

Town of Natick
Safety Committee Minutes
April 28, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chief Dennis R. Mannix, Chairman, at 10:09 a.m.

Members in attendance:	Chief Mannix	Chief Sheridan
	Lt. Brian Lauzon	Patrick Reffett
	Michael Melchiorri	Robert Ward
	Glen Glater	Charles Sisitsky

Also in attendance: Tom Hladick, DPW
Ken Sauderholm

Old Business:

Approval of the January 27, 2009 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

New Business:

Chief Mannix Announced His Plans to Retire: Chief Mannix advised the Safety Committee Members that, in all likelihood, this would be his last Safety Committee Meeting, as he will be retiring on June 30, 2009. He advised Committee Members that in the unlikely event we have enough issues to call another meeting before he retires, he would be happy to Chair another one, but wanted to be sure he thanked each and every Member of the Committee for their hard work and support over the years. The Committee Members thanked Chief Mannix for his 30+ years of dedicated service to our community. Chief Mannix then turned the meeting over to Lt. Lauzon.

The following Safety Concerns Were Brought Forward by Mr. Glen Glater on Behalf of the Natick Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (NBPAC):

1. Regarding Crosswalks:

- Mr. Glater shared a series of photographs provided to NBPAC. He advised the Committee that Mr. Richard Whalen and Ms. Mary Burke went to the February meeting of the NBPAC with concerns about the safety of the sidewalks and roadways for pedestrians, especially the elderly, as a result of haphazard shoveling and plowing of the sidewalks and roadways. The letter not only dealt with snow issues, but also with general issues around crosswalks, sidewalks and signage. The Committee VOTED in favor of recommending the Board of Selectmen approve the request for marked crosswalks at the following locations:

- North side of Pond Street heading west to Cemetery Street: Sidewalk ends and no crosswalk to other side.
 - West side of Marion Street crossing North Avenue.
 - Bacon Street/Walnut Street playground at 5 way stop.
 - South Natick Dam Park on Library side. Sidewalk along wall and path with benches, both leading to Pleasant Street, no crosswalk to east side of Pleasant Street.
2. Regarding Winter Snow Issues: The Committee agreed that the winter snow issues will have to be addressed when the snow begins to fall next winter, with a careful eye on snowplows.
3. Regarding “General Sidewalk/Crossing Issues:”
- Pedestrian crossing yellow sign at the intersection of Cottage/South Main Street. The sign is barely visible to traffic heading north on South Main Street. Another sign across South Main on the west side would benefit the many people who use the crosswalks at this intersection, for instance, the residents at Coolidge Gardens.
 - There is no crosswalk on School Street Extension. There is no sidewalk for the many people to use as they access downtown for such activities as shopping, events at the Common and Library, and Town Hall business.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Natick Request for Signs: A letter was received from the Clerk of the church, in follow up of a request made earlier regarding signage. The letter states, in part: ““Our church had a directions sign at Lincoln Square which was removed when the state made improvements in that area. We would like to know what the procedures are for replacing the original sign and to also have one installed near the intersection of Union Street and Eliot Street. We are also interested in having a “Church Entrance” sign installed for the northbound lane of Union Street, similar to the one already installed for the southbound lane. With our driveway at the bottom of a hill from both directions, it would seem safer to have signs in both directions.” The committee VOTED to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that if the church is willing to provide the signs, the town of Natick DPW will put them up.

New England Neighborhood Association (NENA) regarding “Neighborhood concerns with regard to the proposed Hess Express: A letter was received from NENA regarding the impact the proposed Hess Express will have on the safety and quality of life in their neighborhood, as well as to make specific recommendations for the Safety Committee to consider and approve:

The committee discussed these issues and VOTED to recommend approval by the Board of Selectmen for the following:

- Restrict Maine and New Hampshire Avenues from Route 9

- The installation of children signs on Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire and Connecticut Avenues.
- The installation of stop signs and stop bars at the intersections of Connecticut and Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, and Connecticut and Vermont, as well as Connecticut and Oak Street.

Request for a four way stop at the intersection of Curve and Forrest Streets: The committee discussed this requested and VOTED to recommend against it.

Request for a “blind person” sign on Perry Road where it would be visible when you turn onto Perry from North Main Street: The committee agreed that this is a reasonable request and VOTED to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the installation of a “blind person” sign would be the Safety Committees recommendation.

Request from a resident who lives in Natick Center to Evaluate the Safety of Motor Vehicles Using Plain Street as a Cut Through to Avoid Traffic in the Center of Town: It was agreed by the committee members that this is a speed enforcement issue. No vote was necessary.

Street Naming Request for South Natick Hills: The committee reviewed the request and VOTED to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the following street names be approved:

1. Allison Way
2. Sienna Lane
3. Ashley Court

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.