

TOWN OF MORAGA
Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

July 1, 2009
ACTION MINUTES
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL Committee Members: Chair Barbara Simpson, Vice Chair Chris Peterson, Joe Mahoney, and Chuck Treat (Absent: Christine Lenahan)

Liaisons: Town Engineer Mercurio and Police Chief Robert Priebe (Absent: MOFD Battalion Chief Jeff Maxwell and Town Council Liaison Howard Harpham)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Review and approval of the May 6, 2009 TSAC action minutes by Committee Members.

ACTION: It was M/S (Treat/Peterson) to approve the May 6, 2009 minutes. Vote: 4-0.

B. Review and approval of the May 26, 2009 TSAC action minutes by Committee Members.

ACTION: It was M/S (Peterson/Treat) to approve the May 26, 2009 minutes. Vote: 4-0.

IV. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

ACTION: It was M/S (Peterson/Mahoney) to move VI B to precede VI A in the meeting agenda. Vote: 4-0.

ACTION: It was M/S (Mahoney/Peterson) to approve the meeting agenda. Vote: 4-0.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Larch Traffic Calming Update

Robin Felix, co-chair of the Larch Traffic Calming Team, updated the Committee on the status of the three way stops along Larch Avenue. Not able to provide enough agreement by the abutting residents. The neighborhood safety group only received 50% approval at Dickenson and 25% approval at Shuey.

Vice Chair Peterson asked if the neighborhood group was going to be taking anything further. Ms. Felix said that they were done. They are not being successful with continued communications with

those neighbors. She asked that if such a majority wants a change, but can be overruled by a small minority. Also, is there any liability, of either the Town or the homeowners who said no, if there were to be an accident?

Member Mahoney believes that the TCG provisions are reasonable and consistent. Chair Simpson asked if the town could overrule the process. Chief Priebe said that in order for a stop sign to be warranted a number of situations would have to change and it would still need to go before Council.

Ms. Felix said that a survey of the intersection had indicated that although travelling at 25 mph, no stop sign is warranted, but at 30 mph, it does. Chief Priebe explained that there are a number of warrants necessary to meet the requirements for a stop sign, and yes, speed is one, but not necessarily the only factor.

Vice Chair Peterson asked about other proposals. Ms. Felix said that other methods were speed cushions or speed bumps, which she doesn't think that those could be accepted either.

B. Corliss Neighborhood Proposals

Connie Hayes updated the Committee on the traffic calming efforts she has been working on with the three way stop on Wakefield at Corliss. One abutting neighbor said that they were against, two preferred movable stop signs, and two signed the petition in favor of the stop sign. She asked that the Town reply to the neighbors wanting a temporary stop sign explaining the concerns that the Town has with the installation.

She noted that Town Engineer Mercurio found that there are SLOW SCHOOL signs that could be added.

Chief Priebe informed the Committee that temporary stop signs are to be used only in emergency situations, and there could be a reasonable case for throwing a case out of court. Also daily installation and removal could be difficult, as well as setting a false and intermittent sense of security. Chair Simpson asked if a letter could be written. Chief Priebe discussed a concern about a perceived sense of trying to sway them, however, a memo from staff to TSAC could provide factual information and

Irline Van Ardenne, 20 Sullivan Drive, believes that a stop sign would be beneficial. She received a letter regarding the turn restrictions. She is concerned that rerouting the traffic would endanger pedestrians on Sullivan, which has no sidewalk. Cars idling on Corliss could be alleviated by better unloading practices.

Ms. Hayes pointed out the letter asks residents to contact the Town directly. Town Engineer Mercurio explained that this circumvents to process and will require the Town to expend resources it does not have to respond to the individual requests. Chair Simpson said that the discussion could be agendized for a larger discussion with the public at a public meeting of TSAC, or she can work on calling the residents.

Ms. Van Ardenne asked how she would participate in the process of these proposals. Town Engineer Mercurio explained that if the proponent opts to continue with their request, the Traffic Calming Guide calls for the proponent to conduct a petition and public meetings. Ms. Van Ardenne could express her position then.

C. St. Mary's Rd/Rheem Blvd/Bollinger Canyon Road Intersection Recommendation to Town Council

The Committee reviewed the draft report to Council, made modifications, and finalized the report. Town Engineer Mercurio would agendize the report for the first meeting in Town Council Meeting in September. TSAC will decide who from the Committee will present the report at the September TSAC meeting.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Next Meeting

The Committee discussed whether or not to hold a TSAC meeting in August. Town Engineer Mercurio will be on vacation.

ACTION: It was M/S (Treat/Mahoney) to cancel the August TSAC meeting. Vote: 4-0.

Town Engineer Mercurio asked if someone from the Committee wished to speak at next Wednesday's Town Council meeting. Chair Simpson would prefer to provide a year-end report to Council. Member Mahoney added that the Committee might want to open discussions about the process to assess the Traffic Calming Guide operations and practice. Vice Chair Peterson agreed. Chair Simpson thinks this should be agendized for discussion prior to the year-end report to Council – starting in November in preparation to a presentation to Council in January.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

None

X. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Merlin spoke regarding his correspondence regarding traffic on Larch Avenue and the possibility of sidewalks. Town Engineer Mercurio explained that installation, repair, and maintenance of sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: It was M/S (Peterson/Mahoney) to adjourn. Vote: 4-0.

BY ORDER OF THE CHAIR, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Mercurio, Town Engineer