**Public Ways Safety Committee**

**Minutes**

**Bolton, Massachusetts**

**October 14, 2020**

**Members present:** Mary Ciummo, Holly Lauer, Leslie Breeze.

**Invited guest:** Police Chief Warren Nelson

The meeting was held online via Zoom and called to order at 10:00 a.m. The minutes of our August 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**MassWorks project at Main/Wattaquadock:** Overall, the Chief feels that the improvements are working well, and made the following comments:

* The traffic lights were turned on last week; the left turn lane light is not yet in que.
* At times, morning east bound traffic, at around 6:00 a.m., backs up as far as Harvard or Wilder due to the lights.
* A truck exclusion is needed because trucks are going into the west bound lane to make a left hand turn onto Wattaquadock. Don Lowe will be scheduling another meeting with the town of Clinton to gain their approval.
* Less drivers are using Manor Rd. to make a left onto Main, instead staying on Wattaquadock and taking a left at the light.
* The lights are causing a break in traffic flow to make it easier to turn out of Harvard Rd. Mike commented that he notices the effect at Pondside as well.
* During school start hours, officers are staying a few minutes longer at the Mechanic St. intersection to allow traffic to come out of Mechanic due to backups on Main caused by the lights.

**Main Street intersections accidents:** September accident data on Main St. for the month of November was lower than normal: 7 reported accidents compared to 13-20 a month. The top 3 intersections for accidents are all on Main St. at Wattaquadock Hill, Still River and 495.

**Operator behaviors during COVID:** The Chief has increased traffic enforcement because vehicles are traveling at faster speeds.

**Sign replacements:** The missing speed signs on Wattaquadock Hill Rd. have been replaced. The Chief mentioned adding two 25mph on Long Hill Rd. and a 20mph on Sugar Rd. across from Houghton Farms development. The Chief recommended:

* a “No left turn” sign on Sampson at Main St. and cut back brush at that intersection.
* Changing Yield sign to a Stop sign on Farm Rd. at Berlin Rd. because of the subdivision going in at that intersection.

**Traffic Enforcement Officer:** Officer Dan Keller has been assigned to commercial vehicle enforcement. Traffic enforcement is effective, but it is one of the hardest things to deal with because the town does not have the resources for a dedicated traffic enforcement officer. When available duty officers will enforce traffic; but it is not guaranteed. The Chief plans on adding approximately $50,000 to the FY22 budget for overtime for traffic enforcement.

**Radar speed Trailor:** The Chief has applied for through a Federal Highway Safety grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

 Minutes submitted Mary Ciummo.