

Town of Natick
Safety Committee Minutes
January 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chief Dennis R. Mannix, Chairman at 10:08 a.m.

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

Others in attendance: Selectman John Connolly
 Resident Sally Evans
 Two other Natick residents

Old Business:

Approval of the October 28, 2008 Safety Committee Minutes: The Committee VOTED to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting.

Follow-up Discussion on request for crosswalk on Marion Street at Pauline Drive: After further consideration of the neighborhood request, the committee voted to recommend installation of a new crosswalk across Marion Street a short distance south of Pauline Drive. The new crosswalk will require a curb-cut on both sides of the street as well as the installation of two double-backed high visibility pedestrian crossing signs – one on either side of the street at the crosswalk location.

New Business:

A Natick resident sent in a letter requesting the committee review the timing of the light cycles at this intersection which causes (in his opinion) the traffic back-ups resulting from motorists having to sit and waste many light cycles waiting to cross this intersection. The committee agreed that the traffic back-up issue is not simply a light timing issue, but more the result of the volume of motor vehicles traveling at the same time in this area, coupled with the lane restrictions east of the Speen Street intersection. Mr. Reffett added that this issue is on the stimulus package requirement list and as part of the engineering reconstruction. The committee VOTED to table this issue pending engineering reconstruction.

Request for "no turn on red" sign and crosswalk enforcement at Walcott Square.

Selectmen Joshua Ostroff sent an email to Chief Mannix and Lt. Lauzon asking the committee to review this request. Mr. Connolly attended the meeting today to represent the concerns of the Board of Selectmen. The committee considered possible solutions

and determined that verification and documentation of the violations at the crosswalks in Walcott Square, particularly the crosswalk east of Main/South Main Street, would provide more convincing evidence for state officials, from whom we must receive approval of the requested signage, to consider.

Board of Selectmen Member John Connolly asked the committee to discuss motor vehicles speeding on Sylvester Road. He told the committee that a Massachusetts State Trooper and resident of Sylvester Road has noticed the increased police presence in the area and volunteered to assist in our enforcement efforts. The committee agreed that the police would continue to enforce speed regulations in the area.

Natick Traffic Safety Officer Lieutenant Lauzon explained that there are conflicting traffic movements on Kansas Street that are the cause of residents' concern. Kansas Street has three lanes, one of which, the center lane is used by traffic both entering and exiting Kansas Street to and from North Main Street. Lt Lauzon recommends assisting the Soldier Systems Command Police in providing traffic cones clearly delineating travel lanes on Kansas Street.

The committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Community Development Director Patrick Reffett reminded the committee that it had voted to recommend the required public hearing necessary for the Board of Selectmen to approve the naming of the Natick Collection and the Town of Natick's Nouvelle Way and that this information had been omitted from the minutes of the October 28, 2008, meeting. The committee was again called to order and voted to reconsider its earlier vote to approve the minutes as written. The committee then voted to approve the minutes with the recommendation to have the required public hearing regarding Nouvelle Way.

The committee adjourned at 10:55 a.m.