



CITY of GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Robert B. Ryan, Chairman
Larry Ingersoll, Secretary

A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert B. Ryan at 6:00 p.m. Attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll, Michael Mulcahey and Robert Francis; Mayor Sefatia Romeo-Theken; City Councilors Steven LeBlanc and Val Gilman; Kent Circle residents Jeanine Finn, Pam D'Antonio, Brian Carlson, Cindy Hendrickson, Anthony D'Antonio, Kira Oliver, George and Jane Johnson with an email sent by Ellen LeFavour. West Gloucester residents Dean Judd, Alisha DeHari, Wendy Worall, Mike Mitchell, John Giglio and Danuta Stachiewicz; Sumner Street resident Ellen Preston and Riverview Road resident JoAnn Senos.

AGENDA

- Approval of the minutes from our 2/23/17 meeting

A MOTION was made and seconded to APPROVE the minutes. VOTE PASSED

ORDER #CC2017-008 (Councilor Nolan) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission perform a speed study on Sumner Street to determine whether there should be a speed limit of 20 mph

After discussing the results of the speed study and the order, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED (one opposed) to request a 20 MPH speed limit.

The road is narrow, not wide enough for two vehicles to pass, curvy with blind corners and has no sidewalk.

The results of a week long speed study showed approximately 2300 use the road. The average speed was between 24-25 mph and the 85th percentile was 29-30 mph.

The number of vehicles that exceeded the current 25mph speed limit were 923 or approximately 40%.

ORDER #CC2017-010 (Councilor Gilman) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission perform a speed study on Riverview Road to determine whether there should be a speed limit of 20 mph

The speed study has not yet been conducted. After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Gilman and a resident, a good location was decided upon.

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the order until the results of the speed study are done.

At the request of the Mayor's Office, to have a review of the one-way Kent Circle restriction.

After a discussion and hearing from many residents and people concerned, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to conduct a site visit of the area which now includes the intersection of Essex and Western Avenue, before a review can be completed.

The residents of Kent Circle who attended, and also sent e mails, were all in favor of leaving it the way it is now.

Some residents of Western Avenue and beyond wanted it back to either two way, or changed to the opposite direction.

A check of police department records showed no accidents involving either intersection of Kent Circle from February of 2015 until this meeting.

Mayor Romeo-Theken stated the original order was not permanent and was meant to be reviewed and that the intersection of Western and Essex Avenues is a bigger problem and needs some type of signage and/or regulation.

Councilor LeBlanc stated that the one way restriction was done for safety reasons and not for the convenience of other West Gloucester and Magnolia residents who use the road as a short cut to skip the Western and Essex Avenue intersection. He said a previous meeting before the original one way request was attended by 45 people who were all in favor of the one way designation.

The TC originally chose the direction of the one way as southwesterly because it allows the traffic to flow into Kent Circle from Essex Avenue and onto Western Avenue without crossing traffic.

If the one way was changed to the other direction, traffic entering from Western would have to cross traffic at both Western and again when entering Essex Avenue, which also has poor sight lines and would be a solid line of traffic if the bridge was up.

Everyone felt that some type of signage, road markings and lane markings needs to be done at the Western and Essex Avenue intersection.

After the site visit and review is completed, recommendations will need to be forwarded to the Mass DOT from the Council or Mayor's office. The Mayor believed that our state reps should both be invited to the site visit which has not had a date chosen as of this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.