



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – January 26, 2018

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, *January 26, 2018 at Hudson Town Hall 2nd floor conference room.* Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner, convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Michael Burks, Police Chief
Eric Ryder, Director of Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development

Central Street Market- Parking

Monica Freitas, owner of Central Street, presented recent photos that captured the parking issues in front of the market and a sketch depicting proposed parking spaces. She described in detailed the parking and circulation issues in front of her business. In particular, she noted that the vehicles are constantly blocking the driveway, as there are no marked parking spaces on Central Street in that vicinity. Ms. Freitas suggested that it would be feasible to stripe a couple of parking spaces and install signage for 30 minute- parking, and she also noted the property next door has closed off the driveway.

Chief Burks inquired if Ms. Freitas was proposing head in parking, to which she responded that she was open to any alignment that would provide spaces in front of the market. Ms. Freitas expressed her preference for the diagonal parking, and conducted a test of to ensure adequate space for the parked cars. Chief Burks followed up by asking if the spaces would cause the sidewalk to be blocked. Chairman Wood underscored that the sidewalk needs to be clear of impediments not only for pedestrian safety but for ADA- accessibility; Chief Burks concurred.

Ms. Freitas then asked if the Town would be amenable to painting parallel spaces similar to Main Street, as parking is allowed on this part of Central Street. Eric Ryder expressed concerns that if spaces were painted, vehicles would then use the spaces for long-term parking and would be problematic for snow removal operations. Chairman Wood recommended a 15-minute parking limit be instituted. It was noted by Eric Ryder and Jack Hunter that reducing the parking limit to 30 minutes or 15 minutes would require an amendment to the Traffic Rules and Orders and approval by the Board of Selectmen. Eric Ryder suggested that the he could erect a "no parking between

driveways” or “do not block driveways” sign as a measure to deter vehicles from blocking driveways. Chief Burks mentioned that the Police Officers tag vehicles that are blocking driveways. Eric Ryder offered to measure the right-of-way and discuss potential impacts with the Fire Chief.

Eric Ryder moved to table the striping of additional spaces on Market Street until a field investigation with the Fire Chief could be completed, and install 30-minute parking sign in front of the Market (pending a dig safe analysis). Seconded by Chief Burks. 3-0-0 Unanimous.

MVA reports at intersection of Forest Avenue and John Robinson Drive.

Jack Hunter reiterated that at the last ITC meeting Captain DiPersio agreed to investigate accident data for this location. Accident information dating back to 1997 was forwarded to the ITC members. Although there were accidents at this location, ITC members expressed their belief that the numbers were not alarming. Chairman Wood stated the he plans to work with the owners at the Landry House to reduce the size of the shrubs, which are currently over 42-inches tall and not in conformance with code. Eric Ryder acknowledged the blind spot at that location and has investigated funding for tip downs and a flashing school zone signs. Jack Hunter indicated that Hudson Light and Power will replace the lighting that is not working.

Eric Ryder agreed to investigate any engineering recommendations for proper installation of the school zone sign. Eric will follow up No further action required or taken.

Discussion about taxi cab parking designations in Traffic Rules and Orders

Jack Hunter summarized the recent Board of Selectmen Action to eliminate the taxi stand parking on Felton Street for Sunshine Taxi, which was designated by ITC in December 2015, and reconstitute the space as general on-street parking. The Board of Selectmen approved the removal of the taxi stand designation on Felton Street, but would not approve the removal the remaining taxi stand designation within the South Street parking lot without the review and consent of ITC.

Eric Ryder moved to remove the taxi stand designation within the South Street lot and reconstitute the space as general public parking consistent with the Traffic Rules and Orders. Seconded by Chief Burks. 3-0-0.

Pre-Washington Street Bridge Signal Timing/Phasing Main Street/Broad Street

Eric Ryder received a request from a resident to investigate the signal timing and phasing at this location prior to the Washington Street Bridge being closed. He noted that the intersection geometry and signal phasing was designed to not stop traffic coming down on the Manning Street approach. Eric stated that MassDOT had reconfigured the signal timing and phasing during the Bridge closure in accordance with the project’s traffic management plans, but the timing and phasing have reverted back to the pre-bridge closure. Eric expressed his comfort with how the intersection operates today, and Chief Burks also concurred.

Eric Ryder moved to maintain the current traffic signal timing and phasing at the Main Street/Broad Street intersection. Seconded by Chief Burks. 3-0-0. Unanimous

Speeding and safety issues on Brigham Street.

Jack Hunter provided an overview of the original request from to have a Slow Children sign installed at Pheasant Drive. He stated that Kristina Johnson received a follow up from the resident that sign had been damaged and requested that it be replaced. Chief Burks indicated that he accounted for all of the Slow Children Signs along Brigham Street. Eric Ryder agreed to follow up with Kristina Johnson as to the exact location, and if indeed the sign is missing or damaged, to install a new one. No vote was taken.

Funding small-scale traffic studies

Jack Hunter brought this item before ITC to discuss the establishment of a line item in the Planning Department budget to fund small-scale traffic studies, traffic counts, truck exclusions, etc., that are of importance or priority of ITC. Chairman Wood inquired if ITC would review and approve the use of the funds; to which Jack responded yes. All ITC members agreed to the establishment of a new Planning Department budget line item.

Approval of Minutes

Eric Ryder moved to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2017 and December 22, 2017 ITC meetings. Seconded by Chairman Wood. 3-0-0. Unanimous