

Public Ways Safety Committee
Minutes
Bolton, Massachusetts
September 22, 2021

Members present: Mary Ciummo, Holly Lauer, Michael Keller, and Steve McKeown

Invited guest: Police Chief Warren Nelson

The meeting was held online via Zoom and called to order at 6:05 p.m. The minutes of our September 8, 2021 meeting were approved.

The meeting was held to discuss the following items with Police Chief Nelson. The Committee meets with the Police Chief twice a year to update on traffic concerns in Town.

Follow up to traffic volume and speed concerns on:

- Woobly and East End Roads: Chief Nelson has monitored speed and traffic volumes on these roads. Speeding is not an issue. Both of these roads are cut throughs and unfortunately the Police Department is limited on what it can do because they don't have the resources for staffing, training and equipment.
- S. Bolton/Spectacle Hill Road: Chief Nelson recommends a 3-way stop at this intersection. Despite low accident numbers, a 3-way stop will help to lower the speed of vehicles approaching the intersection, especially taking into consideration the increase in traffic volume due to new residential developments and Highland Commons on Route 62.

Signs:

- Horse warning signs. The Committee presented to the Chief the recommended roads for horse warning signs. He commented that the officers don't see a lot of horse riders but thought that the high traffic roads could benefit from signs. The Chief feels that they have a right to use the roads. He did mention that even with the signs being provided by a resident, there will be a cost for labor and maintenance, and cautioned that vehicle operators may not pay attention to the signs.
- No parking by 131 Forbush Mill Road. Chief Nelson agreed with the Committee that there does not appear to be enough cars parking along the road to be a safety problem and justify a No Parking sign. There is off-road parking by the Conservation trail. Mary C. will respond to the resident who made the complaint.
- Blind drive at 196 Sawyer Road. Chief Nelson does not feel that a sign is warranted at this location.
- Solar speed and radar signs: the Police Department has purchased the following three signs through the Municipal Road Safety Grant funding program:

- Forbush Mill Road – Solar Speed limit sign 30MPH with flashing white lights, no data collection.
- Sugar Road – Solar Speed limit sign 30MPH with flashing white lights, no data collection.
- Long Hill Road – Solar Radar sign that will record traffic data. This sign is movable.

Century Mill Estates: The development road out to Century Mill Road has not been completed. The Chief's concern is that the road is necessary for fire and emergency vehicles to access the development and has asked the Committee to let him know of the timeline for the new road. He also commented that the redesign of the wide intersection at Century Mill and S. Bolton Roads with pavement markings is an improvement.

Traffic enforcement: the Chief is looking into future highway safety grants for a combination message and radar board. He is also trying to assign 30 hours a month traffic enforcement on high traffic volume roads.

Wattaquadock/Main traffic lights: the Chief feels that the lights help with traffic coming out of Harvard Rd. and has somewhat helped traffic flow during rush hour, but it hasn't alleviated it.

Truck traffic and effectiveness of engine brake signs: It was brought to the Chief's attention that trucks are using their jake brakes on Main Street despite the signs recommending limited use of these brakes. The Town does not have a bylaw restricting the use of jake brakes; therefore, these signs are not enforceable. Even if they were, the Police department does not have the staff to do this. The Chief mentioned that the department does have a police officer who is trained to do truck inspections; but to date there have not been a lot of violations, only minor ones. The Chief mentioned that if we notice a truck idling, to call the Police Department.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted Mary Ciummo