

Jan 9 2023 Precinct 17 Caucus Meeting Minutes

Location: 7:00-8:00 Redbrook Trailer

Precinct 17 Member Attendees: Bill Licata, Joseph Hutchinson, Lori Downs, Lorenzo Pizarro, Al Dinardo, Pamela Hastings

Absent: Kathy Bell, Sue Arenstam, Cindy Femino

Discussion/presentations

- Wareham Road safety summary presented, mitigation proposed for pedestrian safety – Wareham Road and River Run Way are a cut through for many people, with drivers often speeding and unmindful of pedestrians; presentation by Lori and Pam
 - Wareham Rd history of safety measure improvements summarized to date; with thanks to hard work of Pam Hastings, Rob Kennedy, and AD Makepeace
 - Areas of concern for Town line of Wareham Rd to River Rd are: intersection of River Run Way/Wareham Rd, Market Square, Redbrook's thickly settled areas, and White Island Pond beach area
 - Summary of comments from over 75 Wareham Rd residents:
 - Many near accidents have been observed at River Rd/Wareham Rd intersection, often due to drivers running stop sign, to pedestrians view in cross walk obstructed by apartment bill board on River Road corner, due to large trucks parked on side of road obstructing pedestrians' views, and drivers surprised and confused by 2-way stop (they assume it's a 4-way and assume oncoming traffic stops on all 4 sides)
 - Most near accidents occur as traffic on River Run Way turns right on to Wareham Rd.
 - Additional issue crosswalks not well lit – hard to see pedestrians.
 - To eliminate confusion at this 2-way stop, would help to make it a 4-way stop.
 - White Spruce Lane and Rd by YMCA/Wareham Rd intersections will soon have substantially more pedestrian traffic once the new post office/bakery/bookery/pickle ball courts at Market Square opens this spring, with new YMCA pool on opposite side of the road.
 - Traffic calming approaches should be implemented since speed limits often ignored. Suggestions: clear visual obstructions, implement raised intersections and rectangular flashing pedestrian lights; also lower speed limit and implement 4-way stop at intersection noted above.
 - Lori spoke with Dan Gorsika – he agreed apartment bill board sign is a safety issue as well as trucks parking on side of road.
 - Lori resent potential calming approaches in more detail for areas of concern described above
 - Municipal Modernization act of 2016 eliminated need for MaDOT approval for reducing speed zones – 2 speed laws (MGL C. 17C and 18B); Additionally, Oct 2022

- town meeting gave Select Board power to decrease speed limit in thickly settled areas to 25 mph without MaDOT studies, if section of road meets criteria.
- Section of road at Market Square already has Thickly Settled signs already; Select Board could Enact 17c thereby changing current 35 MPH signs to 25 MPH signs (no speed study required).
 - Other option is Select Board could enact 18B, which decreases speed to 20 mph in sections of road with vulnerable populations (eg, day care at Y) – this would trigger a speed study; not desired course of action
- Stop signs are under other regulations. 4-way stop is not intended to slow speeding, they are traffic control devices, assigning right of way, which could benefit River Run way and Wareham Rd;
- MUTCD criteria for 4-way stop includes 5 accidents in 1 year and 300 vehicles in 1 hour, over 8 hr interval. No traffic study has been done to date to assess this. Note, an earlier traffic study by Makepeace was performed, but not for 4-way stop assessment.
 - Other MUTCD criteria 85b can be considered in an engineering study includes: control pedestrian/vehicle conflicts in high pedestrian volume areas

Since pedestrians are not safe on Wareham road sections due to cut-through traffic, Lori and Pam will present findings and suggested safety mitigations to Plymouth Traffic Safety Board; then present this to COPC and Select Board.

Suggested safety mitigations:

- 4-way stop at River Run Way/Wareham Rd intersection per MUTCD 2009, rev 3. July 2022 Section 2B.07 paragraph 05B
 - RRFB at Market square intersection
 - Advocate for ADM approval of an Intersection Design traffic calming strategies and strategies for Market Square
 - Select board to enact MGI Ch 90 Sec 17C to slow speed to 25 MPH.
 - 18B – other areas in Plymouth may need this enacted, eg, playgrounds
- Joe: spoke with Matt Muratore, who spoke with JB, and Dan Gorsika. End result - Matt agreed to shepherd an article on Beacon Hill for traffic mitigation. Also working on language for such an article. Would be good for Lori, Joe, and X to go talk with him next week. Also DPW group has a database of traffic/road issues, JB will consult with them with regards to 4-way stop.
 - Joe: recent bus incident at River Run Way/Wareham Rd intersection, school bus had to stop suddenly -children injured; will check to see if there is video of this.

White Island Pond Section (Pam presented) requires additional new signs for WIP beach area, will contact Private and a Gravel Road Committee and request them (meet monthly to review such requests)

Next steps: Lori will ask for 4-way stop to safety board first; Should bring neighbors to these meetings as well. Lori and Pam to organize it.

- Comm communications committee – Bill, Lorenzo, and Joe spoke with Derek about need for this committee...his admin (Anthony) responsible for communications. He's working on language for such a commission – will then request member applications (5). Appointed by Select board. TBD whether this committee will be formed or not.
- Captions accessibility – OWL (generates caption when people speak) progress. OWL was bought; trying to determine how it will be loaned out to groups. PACTV can now do captions.

Old Business: Charter – major revisions were summarized by Joe.