

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 10/14/09, 7:15 pm to 9:35 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Elisabeth Carr-Jones.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, John Lentz, Howard Muise, Officer Corey Rateau, Mike Rademacher, Ed Starr

Visitors Present: Josie Burton, Margaret Hayward, Jeanne Leary, Susan MacGowan, Officer James Smith

1. Speeding on Summer Street. Summer Street residents Josie Burton, Margaret Hayward, Jeanne Leary, Susan MacGowan and Community Outreach Officer Smith presented neighborhood concerns regarding increases in traffic speed and volume since the completion of the Summer Street reconstruction project, and overflow parking for the Arlington Sports Center / Veteran's Memorial Rink. Possible solutions were discussed to the specific problems. Ed suggested that the Summer Street Neighborhood Association send a request for recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Officer Smith reported extra patrols were being deployed at problem areas. Corey will conduct traffic measurements the week of October 19-23 and report findings.
2. Winslow Towers. Jean presented draft report and recommendations, including:
 - More visible signage on bike path to increase cyclist compliance with Town By-law to walk bikes on sidewalk
 - Refer repair of holes and cracks in public sidewalks to Public Works
 - Consider installing count-down pedestrian signals at Mass Ave / Rt. 60
 - Public Works and Arlington Housing Authority coordination of improvements at Winslow Street and Russell Terrace
 - Improving safety of crosswalk at Library Way as part of Mass Ave Corridor Phase 2Jean will continue discussions and draft final report with recommendations for a vote.
3. Schools.
 - a. Brackett. John reported meeting with representatives from Mass Rides; participation in Walk to School Day; Principal opposed to 2nd drop off as proposed; Safe Routes to Schools survey planned; Student Safety Patrol needs more vests – Ed to order vests.
 - b. Stratton. Corey reported a request for an additional Traffic Supervisor on Wheeler Road. Request for walkway between traffic circle and back of school is under consideration; funding to come from Town or School budget.
 - c. Peirce. Elisabeth reported radar signs still not up; Corey suggested leads for radar sign manufacturers and reported ticketing the first week of school.
 - d. Bishop. Mike and Dan Warren looking into moving obstructed signs.
4. Paul Revere Road. Mike reported that he will continue the engineering examination of the intersection as time permits.
5. Preparation for Board of Selectmen. Ed reported that five TAC projects had been voted by the BoS in their September 14, September 21 and October 5 meetings. Seven more projects are slated for their October 26, November 2 and November 16 meetings.
6. Cusack Crosswalk. Ed's additional observations confirm low demand for a crosswalk on Summer Street between the Cusack residential building and Dunkin Donuts. Ed will consult with Housing Authority to determine if unused spaces in parking area for residents might be used for visitors.
7. Ottoson Middle School. Ed reported receiving an email from a Nursery School parent whose vehicle was struck by a vehicle driven by an Ottoson Teacher on Acton Street. Corey reported requests by Acton Street residents for 2-hour parking. He is working with

- the Ottoson Principal and the Nursery School to relieve some of the drop-off and parking pressure in the neighborhood. Permanent changes should be delayed until TAC can study whole area.
8. Town Day. TAC booth concentrated on Mass Ave Corridor project. Comments collected at Town Day were recorded and reported to TAC members.
 9. Town Reports. Corey reported a head-on crash on Summer Street between Mill and Grove Streets and a pedestrian crash on Court Street near Mass Ave the previous Friday. Mike reported that the Town expects to rebuild culverts on Brattle St. and Mill Lane and install thermoplastic crosswalks this year.
 10. Administration.
 - Minutes of 8/9/09 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
 11. Spy Pond Park / Pond Lane. Howard presented the revised report and recommendations for the one-lane underpass on Pond Lane at Spy Pond Park. The recommendations were:
 - Install ONE LANE UNDERPASS warning signs (W5-3) in two locations
 - Replace existing STOP sign with YIELD sign (R1-2), with a TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC plaque (R1-2a) mounted below
 - Install Yield lines at YIELD sign
 - Trim foliage near sign
 - Install Pedestrian Warning sign (W11-2) east of the boat ramp and walkway

Vote on making recommendations to Selectmen was unanimous.
 12. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: 1) Agenda 10/14/09; 2) Article "Driven to distraction" from Economist.com; 3) Memo from Marie Krepelka to TAC Re. Jason Street School Bus Stops, dated September 30, 2009; 4) Memo from Marie Krepelka to TAC Re. Hemlock Street @ Yerxa Road, Winchester Road @ Hutchinson Road and Morningside Drive @ Hutchinson Road, dated October 2, 2009; 5) Memo from Marie Krepelka to TAC Re. Germaine Lawrence School: Traffic and Parking Issues, dated October 2, 2009; 6) Email from Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee to Arlington Board of Selectmen, Town Engineer, Town Manager, Planning and Community Development, and Department of Public Works Re. Proposal for Planned Lane-Sharing Network on Arlington Roadways, dated October 2, 2009, with table and map; 7) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 10/14/09; 8) Project Status, dated 10/14/09; 9) Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 10/14/09; 10) Draft 2010 Meeting Dates for the Transportation Advisory Committee; 11) Scheduling TAC Stuff for BoS (Tentative), dated 10/12/09; 12) Members of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee; 13) Draft Report on Winslow Tower Transportation Concerns, dated October 14, 2009; 14) Written Comments from Town Day 2009; 15) Arlington Street map showing the Ottoson Middle School area.

Minutes of 8/9/09

Memo from Summer Street Neighborhood Association to TAC re: Speeding on Summer Street, dated October 14, 2009; Street map showing speed limit signs on Summer Street. TAC report, Pond Lane at Spy Pond Park Traffic Control at One-Lane Underpass, dated October 14, 2009.

Regional Transportation Advisory Council invitation to Site Visit to Alewife Station.