Public Ways Safety Committee
Minutes
Bolton, Massachusetts
May 16, 2018

Members present: Mary Ciummo, Holly Lauer, Leslie Breeze, Michael Keller.
Invited guest: Police Chief Warren Nelson.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

The minutes of the April 11 and 25, 2018 meetings were reviewed and approved.

The Committee met with Police Chief Nelson to discuss the following items:

Route 117 Pedestrian Crossing Safety Improvements: With the warrant article approved at Town Meeting, the Committee is moving forward with the project. Chief Nelson stated that there is poor visibility at the crosswalk; and the Committee believes the crosswalk flashing lights will encourage more people to cross there. There is concern that the lights may be too bright at night, but FHWA regulations require an automatic signal dimming device for night use, and the TAPCO product that the Committee is interested in offers that feature. Chief Nelson commented that the police cruisers have dimmable LED lights. He also asked the Committee to check out if the LED lights installed at Classic Pizza are bright and report back to him. There was a brief discussion about the Town approving the creation of designated safety zones. Regarding the high school area, existing speeds will have to drop below 45mph to establish a safety zone. The Committee asked if an informal speed study could be done to see if traffic is slowing down because of the flashing school zone lights; the Chief felt that it was too early for such a study.

Radar Speed signs: The Chief distributed the radar speed readings for February to April, which record monthly totals, daily averages, speed, peak hours, and peak day. He is submitting these monthly reports to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee finds that this information will be helpful with its work.

Road sign replacements: The Committee asked that the Chief notify his officers to be on the lookout for road signs that need replacing and report them back to the Committee. The Chief is working with Joe Lynch, DPW Director on replacing the speed limit signs on Wattaquadock Hill, Green and Wilder Roads. He suggested that the 30mph speed sign on Berlin Road should be closer to the S. Bolton Road split to make drivers aware of the speed limit.

Accident data: The Chief also gave the Committee a copy of recorded accidents by street name from Jan. 1, 2010 to May 2, 2018. Most of the accidents occur on Main Street and

Wattaquadock Hill, with Main Street accounting for around 50% of all accidents. Most accidents are caused by rear-ending. The Chief stated that traffic enforcement is time consuming with entering citations and clerk hearings and feels that hiring a dedicated day shift traffic officer would be helpful. The Chief noted that this winter, accident data information has helped the DPW to identify where accidents are occurring, allowing the department to take extra action in sanding the roads during snow storms.

S. Bolton/Century Mill Roads Intersection concerns: Regarding a resident's concern for better signage and lane confusion, the Chief stated that there has not been a lot of accidents at that intersection and recommends that a 3-way Stop would help to slow traffic down. Regarding the S. Bolton/Spectacle Hill Roads intersection, the Chief recommends the Stop sign be on Spectacle Hill Road.

Speed bumps: The Chief asked the Committee what we thought of the use of speed bumps on roadways. The Committee is in favor of them as well as other traffic calming devices. The Chief thought that they may work on backroads such as South Bolton, Spectacle, Century Mill and maybe Berlin Roads because of the increased mall traffic cutting through. There is concern of damage from plowing; the Chief cited the worn condition of the speed bump on Mechanic Street due to plows. It was suggested that rubber speed bumps be considered.

Schedule Meeting with DPW Director: The Committee set the dates of either May 23rd or 30th at 11:00 a.m. and set topics for discussion to include the flashing pedestrian crosswalk lights and improvements, road signage, sweep cleaning and line painting, brush clearing, resident concern of S. Bolton/Century Mill Rds. intersection, and traffic calming devices such as speed bumps. Mary will contact the DPW to confirm a meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted Mary Ciummo.

M. Ciummo
Leslie Breeze
Michael Keller