 27, 2019 at Hudson Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room*. Jeffrey Wood, Chair convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeff Wood, Chairman, Building Commissioner

Brian Johannes, Acting Fire Chief

Eric Ryder, Director of Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development

Kristina Johnson, AICP, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development

### **Request to Install at Stop sign at Maxwell Circle/Harriman Road**

Kristina Johnson, Assistant Planning Director explained that she had received an in-person visit from a resident of Maxwell Circle who expressed concerns about excessive speeding in the neighborhood. The resident inquired as to whether the Internal Traffic Committee could evaluate the feasibility of installing a stop sign at the Maxwell Circle/Harriman Road Intersection.

Eric Ryder indicated that he visited the location and conducted a cursory evaluation as to whether a stop sign would be warranted. Mr. Ryder expressed his concern that once a stop sign is installed at one intersection when not warranted, other neighborhoods will want the same measure taken even if it's unwarranted. Mr. Ryder indicated that he would evaluate the intersection in more depth and make a final determination, but expressed skepticism about whether a stop sign would deter speeding.

Chairman Wood moved to table to discussion until the next ITC meeting. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 3-0-0.

### **Speeding and safety issues on Marlboro Street**

Suzy Alfonso, resident of Marlboro Street spoke to the Board members about the constant damage to her wall by speeding vehicles on the roadway. She expressed her understanding about how the Town is growing and that increased traffic is probably here and in surrounding communities. Ms. Alfonso noted her biggest concern is the amount of noise between 11 PM and 3 AM caused by inconsiderate drivers screeching their brakes and tires along the roadway and from loud, heavy trucks, which is causing the entire household to be awoken every night.

Chief Johannes noted the unfortunate nature of vehicles—both passenger and commercial—taking advantage of the smooth roadway surface and traveling above the speed limit. Eric Ryder noted that he coordinated with Chief Burks to conduct radar speed enforcement immediately after the repaving project. With the presence of police vehicles, motorist and trucks would slow down, but then when police officers stopped the enforcement, speeding would occur once again.

Ms. Alfonso inquired about installing speed humps on Marlboro Street. Mr. Ryder responded that speed humps are expensive to install and maintain, especially with snow plowing operations.

Eric Ryder indicated that he would visit Ms. Alfonso's residence to investigate if site lines are being impeded by excessive vegetation. ITC took no further action on this item.

#### **Installing street lights on Chestnut Street**

Jack Hunter, Planning Director spoke to a resident of Chestnut Street who visited the Planning Department and requested that ITC investigate the feasibility of installing street lights, as the neighborhood is very dark. Eric Ryder followed up with a clarification on who owns the street lights outside of Downtown, and the jurisdiction falls to Hudson Light and Power. Jack indicated that he would follow back up with the resident and inform him that he needs to redirect his request to Light and Power.

ITC took no further action on this item.

#### **Discussion of on-street parking issues on School Street**

Jack Hunter explained that a resident of School Street visited the Planning Department and had a follow up conversation with the Town Administrator regarding the unavailability of on-street spaces for residents with the new resident being open on Washington Street. Chairman Wood noted that there is some confusion in the placement of the "no parking signs," and noted a gap in where there should be a no parking sign installed based on the traffic rules and regulations. Eric Ryder indicated that it's feasible to install an additional no parking sign, but that there is little space for installation.

Eric Ryder moved to approve the installation of an additional no parking sign and the replacement of the existing signs on the southerly side of School Street from Washington Street to Houghton Street. Seconded by Chief Johannes. 3-0-0.

#### **Discussion on improvements to Chestnut Street/Main Street/ Lewis Street**

Jack Hunter explained that the Board of Selectmen requested that ITC take another look at potential improvements to this location. Mr. Hunter reminded the Board that there was a warrant article pulled from the 2016 Fall Town meeting that would have funded the installation of a traffic signal, as it was determined that a traffic signal may not be warranted at that location due to the complicated intersection geometry and topography.

Eric Ryder noted that an engineering consultant performed a safety and traffic operations study for that location, and the study indicated that it was questionable whether a traffic signal would be warranted. Mr. Ryder emphasized that installing an unwarranted traffic signal could actually create more safety issues. Mr. Ryder has spoken to the member of the Board of Selectmen who raised the concerns about a how a traffic signal is not warranted, and that the cost and feasibility of illuminated solar "intersection ahead" signs and speed signs would be evaluated.

ITC took no further action on this item.

#### **Discussion with BID regarding downtown crosswalks**

Arthur Redding, President of the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) praised the Town for the nice looking, highly visible crosswalks throughout the Downtown. Mr. Redding noted that despite the crosswalks, vehicles are not slowing down, and worse, not stopping even when pedestrian are legally within the crosswalk. He requested that the Police Department have more visibility within Downtown and ticket motorists who are speeding and/or not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Mr. Redding indicated that the most dangerous crosswalk is the one in front of Murphy's insurance and the one in front of the Library. Jack Hunter noted that a member of the Library Trustees addressed the Board in August about the crosswalk in front of the Library.

Michael Murphy, owner of Murphy's Insurance acknowledged that adjudicating motorists is not going to resolve the issue, as many motorists are distracted by phones and GPS and not paying attention. Mr. Murphy went on to recommend as a stop gap measure the deployment of the tall, florescent pedestrian crossing signs at the crosswalk in front of Murphy's insurance.

Eric Ryder asked Mr. Redding and Mr. Murphy to get a price for the size and style of the desired signs, which have to meet the standards in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Mr. Redding and Mr. Murphy stated that the BID will pay for the signage, and that they would be deployed in spring, summer, and fall and removed for snow plowing operations in the winter.

No further action was taken on this item.

#### **Minutes from the 8/23/2019 ITC meeting**

Eric Ryder seconded by Chairman Wood moved to approve the minutes of the 8/23/2019 meeting. 3-0-0. Unanimous

#### **Adjournment**

Eric Ryder moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 AM. Seconded by Chairman Wood 3-0-0. Unanimous.