

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
November 25, 2008**

Present: Patrick O'Connor, Chairman  
Robert Conlon  
Arthur Mathews  
Michael Smart

Absent: Brian McDonald

Also Present: Thomas J. Lacey  
Ed Harrington  
Michael Molisse

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Chairman O'Connor called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**TRAFFIC ISSUES ON FRONT STREET**

Chairman O'Connor explained that the origin of this meeting was due to concerned constituents on Front Street, namely Shelby Czarnota, who had contacted him. The basis of the concerns are surrounding excessive speeding. Chairman O'Connor would like to hear from the public, and come up with a solution to this problem-be it installation of traffic lights, or stop signs. He proceeded to introduce the members of the Public Safety Committee, in addition to Councilors Lacey, Harrington and Molisse who were also present. The Chairperson opened the floor to comments from the Councilors.

Councilor Lacey noted that Front Street has typically been treated as a cut-through from both the highway and Route 18 and has been for many years. He commended Chairman O'Connor for calling this meeting in an effort to address speeding issues.

Chairperson O'Connor opened the floor to comments from the public.

**Alice Pellegrini of 683 Front Street**-confirmed that it isn't necessarily the volume of traffic, as it is needless, excessive speeding. She suggests a police cruiser to monitor the speeding situation. The speed limit signs posted were knocked down as a result of an accident and it was a long time before the sign was re-erected. She stressed the importance of ensuring that signs are checked periodically.

**Peter Scannell of 79 Front Street**-feels that the traffic volumes have increased substantially and is concerned about the synchronization of the lights in the landing. He suggests a need for improvement of signage.

Councilor Lacey agrees with issues cited in Weymouth Landing. He announced that James Clarke (Director of Planning and Community Development) has been requested to appear before

the Town Council on December 1, 2008, regarding the lack of progress in the landing. Councilor Lacey noted that the MBTA, the state, the Towns of Braintree and Weymouth are all involved in this endeavor and there is no excuse for having unresolved issues, one year later. He will request that the issues cited this evening are added to this work.

**Tim White of 9 Joyce Avenue** ( located off of Front Street at a dead-end location) is an 11 year resident whose children attend the Murphy School. He would like to see more Police presence, and noted that he very rarely sees any traffic enforcement measures. Mr. White stated that numerous commercial vehicles travel down Front Street and violate the 2.5 ton weight limit. He suggested lowering the speed limit possibly to 25 mph. Individuals park on sidewalks and many sidewalks are not plowed during storms-which forces people to walk in the streets.

Chairperson O'Connor read an email from Mrs. Trevino into the record. Mrs. Trevino thanked Councilor O'Connor for calling this meeting and explained that she has lived in Weymouth for 23 years and noted careless, reckless, needless passing and speeding of cars on Front Street.

**Geo Murphy of 158 Front Street** resides at the intersection of Front and Summer St. He stated that traffic is coming down Summer and doesn't stop at the mandatory stop sign. He suggests a blinking red light in place of the stop sign at Front Street.

**Shelby Czarnota of 241 Front Street** agrees with everyone and noted that signage and enforcement are needed on a continual basis. The safety factor is not only for residents of Front but those using Front on a commuting basis. She extended her appreciation to Councilor O'Connor for calling this important meeting.

**Scott Parker of 121 Federal Street** lives one house away from the Front and Federal intersection. He noted 3 accidents within 1 week as early as today. The average accident occurs 1-2X per month. He personally observed this intersection for 20 minutes and witnessed 20 cars traveling in excess of the speed limit at more than 40 mph. He supports a 4 way stop sign. Mr. Parker noted that the Weymouth Honda car carrier (18 wheeler) frequents Front Street and exceeds the streets tonnage limitation. Ms. Czarnota added that Honda also uses the street to test drive their vehicles- which results in excessive speeding.

**Ed Mahone of 407 Front Street** resides across from Front Street near the Murphy School. He questions the sign located at Cumberland Farms, indicating no left turn. He feels that signage is out of control, confirms excess speeding of cars on Front Street.

**Dennis Trumont of 50 Front Street** agrees with Scott Parker who spoke earlier and feels that the intersection at Front and Federal warrants a 4-way stop signs. He additionally noted that the street lines are faded and feels that the lines favor speeding as they open up. He suggests looking at this from a pedestrian standpoint-narrower lanes would encourage slower travel by car.

After hearing from all residents in attendance, wishing to speak-Chairperson O'Connor opened the floor to comments by Committee Members.

Councilor Conlon confirmed that this is a dangerous road-mentioned that a Police Cruiser would find it difficult to stop cars for speeding due to the narrowness of the road. He feels that the most advisable traffic calming measure would be a 4 way stop sign located at Front and Federal Streets. Additionally, he feels that a Police Officer with a radar gun should be placed in the area to control the speed factor. Violators should be pulled over onto Federal Street rather than Front Street. He is also concerned with the safety of the children at the Murphy School.

Councilor Mathews wants to get police to do more frequent enforcement. Additionally he requested that the traffic engineer for the town conduct a study of this situation to determine traffic origin and solicit suggestions for traffic calming measures.

Councilor Smart cautioned the Committee as to legal placement of stop/yield signs. The traffic engineer needs to perform an analysis in conjunction with Sargeant Concannon. Councilor Smart additionally requested , from the Police Department, a history of accidents in that area. The top priority is the children in that area and he cautioned all that the neighbors could potentially be the violators of the speeding issues, as they frequent this area. He further stated that notification of speeding and signage is very important.

Councilor Lacey agrees with his colleagues. While the traffic engineer is conducting an analysis for a long term solution, short term solutions can be implemented--phone calls thru Mayor's Office for police presence, a letter to Weymouth Honda addressing the car carrier and test driving issues. Communication with Weymouth Honda was undertaken about four years ago. Enforcement of these violations needs to be revisited. Councilor Lacey expressed his appreciation to both Chairman O'Connor and the residents who attended this evenings meeting.

Councilor Harrington cited an accident his daughter was involved with in 1998, at the corner of Front and Summer Streets. He concurs that the issue is speeding and not volume of vehicles and believes that a reduction in the speed limit is necessary. He further suggested cleanup of signage, trimming of overgrown brush, and narrowing of the road will reduce the volume and speed of cars. Councilor Harrington feels that the volume of cars should be reduced due to the completion of the Route 18 improvements. The problems of today may not be the problems of a few months from now. Intervention by the Traffic Engineer is supported.

Chairman O'Connor noted that the traffic engineer plans would be for the long term and he feels that there have been sufficient short term ideas brought forward this evening. He noted that short term enforcement of 35 mph must be strictly enforced. Chairman O'Connor suggested that a letter to Weymouth Honda regarding the car carrier ,unloading and test driving be completed. Additionally an immediate inventory of signage to ensure adequacy is warranted. Long term he is requesting that the Traffic Engineer extend the area to include three school zones, 4 way stop sign, and a reduction of the speed limit from 35 to 25 mph.

Councilor Mathews motioned that a letter is compiled to Weymouth Honda, inclusive of the following:

1- cease test driving of vehicles

2-brooch the alternative of unloading of cars at the corner of Winter/Main (their dealership) on Route 18 in order to alleviate trucks coming off of Front Street.

Motion seconded by Councilor Smart and voted unanimously.

Councilor Mathews motioned that a letter is forwarded to administration requesting that a traffic count is performed, to include the following:

- 1-extension of school zones to three
- 2-white lines closer to double yellow
- 3-4 way stop sign installed at Front and Federal Streets
- 4-speed limit reduction from 35 to 25 mph

Additionally, it was requested to include a request to administration for the Police Department to provide the number of tickets issued within the last 24 months, radar tracking documentation, and the number of accidents which occurred. Supplying of additional police presence in that area was also requested.

Above motion was seconded by Councilor Smart, and voted unanimously.

Councilor Lacey noted that he had spoken previously with Robert O'Connor (Department of Public Works Director) concerning signage and suggested requesting of the traffic engineer, his suggestions on a short term basis for solutions, until long term remedies are implemented.

At 8:16 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Smart and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Diane T. Hachey/Recording Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick O'Connor, Chairperson