

Milton Traffic Calming Advisory AD-HOC Committee
Cannery Village Clubhouse
Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 5:30 pm
DRAFT

Attendees: Randi Meredith, Councilwoman (Chairperson)
Susan Fewell, Mary Quigley, Hunter Willis, George Cardwell, Bonnie Bloomquist (scribe)
Absent: Lisa Falzarano
Liaison Non-voting members: Greg Wingo, Public Works Supervisor,
Absent: Derrick Harvey, Chief of Police

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA
 - Change #5-Approval of Minute to remove June 16 Minutes
 - Add Minutes of April 28, 2021, Minutes of May 12, 2021
 - Remove Item 7.a. – Survey finalized, it was finalized at meeting last week
4. AGENDA APPROVAL – Approved as amended
5. ~~Minutes of June 16, 2021~~ Minutes of April 28, 2021, Minutes of May 12, 2021
 - Guest Fire Chief, his recommendations
 - 4th Bullet point, limit parking
 - 3rd page, comments contributed to individuals, Camenish spelled wrong
 - May 12, 2021- No changes

Minutes - APPROVED AS AMENDED

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Discussion and possible vote on the following:
 - a. **Topic:** Survey; Finalize – REMOVED
 - b. **Topic:** Walk Audits; Revisions to Summaries & Recommendations
 - Advisory Report TOC/Change Header to Assessments and Recommendations
 - Zone 1: Mulberry Street from Rt. 16 to Lavinia Street
 - Zone 2: Union Street from Rt. 16 to Broad Street

Zone 3: Lavinia Street from Mulberry Street to Wagamon's West Shores (S. Fewell)

- Sidewalk along Lavinia not unified w/community, should be maintained by HOA
- There is an unmarked path to get down to pond, safer place to walk, unable to determine if this area is private property.
- Per Greg Wingo, the Town maintains a portion and the Developer owns a portion

Zone 4: Federal Street from Sand Hill Road to Mulberry Street (Quigley/Bloomquist)

- Organized summary based on AARP worksheet categories
- New Street (a Milton owned street), at Reed Trucking Company, does not have a sign It is a wide street, not a place to park; reportedly parents park along that street
- Milton Elementary no longer has a front entrance following the construction; walkers may still be directed to cross at that point. There is a driver dropping off area now.

Zone 5: Chestnut Street from Harbeson Road to Wharton/Atlantic

- Recommended Action: 20 MPH for regular Traffic; 15 MPH for truck traffic; Reed Trucking Parking Lot had weeds and trash along fence, fence is tipped over along trail where Trucks have hit it when parking
- Mary Reed, of Reed Trucking, requested help to obtain signage to indicate that driveway is not street (e.g., there are curbs)
ACTION: Greg Wingo will look into the situation
- The crosswalk at Rail/Trail extension, signs are faded; no traffic stopped at crosswalk, shark teeth paint is faded on street; stretch beyond intersection has no comfort and appeal (btwn Alexander's Path and Summerwalk) has no sidewalk or shade, this is Town area (beyond that is Sussex County, should be addressed to DeIDOT); the sidewalk at 510 Chestnut is a trip hazzard and has overgrown shrubbery, people have fallen there. It was noted that Greg Wingo was aware of the specific area situation.

Discussion:

- Recommendations are presented for Town-Wide speed reduction to be evaluated, in preparation for a vote
- G. Cardwell reported engineering is a better solution than reducing speed, he suggested "softening" parts of the Report rather than risk a combative tone
- Speed was identified as the biggest traffic concern via the survey; the posted speed limits are not the actual speeds traveled due to speed tolerance choices by PD
- DeIDOT involvement:
 - S. Fewell: spoke to several DeIDOT officials, they have asked for a copy of the Committee's report and will help to figure solutions
 - Greg Wingo: Town Council will review Report to make an assessment (Greg)
 - S. Fewell: Reported that Senate Bill 89 will change what is defined what is a truck based on weight and size, per Pete Hague; this will enable Town to better enforce reduced speed limits

- Greg Wingo: expressed concern that reducing speed to make Milton be viewed as a police state; he would prefer to have trucks uniformly evaluated and weighed rather than pinpoint axle restrictions
- B. Bloomquist: Historic houses have wall stress fractures as a result of heavy vehicles; what is more important, public safety or commercial heavy weight trucks?
- S. Fewell: Vehicles race down Chestnut Street, set the tone for other vehicles including buses
- M. Quigley: Expressed a sense that there is a minority opposition to the Committee and that there is opposition to people who drive trucks
- Greg Wingo: Report that opposition is not the case and houses have cracks due to truck vibration; his point is there will be less opposition to drop speed limits for all vehicles, easier to enforce and can move ahead with recommendations being accepted/implemented

Zone 6: Union Street from Broad Street to intersection of Chestnut and Front Streets

- H. Willis:
 - Low participation due to excessive heat on that day.
 - Speeding was an issue, crosswalk in front the library vehicles were traveling faster down the hill and distracted drivers,
 - not yielding to pedestrians (tested w/stroller while crossing street there, only 1:10 stopped);
 - better signage needed at top of the hill would help,(e.g., entering high pedestrian area, or crosswalk yield sign).
 - Comfort and appeal is not pleasant with vacant lots and no shade trees
 - Councilwoman Meredith (took another group of volunteers since low turn-out of volunteers previously):
 - Magnolia Street parking lot signage, one-way w/painted area that may have been there but faded.
 - The parking lot will have major construction.
 - There is no protected area for bus riders;
 - Union & Chandler Streets has no crosswalk and seasonable visibility issues.
 - Ice cream shop on corner draws high volume of pedestrians
 - speeding is a concern due to high volume of residential traffic
 - sidewalks not wide enough
 - Hunter: Millstone will be difficult to navigate w/a wheelchair due to misalignment of crosswalk.
 - Restaurant dumpsters located at bottom of Federal Street are unsightly, malodorous and dangerous due to bees and a trip hazard; cigarette waste urns should not be allowed.
- ACTION: Greg spoke w/business owners to remove.

Zone 7: Mulberry Street from Lavinia Street to Federal, and Federal Street from Mulberry Street to Coulter Street (Councilwoman Meredith):

- Wagamons Pond, a long stretch of road makes it easy to speed of motor vehicles,
- No crosswalks, an abandoned driveway with no curb
- Mulberry and Lake Drive have utility poles obstructing pedestrian access
- Mulberry and Lavinia, see Zone 1
- Greg: expensive moving utilities
- Councilwoman Meredith: DeIDOT has \$660Million to invest in infrastructure, grants could be obtained, Mrs. Rogers is excellent at grant writing
- Bicycles travel through town since it's on the historical route

Zone 8: Bay Avenue and Atlantic Avenue from Union Street to Country Road

- Palmer Street & Rt. 16, people speed along to use as cut-off street; no sidewalks, streets are narrow; this is a small neighborhood

Unaudited Areas not included in the Zones:

- Front Street located (along the Town Maintenance Warehouse and Tidewater Plant), Unsightly and no shade, vegetation taking over sidewalk. A lot of open space for alternative parking consideration (B. Bloomquist)
- Heritage Creek and Canary Village: A pathway into town will be added (Councilwoman Meredith)
- Wharton, Atlantic and Chestnut: Recommend connection sidewalks, esp important with Canary development expansion
- Wharton to Front Street: No crosswalk to cemetery, Coulter is technically a part of Governor's Walk

c. **Topic:** Advisory Report: Revisions

Discussion:

- Comments about the Education Section placement, definitions and concepts from the 2012 Delaware Traffic Calming Design Manual, could be with appendices:
- H. Willis: Emphasize Community partnership
- S. Fewell: End and middle are most important part of a report
- H. Willis: Call out better the historic past with an emphasis on change and a destination.
- All agreed, introduction could be clearer; sentences and words are too long
- Reaction to "the Big Idea," changing Federal and Mulberry Streets to One- Way
 - It will revitalize the town
 - It is an avenue toward the stated goal
 - Include incremental approaches, low impact, reasonable, implemental as well
 - Recommendation will present challenges, put at end for future considerations
- G. Cardwell: DeIDOT will completely update the plan in 2023 that was adopted in 2018

- All agreed the Walk Audit Zone order will make sense. There was a suggestion that the order could be reorganized to reflect a better flow around town.

8. REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS to be included for the next meeting.

- Status on updating the DFH directions to route trucks away from Town
- Advisory Report Extension to submit the report to Council in August meeting
- Current Edit/Revising Report Timeline – July 7th Initial draft due to committee; July 14 Committee to return edits

9. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, July 21, 2021

10. ADJOURNMENT