

**Town of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Symmes Transportation Subcommittee (STS)**

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Selectmen's Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall, 6:30 PM

STS members present: Ed Starr (Chair), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith
Others present: Symmes neighbors Sandi Bourgeois, Joe Curro, Terry Dash, Lee Ellis, Marianne Rowe, Gary Hebert (Fay, Spofford & Thorndike), Joe Tulimieri (Cambridge Redevelopment Bd.)

Administration

The minutes of 9/1/04 were approved unanimously.

Symmes Neighborhood Concerns

Ed Starr orchestrated introductions. Peer Reviewer Gary Hebert reported that he had visited the area in the PM peak period and that he would be returning to study the area during the AM peak period to further identify existing and projected problems. Neighbors were asked to express their transportation concerns regarding the Symmes Redevelopment Project. The comments are summarized below.

Joe Curro (Millett Street) expressed concern about the effect that the project's traffic would have on the nearby Private Ways, cut-through traffic (especially to the schools), protecting the fragile pedestrian environment on Woodside Lane, and safety on narrow Brattle and Millett Streets.

Terry Dash (Woodside Lane) expressed concern about the effect of increased traffic (using the Woodside Lane egress to avoid the Summer Street signal) on the character and safety of the area behind the site. She added that the transportation studies should be broadened in scope, figured to represent the worst case traffic scenarios, and address the long-standing issues of traffic speed and volume on Oak Hill Drive and the intersections on Summer Street east of Hospital Road.

Elaine Duffy (Summer Street) expressed appreciation for the the peer review process, as well as concern over the volume of existing traffic and the effect of the proposed development on Summer Street. She stressed the importance of improvements to the combined intersection at Hospital Road, Brattle Street and Hemlock Street and stated that Summer Street could not handle, and should not be expected to handle, all of the traffic from the development.

Marianne Rowe (Blueberry Hill Lane) expressed concern about increased traffic on Woodside Lane and the traffic volume and speed on Oak Hill Drive. She stated that Summer Street's back ups would motivate 80 to 90% of the traffic to use Woodside Lane. She suggested that traffic from the new residential development at Mass Ave and Mill Street, and the existing residential development at Summer Street and Mill Street needed to be considered in the traffic study.

Sandi Bourgeois (Woodside Lane) recounted experiences of increased traffic problems on Woodside Lane in the last ten years and expressed concern about the potential increase in traffic on Woodside from the Symmes development. She also mentioned dramatic traffic and parking problems associated with the recent Hepatitis clinic conducted at the hospital.

Lee Ellis (Brattle Street) expressed concern about the effect of the development on upper Brattle Street, the legitimacy of using the hospital in full operation as the benchmark for capping traffic for the development, and the changing methodology used to calculate the traffic numbers.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones explained the history of traffic volume and speed issues on Oak Hill Drive.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Handouts:

Minutes of September 1, 2004 meeting - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones