

Water Mill Citizens Advisory Committee
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January 13, 2025

Members: Steve Abramson, Jamie Egerton-Warburton, Gloria Rabinowitz, Rachel Verno, On Zoom: Karen Sutton, Alan Harper

Guests: Councilmember Michael Iasilli, Tom Neely, Olivia Motch, Tsewang Motch, Grania Brolin, Tim Maran, Jim Weidner, On Zoom: Pamela Hardwood, Sarah Hunnewell, Andrew Rouff, Susan Zises, William Brett, Helen Verno, Judith Verno, Douglas Van Erb

Minutes for December 9, 2024 approved

Traffic Mitigation and Safety/ Roundabouts and Removal of Traffic Light:

- Overview of County's current traffic study for CR39 and TOS Traffic Mitigation and Safety Committee's study. The Town's meetings are all available on YouTube and the Town has an email for suggestions and comments re traffic and safety. The committee will be putting together a report based on the six meetings that were held.
- CAC had submitted comments to the committee requesting a universal speed limit of 30 mph on Rt27 and on the backroads, speed monitors on Rt27 and a moratorium on construction during the summer months in an attempt to address traffic.
- Councilmember Iasilli explained there were both short term as well as long term goals. The Town wants to find solutions that retain the rural character and help quality of life.
- The Town has purchased 8 speed monitors that will rotate locations.
- Discussed history of the traffic study conducted by McLean in 1998 for installing the traffic light at Station Road and the hamlet study conducted by Hutton in 2003. The Hutton study is available on the Town website and includes the findings from the McLean study. Main takeaway from that study is the importance of maintaining the rural and historic character of the hamlet. The study also discussed the potential for a cross access between the parking lot behind the post office, Station Road, Nowedonah and Deerfield. In the past, the Community Club expressed concerns about vehicular traffic along the ball fields. The intent of the cross access would be to provide a means for residents to travel between local businesses without having to go on to the highway and to create a sort of hamlet center behind the highway. It would not be intended as a "bypass" for through traffic. Also discussed in the study was the future need for traffic lights at Halsey Lane and Deerfield Rd. No discussion about Scuttlehole, Mecox or Hayground.
- Water Mill does not have businesses on the south side of Rt27 and the parking spots have been removed on that side of the highway. Discussed whether those spots should be re-established to provide additional parking and to also slow traffic down through the hamlet center.
- Discussed why the current crosswalks don't have solar powered blinking lights similar to what is in Bridgehampton. Further discussion about whether there should be a crosswalk at the

location of the new park. Questioned what the crosswalk signs in front of the Parrish Museum are for.

-One idea the Town is exploring for addressing traffic is the removal of the traffic light at Station Road and installing roundabouts at Cobb Road and Scuttlehole Road. There would be no left turns along the one mile stretch. The DOT has preliminary drawings for this proposal and the Town thinks this proposal has merit and would like the DOT to do further studies. The Town will have to pass a resolution to formalize a request to the DOT.

-Some residents on Little Cobb and Cobb Road are opposed to a roundabout at that location. Questions asked included: how big would the roundabout need to be, is there room for sidewalks and bike lanes, how do emergency vehicles traverse the roundabout when there is traffic and is the purpose of the proposal to move traffic more quickly through the hamlet or to calm traffic.

-Tom Neely directed CAC and residents to a DOT link for a 200 page project design manual that addresses roundabouts and questions that were raised.

-Some residents would like to see Little Cobb closed during certain hours in the morning. How would that work and would traffic just move over to Cobb Road which has dangerous site lines. Other residents commented that the merge from Little Cobb works pretty well.

-Discussed the left turn off of Old Mill Road on to the highway which a roundabout would address by having right turns only. Some other suggestions for Old Mill include making the road one way which is not feasible because of the School Bus Depot and also limiting left turns which raises the questions of how that could be enforced and where would that traffic be diverted to; the bridge on Head of Pond and then back on to the highway or on to the backroads heading east.

-Also raised the issue of left turns off of Mecox and Hayground on to Rt27 and how can that be addressed. It is both dangerous and also causes back ups during the afternoon commute.

-Pamela Harwood expressed Bridgehampton's position on roundabouts. The BH Civic has advocated for more traffic lights that are properly timed and is opposed to roundabouts.

-Questions as to why lights are being added in BH but being removed in WM.

-One resident asked about smart lights which Tom Neely said the State is looking into for the corridor.

-It is not a given that the State will agree to remove the light at Station Road. Discussed how that light currently works and if a smart light would be helpful at that location instead of trigger plates.

-Some residents want the light removed, others feel the light is necessary to create breaks in the traffic that allow for people to get on to the highway.

-Discussed the new Scuttlehole Business complex and whether that development and driveway impacts the proposal for the roundabout at that location. Also discussed whether there is a need for a roundabout at that location.

-Questions asked about how no left turns would be enforced along the mile long stretch between the two roundabouts and if that is necessary. Do you need to have bollards to prevent lefts turns out of businesses and feeder roads and is it more desirable to have all the commercial vehicles from the lumber yard which is being expanded and the two gas stations to travel back through the hamlet center to the roundabout in order to head east or just make a left turn out of those businesses. Will truck traffic turn down Willow or Deerfield and wind up on the backroads or will traffic stay on the highway.

-All of these questions would be part of any study the DOT conducted.

-Also discussed the new affordable housing project and how will that will impact traffic and what is the best way to direct residents heading east. Should there be a roundabout at the intersection of CR39 and Flying Point. One resident mentioned that there used to be a roundabout at that location.

-Has the DOT made any suggestions about that intersection and the issue of 2 lanes coming off of CR39 merging into one lane.

-There were numerous questions and suggestions and while there was no clear consensus from the attendees and CAC members about the specific roundabout project, it was agreed by

everyone that the Town should ask the DOT for a corridor study starting from the intersection of CR39 at Flying Point Road through Hayground and Mecox Rd. This would include the traffic light at Station Road and the roundabout proposal and would also look at any and all ideas including smart lights, no left turns out of certain roads, cross access, closing roads during certain hours, etc.

-It would probably take a year for a study to be completed and potentially 7-10 years for a project like the roundabouts to be completed.

-The Town will be voting on a resolution to ask the DOT to embark on a study, the specifics of that study would be detailed in a letter to the DOT.

Minutes taken by Rachel Verno