

Minutes of the Traffic Committee (TC) Meeting, July 13, 2023

Attending: Robin Barr (council member), Elizabeth Hurwit (chair), Sherry Khanna (member), David Leibovitch (member), Kumar Vaswani (chair, Public Safety Committee)

COMMENCED: 7:04 pm

1. Committee approved **minutes** of 5/22/23 meeting.
2. Sherry, David, and Elizabeth reported on reactions to the installation of **lighted stop signs** at Falstone/Warwick. Only one complaint about their appearance. No other specific comments. Hard to measure how much effect they are having—perhaps increased awareness of signs and some slowing down of cars but no real increase in full stops, according to nearby neighbors. Given no immediately observable efficacy, the TC did not order a second set before the fiscal year ended.
→David to research other settings for lights (using timer? photosensor?) to change when they are lit while we leave them in place till end of summer
→Probably relocate signs to Surrey/Dorset or Dorset/Devon intersection in September
3. Elizabeth recounted Matt Trollinger's email of 7/11/23 stating decision that Town staff should do the **inventory of parking-related signs**, not Fehr and Peers. Elizabeth noted that Daniel Hirsch wrote her to request the Town either enforce or remove the signs toward the Wisconsin end of Dorset. No one on TC wants to eliminate street parking on Dorset and other streets, as it serves a traffic-slowing purpose. Sherry reported that she has seen a definite increase in traffic cutting through the neighborhood and is more concerned with that than with the occasional person who parks in Town and then walks to the metro.
→Elizabeth to send Matt/EJ list she compiled (based on Fehr and Peers earlier inventory) of signs to be inventoried and explain purpose; Somerset residents could be asked to verify the signs outside their houses if inventory could be posted on Town website
→We may need to get input from residents on what parking regulations they want to have
4. Elizabeth updated the committee on **various concerns** residents have brought to TC:
 - (1) Per his email of 7/10/23, Matt has reached out to Andrew Friedson's office about the issues at the **Greystone/River intersection** (raised by Ralph Wooden) for a State Highway Administration (SHA) contact; Matt is waiting to hear back from SHA; Matt has also been in touch with Marc Korman's office, as Councilmember Friedson and Delegate Korman have been working together to improve safety along the MD-190 corridor
 - (2) Per his email of 7/7/23, Matt is aware of the obscured **stop sign at Surrey/Cumberland** (as reported by Marnie Shaul); it may be one of the three that Elizabeth flagged for him as needing immediate maintenance in the Fehrs and Peers late 2022 study (#47 on Warwick, #68 on Cumberland, #108 on Surrey)
 - (3) Daniel Hirsch has informed Matt of the questionably placed **pylon on Dorset at Little Falls**
→Elizabeth to follow up with Matt to make sure all three issues are addressed

5. We discussed the need for the Town to devise a supervised policy for the **policing program**. We plan to convene a meeting of the Public Safety and Traffic Committees, and perhaps others, in late fall to discuss what we expect the police to do and how their work will be monitored. Elizabeth noted that when the Ad Hoc TC asked the Town Council in 2019 to double the police hours/budget from 8.75 hours/week to 18 hours/week and from \$25,000/year to \$50,000/year, our main goal was increasing stop sign compliance.* That has not been achieved, and the official TC has not attempted to supervise the police in the last two years. It is time for Town committees to guide Matt as he develops and implements a policing policy.
→Elizabeth to check back with Kumar in fall, to arrange late fall meeting
→We may need to get input from residents as there is a great deal of confusion about what police are/should be doing
6. We discussed achieving better stop sign compliance through **photo enforcement**, especially as police are more reluctant to make traffic stops. Although Delegate Sara Love, a member of the Maryland House Environment & Transportation Committee, opposes deployment of stop sign cameras, Marc Korman is that committee's new chair and may be open to the idea.
→Robin will take the issue up with Marc Korman's office
7. Next meeting: Wednesday August 23 or Thursday August 24, 7:00pm. Elizabeth to check with Anne on her availability.

ADJOURNED: 8:10 pm

***See excerpt from Ad Hoc Traffic Committee (AHTC) request to Town Council, March 1, 2019:** "Increased police presence will deter stop sign offenders . . . At a December 2018 meeting with Sgt. Tony Galladora, AHTC members and Council Member Marnie Shaul learned that the officers [in Town] primarily monitor traffic violations, especially on Dorset, night activities, pool noise and fence hopping, school traffic flow, and other incidents. According to Sgt. Galladora, more daytime police hours would definitely deter stop sign offenders, since drivers tend to come to a full stop when they see a police officer near an intersection."