

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

Present: Patrick O'Connor-Chairman
Brian McDonald-Co-Chairman
Michael Molisse
Ed Harrington
Robert Conlon-arrived at 6:40 PM

Also Present: George Bezkorvainy-Planning Department Traffic Engineer
Sergeant Concannon

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Chairman O'Connor called the Public Works Committee Meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

SPEEDING ISSUES ON FRONT STREET

Chairman O'Connor reported that due to scheduling issues with the constituents involved, this matter will be addressed within the next few weeks at a future Public Safety Committee Meeting.

He requested that neighborhood associations and constituents utilize the Public Safety Committee as a means to solicit ideas for deliberation.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DOUG VEEDER REGARDING SAFETY ISSUE AT TUFTS LIBRARY

Councilor O'Connor noted that approximately four weeks ago, Mr. Veeder forwarded correspondence to Council President Smart reporting that his three year old daughter had her finger wedged between the door and door frame at Tuft's Library, resulting in the severing of the tip of her finger. Luckily it was surgically corrected, and Mr. Veeder has made it clear that he is not looking for retribution from the town, but has requested that the situation is corrected such that it does not recur.

Councilor Smart noted that this item appeared on the Town Council Agenda a few weeks ago, but Mr. Veeder requested that the issue be removed. Councilor Smart alerted the Mayor to the situation and additionally suggested that the committee forward a letter to administration in request of correcting the matter.

(Councilor Conlon arrived here at 6:40 PM)

Councilor Mathews suggested that maintenance temporarily retrofit doors until the problem can be permanently rectified. Retrofitting of doors to keep them from shutting quickly may permanently resolve the issue.

Councilor O'Connor suggested sending a letter to administration, including a timeline for correction, to conduct an evaluation of all doors in town where children have access.

Councilor Mathews noted that signage should be clearly displayed cautioning people to doors deeming a hazard-- until they can be repaired on a permanent basis.

Councilor McDonald added that an inventory of elderly frequented buildings should also occur.

Councilor Smart motioned that the Committee forward correspondence to the Administration inclusive of the following:

- ensure that the doors at Tuft's Library are up to safety code
- install caution signage warning individuals of the heavy doors
- audit all doors within the town of which children and elders have access
- above to be completed within 45 days

Motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and unanimously voted.

08 117-YIELD SIGN AT BISCAYNE AND PIEDMONT

Sargeant Concannon and George Bezkorvainy (Planning Department Traffic Engineer) approached the Committee. Mr. Bezkorvainy explained that the residents in this area voiced their concerns relative to who has the right of way. It was confirmed that no accidents have been cited to date. A petition was received, inclusive of 30 resident signatures, noting safety issues at this location. It is recommendation of the Traffic Engineer and Sargeant Concannon that a yield sign versus a stop sign is installed.

Councilor Mathews motioned for favorable action, seconded by Councilor McDonald and unanimously voted.

08 125 NO TURN SIGNS AT TORREY, BURTON, TOWER AND COLUMBIAN

Sargeant Concannon and George Bezkorvainy noted that due to the South Shore Hospital Cancer Center soon to be opened, residents have voiced concerns over excessive traffic and cut-throughs on these residential roads. On May 1, 2008 they met with the residents to discuss traffic calming measures. Several alternatives were discussed in addition to traffic studies being conducted.

The options were as follows:

- institute one-ways for streets
- no- turn signs
- do not enter signs

Mr. Bezkorvainy believes that the no- turn option would be the most beneficial and would have minimal impact to surrounding streets. He further explained the details of his recommendations.--prohibit turning right onto Burton Terrace from Torrey Street between 6 and 9 AM, no u-turn on Torrey Street southbound at Tower Avenue from 6-9 AM, and no left turn 3-7 PM on Columbian Street at Burton Terrace.

Councilor Harrington noted that he attended the neighborhood meetings and personally conducted actual traffic counts. He stressed the concern of the neighbors and asked the Committee's consideration in recommending favorable action on the Traffic Engineer's proposal.

Councilor Smart asked if either the residents and/or the Planning Department considered "Do Not Enter" options. Mr. Bezkorvainy confirmed that as this was one of the options, he noted that what he is recommending has the least impact in conjunction with the wishes of the neighbors.

Councilor Molisse asked how much funding the town has received in mitigation funds from the Cancer Center. It was noted that \$15,000 was received. Councilor Molisse further noted his concern with implementing these changes prior to the Cancer Center opening. He believes that we should wait and see

how the traffic is and feels that signage will result in a neighborhood maze with detrimental impact to surrounding streets, such as Tower Avenue. Councilor Molisse feels that enforcing these restrictions will be a problem as the Police Department is understaffed.

Mr. Bezkorvainy confirmed that the residents made it clear that they did not want to wait until the Cancer Center opened since the current traffic increase is so substantial and effects the quality of life.

Councilor Mathews noted that during his attendance at the South Shore Hospital Board of Zoning Appeals meetings it was attempted to obtain additional mitigation funds for traffic for that entire area.

Mr. Bezkorvainy assured the Committee that the project will be monitored to ensure that the situation is rectified.

Councilor Smart suggested using this option as a starting point and reviewing again when the center opens.

Councilor Harrington noted that since traffic has increased in this small residential neighborhood, the issue is emotional to the residents-- in that many have lived there for several years and it is important to assure them that they are being heard.

Councilor McDonald supports Councilor Harrington's beliefs and the no u- turn signage and feels that this is the most residentially friendly option

Mr. Bezkorvainy stated that a 2004 traffic analysis indicates that 497 cars per day travel on Burton Terrace. Comparatively in 2006 the figures rose to 520 cars per day.

Sargent Concannon confirmed that his department will measure the impact by utilizing traffic counting equipment and hopefully volumes will decrease. Further, if this plan doesn't work the town will investigate another alternative.

Councilor Mathews requested that signage be erected to deter people from using Torrey as an alternate route. Mr. Bezkorvainy plans to erect warning signs a few weeks prior to implementation in order to warn people of up and coming changes.

Councilor Mathews motioned for favorable action on measure number. 08125. seconded by Councilor Smart and unanimously voted.

Councilor O'Connor noted that he would not be reporting out on these issues later this evening at the Town Council Meeting and questioned if items 8 117 and 08 125 require public hearings. Solicitor Lane and Diane Hachey will determine.

At 7:24 PM, with no further business to conduct, Councilor Mathews motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Smart and unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by: Diane T. Hachey

Approved by: Chairman Patrick O'Connor