

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
October 16, 2017, Monday**

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
Michael Smart, Vice Chairman
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Absent: Patrick O'Connor, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Owen MacDonald, Traffic Engineer

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

17 036 Waterways Ordinance Revision-Chapter 12-100

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on May 1, 2017. The public hearing was held on June 5th, continued to June 19th, again to September 19th and again to October 16th. The committee has not received any new information from administration, but they expect to before the next continuation of the public hearing on Dec 4th. The matter remains in committee.

Traffic Engineer Owen MacDonald was invited to present the following two measures.

17 099-Acceptance of MGL C90§18B-Designated Safety Zone

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on September 18, 2017.

As a result of a change in Massachusetts state statutes, the appropriate governing body can designate a safety zone and MADOT has presented the criteria which includes what it will be in any thickly settled districts. It creates an exception to the existing 30 mph zones.

Mr. MacDonald noted that they are required to accept MGL C90§18B-Designated Safety Zone first to have the authority to vote the lower speed limit in the designated zone. Councilor Hackett asked if they must adopt this each time they want to designate a safety zone? Mr. McDonald responded that they vote to adopt the authority once, and then can designate a safety zone as many times as need be.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Smart to forward measure 16 099 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

17 096-Safety Zone (20 Mile per Hour Speed Limit) on a Portion of Wessagusset Road

This matter was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 10, 2016. Traffic Engineer Owen MacDonald presented a power point of the GIS map and street photographs.

Mr. MacDonald reported this is a result of a request from Councilor McDonald to improve the old beach road area. Boundaries extend from Massasoit Road to the plateau area known as “the shelf.”

MassDot minimum criteria to establish a safety zone are as follows:

- The street should be adjacent to land use that will attract vulnerable road users
- The safety zone should contain one or more areas that have potential conflicts between motor vehicles and vulnerable road users which warrant a reduction in speeds such as crosswalks, driveways or side streets
- The minimum length of the safety zone should be at least ¼ of a mile, and it should not extend more than 500’ beyond a side street-- unless and applicable land use continues along the adjacent block.

During the discussion at 7:14 PM, Councilor Mathews arrived.

Chairman DiFazio asked to what extent did the police provide input. Mr. MacDonald responded that the police reviewed the report and he will furnish a copy of their results.

Chairman DiFazio further asked if this measure is only for reduced speed, not stop signs. Vice Chairman Smart asked if the designation will include stop signs. Mr. MacDonald responded that stop signs are not included; they would have to be a subsequent measure but they are not planned at this time. It hasn’t met the particular criteria for a stop sign.

Councilor Hackett asked if the police department is in favor of this measure. Mr. MacDonald responded that they signed off on it when it was routed through departments. Councilor Hackett noted they will need to make it clear that once this is adopted they will have to show how the criteria was met. A great number of neighborhoods will be seeking to follow suit.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Smart to forward measure 17 096 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. Vice Chairman Smart urged the administration to establish a formal process by which to vet future requests for evaluation. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:27 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman DiFazio
Voted unanimously on 13 November 2017