



# Town of Hudson

## Internal Traffic Committee

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
Tel: (978) 562-9963 Fax: (978) 568-9641

## Minutes of Meeting – February 23, 2018

---

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, *February 23, 2018 at Hudson Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room*. Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner, convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner  
Acting Fire Chief, Stephen Geldart  
Richard Dipersio, Police Captain  
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, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development

Other Attendees:

Richard Braga, Downtown BID  
Chuck Randall, Randall Properties  
Denise Reid, Hudson Public Schools  
Carey Napoleone, Hudson Resident

### **Hudson Business Improvement District- Outdoor seating on Main Street**

Jack Hunter provided an overview of the formation of the Downtown Hudson Business Improvement District. He noted that the Town Administrator had directed him to investigate the feasibility of allowing outside café seating at various locations throughout the Downtown. Jack stated that his investigation was cursory and his initial opinion was that there may not be enough sidewalk space to accommodate outside seating; however, Dick Braga, the new Executive Director of the BID has taken a second look at opportunities for outside seating.

Dick Braga stated that he researched ADA requirements online and went out and measured sidewalk widths in several locations in Downtown. The idea is to accommodate small tables and chairs while still providing adequate pedestrian access, complying with ADA requirements, and maintaining public safety. Dick Braga's measurements indicated that there would be adequate sidewalk space in front of several existing restaurant spaces, and passed around a graphic to solicit feedback from ITC members.

Eric Ryder expressed his concerns that the existing brick on the sidewalks is a maintenance headache. If bricks had to be removed to accommodate the outside seating, Eric recommended that a concrete “brick dye” or stamped concrete be used as a replacement. Acting Fire Chief Deputy Geldart concurred with Eric regarding the brick, but stated that outside seating may work downtown. Chairman Wood expressed his support of the outside seating concept; however, he noted that all seating must comply with ADA and building code requirements.

Eric Ryder also noted that it has been his experience that tables and chairs are not always maintained, put away at the end of the night, or cleaned; and further, that sidewalk area where folks are eating outside becomes extremely dirty. Dick Braga underscored that these issues could be addressed through the licensing process.

Should outside seating for downtown be considered, regulations would need to be developed and reviewed by ITC and approved by the Board of Selectmen. No vote was taken.

### **Pedestrian Safety on Brigham Street at Hudson High School**

Carey Napoleone, a resident of Luther Drive and has children who attend Hudson High School, explained to the Board that the pedestrian conditions in the vicinity of the high school are poor. She explained that children crossing from the neighborhood to the High School are subjected to treacherous conditions, including high speeds and poor vehicular site lines. Specifically she noted that the bottom of Brigham Street at the intersection with Park Street is extremely problematic as the crosswalk is faded. Denise Reid, Hudson Public Schools Director of Communication, also concurred with Ms. Napoleone about the pedestrian safety issues on Brigham, particularly at the conclusion of the school day.

Eric Ryder explained that the Park Street/Brigham Street intersection is being reconstructed as part of the Town’s Complete Streets funding, which will include new sidewalks, signage, and tip downs . He also noted that all crosswalks will be repainted in the Spring. Eric stated that the signage and crosswalks at the bottom of Curley are in compliance, and suggested that a crossing guard could be posted at that location. Captain DiPersio said that he would look into the matter a little further with the School Resource Officer. Ms. Reid inquired about the possibility of installing a pedestrian flashing signal at this location. Eric noted that the pedestrian flashing signal equipment is extremely expensive.

Kristina Johnson offered to contact the Director of the MassDOT Safe Routes to School program. Because Middle School-aged children attend the High School, this location could be eligible for the Safe Routes to School program, whereby Planners and Engineers from MassDOT conduct a safety audit, recommend improvement. No vote was taken.

### **Approval of Minutes from 1/26/2018**

Eric Ryder moved to accept the minutes from the January 26, 2018 ITC meeting. Seconded by Chairman Wood. 4-0-0.