

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 7, 2019
7:00 PM
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Danielle Fillio, Chief Darrell Fennelly and Juliet Locke, Traffic Consultant

Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order.

Don noted that Terry Flynn would not be attending the meeting.

Announcements:

Don noted that the next Board meetings are scheduled for January 16th at 9 AM, January 28th at 7 PM, February 6th at 9 AM, February 19th at 7 PM, and February 25th at 7 PM.

Agenda: Main Street Traffic Study

Don commented on the history of the study; following a report on intersection accidents from October 2017 discussion of the intersection at the Red Lion Inn began. It was recommended to have a new study which was approved at the January 2018 Special Town Meeting. The scope was expanded to all of Main Street and contracted with VHB to conduct the study and it was published and presented in October 2018.

Resident Ed Darthford presented his own design addressing the Route 7- Route 102 intersection. His model proposed minor and inexpensive changes with the addition of lane markings, signage and stop signs as opposed to the T-intersection

Juliet Locke responded that Mr. Darthford's presentation was considered but that the main flaw is that the additional stop sign would cause more confusion to non-residents.

Resident John Hart opposed the recommended roundabout for the Red Lion intersection and instead suggested changes in lane markings and sign improvements.

Police Chief Darrell Fennelly told the selectmen that as he looked at the Red Lion Inn intersection with the frequency of accidents, ranging from severe to fender benders and close calls; a roundabout would be the way to go and keeps traffic flowing.

Locke said that roundabouts keep vehicles moving and keeps them with the correct line of sight. They also limit the amount of "vehicular conflict points" from 32 to 8 potential conflict points which can cause accidents.

Dr. Charles Kenny stated that he was not against the proposed roundabout but suggested an increased police presence to limit the speed of the traffic and address a variety of simpler

solutions first.

Juliet Locke said that based on the State crash rate, the crash rate for the Red Lion Inn intersection is greater than the MassDOT average crash rate for District 1. What are often considered Band-Aid approaches would not solve the high crash rate long term and a more significant solution such as a roundabout is needed.

Selectman Cardillo stated that if the whole plan is looked at, the sidewalks and crosswalks are addressed making them handicap accessible and pedestrians are protected.

Residents spoke with a mix of support and opposition for a potential roundabout. Several urged that police officers be posted in the middle of the Red Lion intersection but Chief Fennelly called it a dangerous idea that would be a safety issue as well as back traffic up.

Marie Raftery felt that the traffic study was excellent and well worth implementing. She said that the plan is not changing the character of the Town and urged the Select Board to follow-up with this study.

Chuck supported the plan and pointed out that MassDOT has the two major intersections on its radar and it would be better to work with the State before the Town has no say. Don Chabon agreed.

Juliet reviewed the full scope of the study area including pedestrian issues; including bump outs, signage and crosswalks. She also noted bicycle traffic, lanes and protection.

Chuck felt that the plan presented was an excellent plan and as a next step would like it to pass it along to the State and move forward. Don said that his number one concern was safety and was a real concern. He also stated that he was very sensitive to the aesthetics of the Town and that this plan considers these. He therefore felt that they should initiate action with the State.

Chuck made a motion that the Board allows Danielle Fillio and Juliet Locke to meet with MassDOT and present an informal proposal to them for review with the understanding that no formal application or forms will be submitted at this time and approval to submit those applications will be done at a later vote of the Board of Selectmen. Don seconded; all were in favor.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Don made a motion to adjourn. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.