

**TOWN OF HINGHAM
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

Police Chief Glenn A. Olsson, Chairman
Sgt. David Horte, Representative for Chief Olsson
Lt. John Haley, Representative for Chief Mark Duff
Harry Sylvester, DPW
William Ramsey, Planning Board
Daniel Zivkovich
Clark Frazier
Francis Donlan

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of January 27, 2016 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: January 28, 2016

PRESENT: Sgt. David Horte, Hingham Police Department
Lt. John Haley – Hingham Fire Department
Harry Sylvester, Hingham DPW
William Ramsey – Planning Board
Clark Frazier
Francis Donlan

Sgt. Horte called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Bill Ramsey, seconded by John Haley, to accept the minutes as written of the previous meeting on 12/30/15. Unanimous vote in favor.

1. Revisit Request for Four Way Stop at Fearing/North/Main

Sgt. Horte presented a crash history review for the intersection going back for 3 years. There was only one crash at North and Fearing and one crash at North and Main during That time period. He also presented speed studies conducted by Sgt. Dearth in 2012 in the Square. The first was done in the Square area in October and the second one was in The area of 166 North Street in November. The summary showed that the majority (the 85th percentile) were travelling at 24 MPH and 30 MPH at North Street. In the Square, there were almost no vehicles travelling in excess of 40 MPH and very few in excess of 35 MPH. Sgt. Horte also reported that he looked at the intersection of Thaxter/North/Hersey which has 4 way stop and that intersection is somewhat out of alignment but not nearly as much as the Fearing/North/Main intersection. An alternative to the 4 way stop, Sgt. Horte suggested that Fearing Road be made Right Turn Only coming out on to North Street. Another suggestion was to make it No Left Turn which would enable cars to still head over to Main Street. The problem of buses having access to turns as well as trucks for the post office were discussed along with driver being confused, etc. Harry Sylvester reminded the committee that we need to be careful

regarding stop sign placement and installation since they need to meet MUTCD criteria, two of which this intersection does not: accident history and excessive speed. If these warrants/criteria are not met, the State can revoke Chapter 90 funds that are due to the Town if the Town is found to be in violation. Clark Frazier suggested applying for a grant to get this looked at but Bill Ramsey said that this is time sensitive and it would be better to request that the Selectmen hire a traffic engineer to assess the situation and recommend alternatives. Harry Sylvester said that parking is at a premium in the Square and that every parking space is valuable. The possibility of a 3 way stop at Central and North was suggested as well but that would create backups in the Square. Harry Sylvester reiterated that there is no purpose to any of this since neither accidents or speed are a problem. Sgt. Horte said that this intersection can be stressful to navigate but there are minimal crashes there. Phil Edmundson who was in attendance, was asked for his thoughts. He said that one way turns could be an improvement, but he still did not understand why a 4 way stop wouldn't work. He has submitted a warrant article to The Board of Selectmen for Town Meeting. Bill Ramsey said that a motion should be made to the Selectmen to hire a traffic engineer who would be able to present the best options to the Traffic Committee.

Harry Sylvester made a motion to take no action, seconded by John Haley. He said that based on the information we have, traffic volume is an issue but nothing else (speed or accident history). Better visibility would increase speed and problems. After discussion that more need to be done, he amended his motion to say that we recommend that the Board of Selectmen hire an independent traffic engineer to do a study of the intersection and ensure that it meets MUTCD standards and warrants and sign it. John Haley seconded the motion. Bill Ramsey said that must meet MUTCD standards was too strong and suggested amending it to say that the traffic engineer will advise the committee if it does meet the MUTCD standards. This was seconded by Clark Frazier and voted affirmatively by Sgt. Horte, and Francis Donlan. The motion was passed 4-2 and will be sent to the Board of Selectmen.

Ed Johnson of Ward Street asked about the traffic implications of a subdivision proposed to be built on Ward Street. Bill Ramsey said that this is still in the preliminary stages of the proposal for state requirements for 40B.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant