

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2023 – MPD Community Room

Committee Members	Staff	Guests
Jason Plourde, Chair	Michael Viola, MPD Chief	Karin Cevasco
David Wheeler, Vice Chair	Craig Frye, MPD Captain	Jennifer Kimball
Nick Darchik, Member	Leo Lessard, DPW Director	Tiffany Norris
Chris Labonte, BOS Representative		Glyn & Virginia Reinders
Gary Daniels, Selectman		Jeff Marcum & Amy Hindmarsh

1. **Opening:**

- Chairman Jason Plourde opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and announced that Terrey Dolan, Advisory member and Milford's Community Development Director, was unable to attend the meeting.
- Chairman Plourde stated the Board of Selectmen refers traffic safety related items to the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. The Committee then provides recommendations back to the Board of Selectmen on the items. The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meets on a case-by-case basis, and the public is welcome to attend. Chairman Plourde stated there were two items on today's agenda referred by the Board of Selectmen from the April 24, 2023 public meeting. The first being the Wallingford Road and Kendrick Lane intersection, and the second one related to Badger Hill Road.

2. **Old Business:**

- Meeting minutes from the October 22, 2023 Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting needed to be approved. Chairman Plourde stated he was not in attendance so he asked Vice Chair Wheeler and other members Selectman Daniels, Mr. Darchik and Selectman Labonte who all attended that meeting if they had a chance to review the minutes, if they had any changes, or if there was a motion to accept. Vice Chair Wheeler moved to accept. Selectman Labonte seconded. All were in favor, and the minutes were accepted.

3. **Agenda Item #1- Traffic Safety Concern at Wallingford Road / Kendrick Lane Intersection:**

- Chairman Plourde stated the issue had been brought to the Committee's attention several years ago.
- Jane Tessier, Milford citizen who wrote the letter raising the issue and who resides at 91 Wallingford Road, was not in attendance. Chief Viola said he spoke to her by telephone, and her main issue is the stop bar lines need re-painting. Chairman Plourde read Ms. Tessier's March 31, 2023 letter into record and then summarized the Wallingford Road traffic safety concern discussed by the Committee on October 19, 2015. At that time, a motion was made to refresh the paint lines.
- Several committee members and staff physically visited the intersection. Chairman Plourde recommended that DPW refreshen the paint out there to highlight the stop conditions. Selectman Daniels asked Chairman Plourde if he felt the stop sign also warranted replacing. Chairman Plourde said not at this time.
- Capt. Frye said that the speed limit sign coming up from Wallingford Road and Ponemah Hill Road also needs to be straightened. Director Lessard stated he will put this on his list.
- Vice Chair Wheeler moved that the Committee recommend DPW freshen up the paint lines and maintain any signs that need maintenance at the intersection of Wallingford Road and Kendrick Lane. Mr. Darchik seconded. All were in favor.

4. **Agenda Item #2- Traffic Safety Concern at Badger Hill Estates:**

- Karin Cevasco of 181 Timber Ridge Drive spoke and summarized the email she wrote raising the concern and requesting safety improvements. Her main concerns were speeding, impatient drivers in the area tailgating and passing other motorists and school buses when stopped, and the safety of children. She requested at a minimum that a speed limit sign be placed near the entrance to the neighborhood on Woodhawk.
- Chief Viola stated MPD went out there today and confirmed there are no posted speed limit signs. It was clarified that meant the speed limit in the neighborhood is 30MPH because town-wide we have signage indicating the speed limit is 30MPH unless otherwise posted.
- Representative Labonte stated he wasn't opposed to putting a new sign out there, but because we already have the posted speed limit 30MPH signs entering town, he questioned if doing so would be setting a precedent for putting a speed limit sign on every road in Milford. Captain Frye responded that drivers can get up there without going by those signs.
- The Committee discussed the pros and cons of several traffic safety suggestions from the audience such as speed bumps, random stop signs, and rumble strips.
- __ (min 15:46) _____ of __ Badger Hill Road spoke and said on numerous occasions, she has witnessed her family almost be hit while walking in the neighborhood by an impatient driver passing a car that had actually stopped to let them cross the road.
- Jennifer Kimball of 62 Timber Ridge Drive spoke and reiterated that based on posts from the neighborhood Facebook page, many neighbors have conflicting opinions of what the speed limit is and also feel they can drive 5 to 10 MPH above that with no repercussions. She feels we need consistency and enforcement, starting with posting a new speed limit sign entering the neighborhood on Woodhawk.
- Jeff Marcum of 193 Timber Ridge Drive asked about the use of specific pavement markings to slow drivers down. Chairman Plourde discussed some of the psychological effects different pavement markings typically have on drivers. Mr. Marcum asked the procedure for making decisions regarding changing the pavement markings there. Chairman Plourde reiterated that the Committee is an advisory board that will provide a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Selectmen and DPW make the determination. Mr. Marcum asked Chairman Plourde based on his expertise what his advice would be. Chairman Plourde responded that traffic volumes out there would not warrant painting center lines.
- Tiffany Norris of 16 Badger Hill Drive said she frequently witnesses drivers go through the stop sign while the school bus is stopped and kids are exiting the bus. She has almost been hit herself.
- Glyn Reinders of 26 Badger Hill Drive said he lives right in the middle of the drag strip. He believes that about half of the speeding is being committed by teenagers from the neighborhood.
- Chairman Plourde reiterated to the audience to take notice of offenses by certain cars, certain license plates, or certain times of the day, and he recommended to the Committee and MPD to show a presence during school dismissal.
- Glyn Reinders suggested the use of a portable radar sign that flashes a motorist's speed.
- Chief Viola agreed that police presence is a big part of this. He also said that while he does hear from Mr. Reinders often, he hasn't heard much from other residents. He's addressing situations as he learns of them. He said he will have extra police presence there in the afternoons, so it's just a matter of catching these people at the right time. He said MPD has one large radar sign we can trailer there to use. Representative Labonte asked if we had any thoughts of buying any smaller radar signs. Chief said he would look into the costs of those.
- Ron Shusterman of 170 Badger Hill Drive asked if anyone knew if there were any plans to build another entrance to the neighborhood. Captain Frye said last he heard there were plans to attach another 400-home subdivision.
- Karin Cevasco suggested starting a Neighborhood Watch program.
- Jeff Marcum asked if there are devices we can use to capture data from speeding vehicles. Chairman Plourde said there are different types of devices, none of which are owned by the

Town, so a vendor would need to be used. He then discussed the various types of devices and data that would be collected.

- Selectman Daniels asked what the posted speed limit was at the Osgood Road/Young Road intersection and if it would make sense to post a new speed sign there. Chairman Plourde clarified it was posted at 35 MPH. It was discussed that placing a speed limit sign saying 30 MPH unless otherwise posted on Woodhawk upon entering neighborhood would be wise. Selectman Daniels also asked if the bus company has reported people passing them. Captain Frye responded yes, and that bus drivers do their best to write down plate numbers of offenders & report them to us.
- Ginny Reinders of 26 Badger Hill Drive said cars are going by way too fast to get a picture of their license plate. She also thinks 30 MPH for the neighborhood is too fast & is very concerned for the safety of her grandchildren who play in her yard frequently. She asked for a timetable for how and when she could expect to see any changes from this meeting put into effect. Chairman Plourde reiterated the process again and explained that the public is always welcome to attend the Board of Selectmen meetings as well.
- Jeff Marcum asked if anyone on the Committee is concerned about liability if someone gets hit out there. Chairman Plourde assured Mr. Marcum that everyone on the Committee is taking the Badger Hill traffic concern very seriously and working together to find the best possible solution in order to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, but reiterated there is a process to follow and it takes time. He also said the residents in the room were free to attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, May 22nd.
- Amy Hindmarsh of 193 Timber Ridge Drive asked about the process to petition to lower the speed limit for the neighborhood. Representative Labonte said he wasn't sure that would solve anything. He understands the concern, but believes the Committee is addressing the situation correctly by following the process and going step by step.
- Vice Chair Wheeler said the Committee must follow MUTCD guidelines or we lose state funding for our local roads.
- Jeff Marcum expressed that he doesn't want to do something just to do something, he wants to get to the right answer and for it not take forever. Chairman Plourde and Representative Labonte said the police presence would be increased tomorrow, and next a new speed limit sign will be put up. Mr. Marcum argued that devices and consultants should be used to collect data.
- Jennifer Kimball said having a new speed limit sign is good because now the offenders will get speeding tickets that will be held up in court, and the drivers will now face repercussions.
- Vice Chair Wheeler cautioned that wanting a 25 MPH speed limit can have the reverse effect. If people perceive it as ridiculously too slow, they will often go faster. Selectman Labonte further cautioned that having a study done could even result in the speed limit being raised to 35 MPH depending upon the results of the study.
- Karin Cevasco requested that the paint be refreshed at all the stop signs in the neighborhood. Director Lessard said this is already on his town-wide to do list. Ms. Cevasco also requested that some sort of sign be added to warn drivers of the dangerous curve situation near 59 Badger Hill Drive. The Committee discussed it and not feel the conditions warranted an additional sign at this time.
- Tiffany Norris asked the process for petitioning to reduce the speed limit.
- Chairman Plourde said it would have to go to the Board of Selectmen, then the Board of Selectmen go to the NH Dept. of Transportation, and then the NH DOT would do a speed study. He cautioned if a speed study is done, it should be done with the intent of gathering data regarding speeding and when speeding is occurring, not with the intent of lowering the speed limit. He also clarified that the public does not get to vote on accepting or not accepting the study.
- Vice Chair Wheeler moved that the Committee recommend the following improvements: post a new 30MPH unless otherwise posted speed limit sign on Woodhawk upon entering Badger Hill

Estates, increase police presence in the neighborhood, and ensure DPW gets the streets in this neighborhood into their rotation for re-painting all stop line pavement markings. Chairman Plourde asked if there was any consideration for a speed study with radar. Chief Viola said MPD would take care of that with their radar sign. MPD will collect traffic data for a couple of weeks based on observations and the radar sign and will present the data to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Labonte seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. **Other Business.**

- Chairman Plourde informed the Committee that another complaint from an Osgood Road resident regarding the Osgood Road/Woodhawk Drive stop sign will be coming from the Board of Selectmen.
- Chairman Plourde said our new Town Engineer Nicole Crawford is going to be doing some traffic and speed counts. Director Lessard was asked to ensure Nicole was shown the correct table to use and have her coordinate with NRPC to help get that table updated with those traffic counts because the table has to be filled in.
- Chairman Plourde said Bill Parker has shown interest in joining our Committee as Wade Campbell has stepped down so he will send the Select Board a letter asking them to consider having him join our Committee. Selectman Daniels requested that Chairman Plourde also write a letter to the Select Board asking them to appoint him as a Citizen Member because he is no longer the Representative for the Select Board.
- Nye Drive/Osgood Road update – Chairman Plourde read the Committee members an email correspondence he had with Lincoln Daley, Terrey Dolan, Leo Lessard, Nicole Crawford, Chief Viola and Captain Frye. The intent of the email was to get an understanding of what liability the Town had. It was concluded that the Town does not have to do anything other than increase the sight lines out there within the Osgood Road right-of-way, which has already been done. And, any additional clearing that needs to be done falls to the landowners, including mailboxes. The Committee also discussed the Nye Drive road sign. Because it is not a public way, it was decided that it would be best to add the word PRIVATE under Nye Drive. Chairman Plourde will add that recommendation to the Select Board.

6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business. Selectman Daniels moved to adjourn. Mr. Darchik seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Dishong
Secretary