

Town of Auburn
Highway Safety Committee
April 16, 2014

Present: Mr. Mike DiPietro, Chairman, Police representative, Lt. Ray Pelton, Mr. Russell Sullivan, Selectman, Mr. Dan Carpenter and Mrs. Eva Komardais. Also attending were Auburn residents Dean Dyche, Sean Macphee and Tom Rigney. Mrs. Helen Hiltz was recording minutes.

New Business

Mr. Dean Dyche asked the Highway Safety Committee to consider a request to decrease the speed limit in the Steam Mill Road area. Mrs. Hiltz provided board members with copies of a petition signed by numerous concerned residents. There have been numerous incidents of speeding vehicles; one resulting in Mr. Dyche's dog being hit. The concern is that children in the area may be at risk. Mr. Dyche noted that a police detail has been present in the area and 5 citations were given out in a short period of time.

Mr. Dipietro and Selectman Russell Sullivan stated that the road had been designed to meet the town requirements and could easily handle the 35 MPH speed limit. Mr. Dyche requested that the study be redone to determine current relevancy, taking into consideration the number of residents that are now living in the area. Mr. Dipietro referenced studies that showed that lowering speed limits were, not necessarily, an effective tool for slowing down traffic. He suggested that other, potentially more effective, measures be tried. Measures that were recommended were putting up "Slow...Children Playing" road signs, putting up the police speed trailer, having stop lines painted at the stop signs, vigilant monitoring and reporting of offenders by the residents and planting of shrubs etc. to give the appearance of a more narrow road. The residents made note of the fact that they were limited as to what they could plant or put up close to the road by the covenants of their homeowners association. They would still like to have the reduced speed limit considered as well as the other suggestions. They maintain that the association could help with any costs associated with the overall effort and that Steam Mill Road development could be a test case for the town. Mr. Dan Carpenter stated that it will be difficult to determine that the Steam Mill Road area warrants a reduced speed limit as it is mostly a straight roadway with no hills etc. and it was designed to meet the town requirements.

He also noted that he was not aware of any other development in town with a reduced speed limit. Lt. Pelton stated that he had no objection to the speed limit being lowered but also noted that "unreasonable" speed needed to be proved to ticket offenders. The Committee noted that they could make recommendations for signs, speed trailer placement etc. but only the Board of Selectmen could make the determination to reduce the speed limit and a public hearing would need to take place.

Lt Ray Pelton made a motion to recommend putting up signage, putting out the speed trailer, painting stop lines at the stop signs, reviewing the engineering study that was done on the road, and requesting a traffic count be done in the area. Mr. Dan Carpenter 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Police Report

Lt. Ray Pelton reported that there were 10 accidents in the past month. There were 2 DWI

citations. There have been increased traffic patrols in the Wilson Crossing and Steam Mill Road areas. Sgt. Fletcher is in charge of the traffic enforcement duties.

The March meeting minutes were reviewed.

Lt. Ray Pelton moved to accept the meeting minutes. Mr. Dan Carpenter 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Mike Dipietro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Mrs. Eva Komaradais 2nd the motion. All in favor.