



# Town of Hudson

## Internal Traffic Committee

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## Minutes of Meeting 5-21-2021

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*A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday May 21, 2021, at 10:00 AM via Zoom consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus." Jeff Wood convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.*

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeff Wood, Building Commissioner, Chair  
Richard DiPersio, Police Chief  
Bryan Johannes Fire Chief  
Eric Ryder, Director of Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Kristina Johnson, AICP, Acting Director of Planning and Community Development  
Steven Santos, Director of Recreation

### **Discussion of handicap parking space in front of the library**

At the request of the Library, the ITC board discussed the handicap parking space located in front of the library. Pursuant to Article IV, Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Section 13, Handicapped Parking, the existing handicap space on Washington Street at the Library is located ***at the former site of meter 56 on Washington Street (crosswalk at the library).***

Eric Ryder seconded Chief Johannes moved to shift the existing handicap parking space two spots south on Washington Street toward the rotary. 4-0-0. Unanimous

### **Appointment with Director of Recreation to discuss parking at Centennial Beach**

Mr. Santos discussed the work that the Recreation Department and the Park Commission has done with the Fort Meadow neighborhood in regards to regulating beach parking. With the newly renovated Centennial Beach, the Recreation Department and the Park Commission have been discussing regulatory adjustments to the parking rules and orders in anticipation of anticipated high volume of visitors and to avoid spillover parking into the neighborhood,

Individuals from the Fort Meadow Neighborhood in attendance at the meeting expressed concerns that with the beach parking being limited to residents about spillover traffic into their neighborhood, and taking up on-street parking spaces. Generally, the neighborhood residents expressed an adjustment to the existing Fort Meadow Drive parking regulations and the implementation of a Fort Meadow Placard program.

Members of the ITC Board supported the idea of the implementation of a Placard program and recommended that Recreation Department, the Park Commission, and the Select Board work together to agree on the details, the enforcement, and the fines. Members of the ITC Board agreed that the logical first step would be to adjust the existing Fort Meadow Drive parking regulations and extend the 475 feet in all directions.

Mr. Ryder seconded by Chief DiPersio moved to amend the Traffic Rules and Orders, Article IV, Stopping, Standing, and Parking, Section 6, Limited Parking Duration Zones, replace existing paragraph for Fort Meadow Drive with: ***no parking at the entrance of Centennial Beach for four hundred and seventy five (475) feet in all directions between the hours of 9:00AM and 7:00PM from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>.*** 4-0-0. Unanimous

Chairman Wood seconded by Chief Johannes moved to recommend that the Select Board explore the creation and implementation of a neighborhood parking placard program, with the understanding that an appropriate regulatory framework and enforcement mechanism would need to be worked out and codified. 4-0-0. Unanimous

### **Discussion of pedestrian safety and speeding on Woodrow Street**

Ms. Johnson explained that a resident of Woodrow Street reached out to her via email and expressed concerns about the high volume of traffic and the speeding on this street. She noted that over the past several months, emails from residents all appear to have a recurring theme of issues related to traffic volumes, speeding, and requests for traffic calming measures.

No one from the neighborhood was present at the meeting.

Chairman Wood and Mr. Ryder stated that this a persistent issue throughout the community, but noted that there a school sign signs posted. Chief DiPersio noted that Police Department is getting inundated with speeding complaints and requests from residents to have speed radar sign deployed in their respective neighborhoods. Chief DiPersio stated that the Department is doing their best to respond and prioritize targeted enforcement activities and the deployment of the speed radar signs. No further action was taken relative to this item.

Jeremey Daley, resident of Brook Street inquired if the Town has given any consideration to the installation of traffic calming measures on local neighborhood streets. Mr. Ryder stated that the DPW receives requests for traffic calming measures, but there is lack of funding to install such devices. Furthermore, he stated that traffic calming devices such as a speed humps and speed tables get severely damaged due to snow removal operations. Chief Johannes stated that the speed humps can significantly reduce the response time for emergency vehicles.

Chief DiPersio clarified that the Police Department does not have enough personnel to handle the amount speed complaints throughout the Town.

Chief DiPersio stated that he will add Park Street, Brook Street, and Woodrow Street to the list of locations for targeted speed limit enforcement.

### **Discussion of high traffic volumes and speeding on Park Street**

No one was present for this discussion. Chief DiPersio stated that he will add Park Street to the list of locations for targeted speed limit enforcement.

### **Discussion of speeding and heavy truck traffic on Brook Street**

Jeremy Daley, resident of Brook Street described the high rate of speeding on his street, particularly between Murphy Road and Main Street. Based on his observation, he stated that this roadway is being used a cut through for people who live in Marlborough or Sudbury, and he expressed concerns that large tractor trailer trucks are using this residential street as a cut through to Main Street. Mr. Daley inquired about the possibility of enacting a truck exclusion on Murphy Road or lowering the speed limit

Ms. Johnson explained the process by which the Town would petition the Mass. Department of Transportation. Mr. Ryder followed up by stating that a possible result of petitioning the state to lower the speed limit is actually a higher speed limit, based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed data collected.

Kristin Lembo, a resident of Brook Street also noted the speeding truck traffic and inquired if a stop sign could be installed at this location. Mr. Ryder stated that he would investigate the feasibility of this action.

No further action was taken on this matter.

### **Approval of minutes from the 2/ 26/2021 ITC meeting**

Chairman Wood seconded by Chief DiPersio moved to approve the meeting minutes of the February 26, 2021 as written. 4-0-0. Unanimous