

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TRAFFIC (AD HOC) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
August 3, 2016**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Committee Chair John Janowski called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Gil Geldon, John Janowski, Mike Trentadue, Norm Montigny, Frank Weisgerber, Chief Troy Crowson, Town Manager Melvin Cusick, Mike Somers (DelDOT Senior Transportation Planner)

The Traffic Committee met August 3, 2016. Status reports were made regarding three important items:

1. **Turning Restrictions** at Kent Ave./Black Gum Drive intersection started soon after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Right and left turns into Black Gum Drive are not allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This restriction will be in effect until September 15. Public Safety reported a number of violations initially but that citations have decreased by early August. General opinion is that traffic decreased significantly since the barricade was installed. Reports generated by the speed signs will provide bi-weekly data to monitor the effects and quantify the results.
2. DelDOT completed the **Turning Movement Study** (July 8-9, 2016) at the intersection of Canal Dr./Tamarack Dr. Although the report has not been completed, DelDOT's representative indicated that the study indicated **that a warrant for a 3-way stop sign control was not met**. In order to meet a warrant DelDOT recommended the realignment concept presented in July. DelDOT will provide cost estimates for both a hardscape and vegetative/bollard improvement.
3. A **temporary speed hump** was installed on Black Gum Drive. It will be replaced by a permanent speed hump when other Study Route speed humps are upgraded to DelDOT standards this fall.

The Mayor and the Chair met with the DelDOT Planning Division staff to provide an overview of the traffic and pedestrian safety issues faced by South Bethany. Various staff disciplines were present including bike/pedestrian, funding, regional planning, engineering, and right of way (ROW). Much information was shared and we basically left with a verbal commitment from DelDOT to assist and advise us.

Now that most of the short term projects are completed or in the implementation stage, the Traffic Committee began discussions related to the longer range projects. The list of alternatives/traffic control measures is somewhat fluid at this point with projects being added and deleted. The current list consists of approximately 20 projects. Each will be evaluated for its effectiveness and weighed against 12 impacts including but not limited to reduction in volume, pedestrian safety, parking, and cost.

Two measures were vetted and determined to have no viability and therefore dropped. De-annexation of Cat Hill and prohibiting left-turns from Black Gum Drive to Kent Ave. The latter is not enforceable due to the location of the stop sign and jurisdiction, and it would also create a safety hazard from U turns at the tennis courts.

Mike Somers, DeIDOT, once again explained his agency's position regarding alternatives that involve terminating a road such as a cul-de-sac. Funding might still be available if public access is maintained. If the road is closed, as in gates on both sides, then public access would not be provided, and funding would not continue. As part of that discussion, termination would have to be agreed upon between the town and DeIDOT, and the town would have to prove that there was no negative impact to the wider network.

The committee heard from a member who shared his research on **Pine Road** which is a parcel (paper street) with one end at Kent Avenue and the other at Evergreen Road. Parcel ownership is unclear and will require a *title search*. The following is a summary of his findings:

- Pine Street is an unimproved roadway between South Bethany and Middlesex Beach which is an unincorporated community.
- 3 Middlesex Beach parcels boarder Pine Street on the east side.
  - The boundary line of these properties appear to end on the east side of Pine Street.
- 2 parcels border the west side of Pine Street - one owned by Bayside Tennis Club, the other owned by South Bethany.
  - The property lines of these parcels appear to end on the west side of Pine Street.
- Middlesex Beach has always claimed ownership.
- There is some discussion about ownership in the History of the Tennis Club.
  - The Tennis Club claims that Pine Street was an easement and "abandoned". Middlesex Beach filed a suit to annex the property for their exclusive use.
- Real estate attorneys believe that unincorporated communities cannot annex properties and exercising adverse possession must be done by an individual not a community.
- A title search is required as to who has legal ownership of the Pine Street parcel.

To better define the Pine Road alternative, a survey of the Town limits (not just Right of Way) for all lands adjacent to Middlesex Beach was recommended.

An important component to many of the measures/alternatives is Right of Way (ROW) width, and determining where the paved road (cartway) is located. Most roads in Cat Hill are not centered within the ROW. The study route inventory identifies pavement width only. With the exception of roads in Cat Hill, ROW is not known. Before any walkway alternatives can be effectively evaluated a *centerline ROW survey* will have to be completed for **all roads** along the Study Route. The Town will get an estimate for this survey.

Public comment was heard throughout the meeting.

Motion to adjourn was passed. The next Traffic Committee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016, from 1:00 to 3:00, Town Hall.

Submitted by John Janowski, Chair Traffic Committee