

Minutes, Amherst Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 13., 2018

Munson Library - 4:30 PM

Members Present: Eve Vogel, Kimberly Tremblay, Mark Rabinsky, Aaron Hayden, Bruce Carson
Members Absent: Rabib Rafiq, Sandra Anderson
Staff Present: Guilford Mooring, Christine Brestrup
Others Present: (see attached sign in sheet)

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes: (with edits) 3-0-1
2. South Amherst Common Plan Discussion
 - a. Past History of plans for the common presented by Guilford Mooring
 - i. 2003/2004
 1. People going N on S East St have a straight shot through the common. Goal was to make them go up a little bit more and turn right, and the go to the common, reducing the straight shot in front of the library/church and slowing them down.
 2. Was going to put angled parking on the church side, and angled parking on the common.
 3. Making it one way in front of the church also.
 4. Stop signs on Station Rd, and turn there.
 5. Removed cut throughs in Shays St intersection.
 6. Introduced some green areas.
 7. Idea was to break up the straight lines, introducing turns in order to slow down traffic.
 - b. Current discussion was started by a stop sign request
 - i. Sign was not recommended for placement due to rules that state if you are a minor street approaching a major street, you are supposed to stop.
 - ii. Options are to do nothing, place a stop sign, temporarily/permanently block off the cut through, or totally remove the cut through and make it green space
 - c. Janet: Discussed meeting that happened with Town officials and the community about two years ago about S East St issues and potential fixes. Went ahead a little bit and then progress stopped. People suggested posting a 25 mph speed limit at the current area being discussed, and stop signs. There also has been support for speed bumps around the common and also speed enforcement.
 - d. Anne: Stated that stop signs will not work as people do not observe them now. I concerned that if you cut that piece off, everyone will turn L by their residence creating issues for them as traffic will be speeding by them. She advocates for the

speed bumps. She would like to see the traffic cut off by the school, eliminating the accidents at the top of Station Rd.

- i. Aaron: Will think about also in order to calm the traffic, the W part of the cut off between Shays and Middle St, that traffic needs to be slowed down as well and another intersection affected.
- e. Eve: They have found that speed limit posting and occasional enforcement does not slow people down. Changing the infrastructure is more important and forces people to slow down.
- f. Sue: Four way stop has been better, when there was a two way stop there were more accidents (in front of the library). Emergency services may not allow for speed bumps in this location. People are speeding past the library causing potential harm to people getting out of their vehicles in front, and the hill makes the approach to the library not visible. People are speeding in the evening time. If a stop sign is placed, lines need to be painted. This area is essentially a blind spot. Don't want it to be one way because it slows down traffic to the library.
- g. Brad: When you exit Pomeroy Ln there is a blind spot where it is dangerous to turn left. This would be eliminated by creating a T intersection there with a stop sign.
- h. Janet: People on the E side of the common when they back out they have to monitor a lot of traffic from multiple directions. If the common as a one-way "rotary" idea it would reduce the traffic.
- i. Guilford: Multiple concepts for a rotary type idea. And if you go to one way, you can have parking on one side of the road.
- j. Tom D: Idea of restoring the common to a more common type area, reducing the amount of pavement, and idea of creating intersections is great. As well as creating a rotary type area. Could the cut through actually be eliminated without a plan that creates public parking?
- k. Jeff: If the bus stop that was eliminated could be reinstated it would be good. And an assumption was made that there was no traffic S on Middle St, but there is. All of S East St is not good for bicycle safety.
- l. Janet: Why is it a problem for parking along the common? Trouble for people with mobility issues, but people already park in places there seemingly without issue.
- m. Brad: The current paved parking lot would be eliminated and turned into green space?
 - i. In one concept yes, but it may not be because people do use it.
 - ii. It may make it more accessible with a footpath across the common or a sign
- n. Unk: Not sure how speed bumps would affect fire and police as they are usually going very slow when they are going through that intersection now.

- i. In one of the older plans, all the crosswalks were proposed to be raised crosswalks.
 - o. Eve: Seems that the consensus is that people are okay with temporarily cutting off the cut-off, with the concerns of speeding, and making sure there is parking.
 - i. And then a secondary change and another cut off (?)
 - ii. How many changes are doable with what time frame and feasibility?
 - 1. Guilford: Both are relatively easy to do.
- p. Francesca: What is going on at the N End
 - i. Nothing is going to be considered today. That will be looked at another time.
- q. Christine B: If that change is made at the south end, would the road in front of the library have to become one-way north?
 - i. Can be done without it becoming one way.
- r. Mark: Do we have traffic data for these streets? Wondering how it will change the traffic once we block off the cut through.
 - i. We have some, a count was done.
- s. Kim: Do we have actual accident data?
 - i. No, we have some, but that is subjective to people reporting it or whether an ambulance shows up. Small fender benders usually do not get reported. There's been talk of a lot of accidents, but there's not a lot on record.
- t. Unk: Expressed concerns about the cut off routing traffic through the lower intersection and there being bad visibility there.
 - i. That is going to be the next location looked at.
- u. Tom: Is it a lot of work to make it one way?
 - i. It is easy to do, but doesn't do anything for the people who do a short cut, or the speed in one area. You would still want to block things off.
- v. Unk: Might want to cut off the little loop by the Gage's house off Shays St. People get confused in that area causing vehicles to back up at the intersection.
- w. Committee Discussion
 - i. Aaron: Would like to know if the committee is ready for a recommendation
 - 1. Committee was considering simply putting barriers at the end of the cut through temporarily, and then getting rid of it and making the Common "whole"
 - 2. What would the committee need for information to look at the Western half of the cut off
 - a. Traffic calming measures or same kind of temporary measures
 - b. Also a one-way flow of traffic

1. Technically difficult to do so don't know if the committee wants to recommend it
 2. You'd have to go through conservation and private land
 3. Construction zones are actively going on on both sides as well due to road size, so people would be going through the construction zone
- ii. Committee is going to have to recommend the direction of traffic across the bridge
 1. PTBPC previously unanimously recommended one way South due to the traffic coming from Sand Hill Rd
 2. As of two years ago the Southward directions was presented at Town Meeting
 3. There have been other multiple meetings that presented the Southward direction
 - iii. Committee also reaffirms the multi-use path should be extended from the bridge to the top of State St
 - iv. Motion: We affirm a one-way road and a 10 ft multi-use path from the bridge up to State St. And further recommend the one-way be South.
 1. Found in favor 5-0-0

Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Attachments:

1. Attendance Sheet

Minutes compiled by: A. Taylor

Sign In

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