

**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
Clark Frazier
Francis Donlan

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Chief Glenn Olsson
RE: Minutes of February 15, 2017 Traffic Committee Meeting
DATE: February 16, 2017

PRESENT: Sgt. David Horte, Hingham Police 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 Harry Sylvester, seconded by Fran Donlan, to accept the minutes as written of the previous meeting on 1/25/17. Unanimous vote in favor.

1. Presentation of crash data for Main/Cushing and High/French St. intersections

Sgt. Horte presented crash data for Main/Cushing Streets which shows that the number of crashes has gone down in the past 3 years. There were 5 in 2014, 6 in 2015 and 4 in 2016. The main causes of the crashes are inattention/distracted driving. Clark Frazier said that the backups on Cushing Street seem problematic to which Harry Sylvester replied that the main backups occur between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. during the week. The trend shows that traffic volume has been declining at that intersection as a result of the option of the traffic light at High and Main. Many people opt to use the route of Cushing to Ward to High to Main St. instead of turning left onto Main from Cushing St. Data for High/French/Ward shows that there were 7 crashes in 2014, 6 in 2015 and 4 in 2016 showing that crashes are down at this intersection as well. This is most likely credited to the sight line marking by Harry Sylvester and DPW to improve visibility and sight lines at High/Ward/French St. Harry Sylvester noted that sometimes there are vehicles parked at the dentist office on High St. which can obscure visibility at the intersection. He suggested that the Police monitor that cars in the dentist office parking lot aren't obstructing the view for cars crossing the intersection and if they are, then Dr. Kevin Perruzzi should be notified. Bill Ramsey noted that based on the data presented by Sgt. Horte, crashes are down at all intersections which is definitely progress.

2. Speed Limit Legislation – House Bill 4565, Section 17C

This bill which was recently passed by the House allows towns to establish a speed limit of 20-25 MPH on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the town that is not a state highway. Sgt. Horte met with Chief Glenn Olsson and Assistant Town Administrator Tom Mayo recently and they determined that this matter needs to be studied before any action is taken. There isn't enough time to get it ready for this year's Town Meeting so the goal is to have it ready for the 2018 Town Meeting. We will look at other towns who have adopted this and learn from them. The Traffic Committee will meet in the coming months to further develop implementation guidelines and will ask Town Council to review it in July or August 2017. One town that has implemented this is Somerville and Sgt. Horte will contact them to get their feedback. Sgt. Horte said that the Square would be perfect to set up as a safety zone and post it as 20 MPH. Harry Sylvester said that the town needs to make sure that a policy is in place and the Traffic Committee needs to review the matter further before this can happen. One thought is to make the Square 20 MPH and collector roads could be higher, at 30-35 MPH for example. Collector roads are streets that connect to main roads such as Lincoln Street which connects to Rte. 3A, Beal Street, Gardner Street, Cushing Street, etc. This issue will be addressed again in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Jacobson, Administrative Assistant