

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TRAFFIC (AD HOC) COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Committee Chair John Janowski called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: John Janowski, Mike Trentadue (remote access), Dave Wilson, Mike Somers (DeIDOT Senior Transportation Planner), Melvin Cusick

Minutes from the October 26, 2016, Traffic Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved.

This was the first meeting following the restructuring of the committee from six voting members to three. The meeting was preceded by a walking tour of the Study Area. The objective was to acclimate interested parties to the accomplishments and efforts yet to follow. Participants included: Joshua Thomas (DeIDOT Planning Division), Mike Somers, Mayor Voveris, Gil Geldon, Bob Smith, and John Janowski.

The tour started at Kent Avenue and Pine Street (paper street), the latter being a potential alignment for a new road or walkway or both connecting to Evergreen Street as listed in the Alternatives Table. The tour continued west on Kent Avenue to the intersection with Black Gum Drive. Turning restriction regulatory signs were pointed out and the possible need to enhance them. All completed measures were identified (white-lines on roadway surface edges, digital speed signs, upgraded speed humps, location for approved three-way stop sign at Canal/Tamarack intersection, sidewalk on north side of Russell Street. Limitations were pointed out including; offset center lines within existing ROW, unimproved shoulders, yellow painted center lines, non-existing easement access to State DNREC lands at Black Gum and Assawoman Canal, Canal Street with narrow cartway within unknown ROW possibly the most substandard link in the corridor in terms of capacity and safe pedestrian use. The tour continued to Town Road AKA Pine Road then to Pine Street (paper street) then to Kent Avenue. The latter currently functions as a path between Evergreen Street and Kent Ave. From here the tour continued by van to Ocean View to view new development which is part of the 9,000 DU's included in a Traffic Impact Study completed in 2006. The tour continued to Evergreen Street where again ROW is unknown. Three streets connect Evergreen Street to Anchorage Drive which has several speed humps. The intersection of Evergreen/Ocean Highway has only one approach lane which results in back-ups during the summer with some traffic diverting to Anchorage Street via Mays Way. Pedestrian improvements to Ocean Highway include a hard surface walkway and regulatory sign cautioning right turns to watch for pedestrians using the crosswalk. The tour continued to Anchorage Street where a "No Outlet" sign is incorrectly located and to where it should be relocated at the intersection of Peterson/Anchorage. The tour concluded at Town Hall where at 12:30 the Traffic Committee Meeting was held.

Mr. Joshua Thomas introduced himself to the Committee. He explained his role and responsibilities with DeIDOT's Planning Division. He is the principal staff assigned to Sussex County functioning as DeIDOT's liaison to the Seaford /Salisbury Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as non-MPO areas including the coastal area. He explained his role with assisting Sussex County with their Comprehensive Plan Update that will include a mobility element. It is timely that South Bethany is currently doing this study. A regional coordination effort will be done as part of the Sussex County Comp Plan Update. Mr. Thomas will notify the Traffic Committee when the meetings start. He also stated that he will take back the information he learned on the tour and will discuss the findings with his staff who in turn will advise us. Mr. Janowski said DeIDOT's planning activities were timely and that he sees this Traffic Committee evolving into a planning role working in part with DeIDOT's regional efforts. However, the Committee will continue to evaluate and make recommendations until it completes its mission in April, 2017. Mr. Thomas explained what funding sources and grants are available to municipalities including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He distributed a draft TAP application which will soon be finalized by DeIDOT.

Status reports included:

1. **Turning Restriction at Kent Avenue/Black Gum Drive - draft Ordinance.**
Mayor Pat stated that an ordinance was being drafted to codify the restrictions placed in effect last season. No review by this committee was necessary since the committee made those recommendations.
2. **3-way Stop Sign Controlled Intersection at Canal Drive/Tamarack Drive:** Melvin reported that the Town was ready to install the new stop signs and stop bars however wanted guidance from DeIDOT as to where to place them. Mike Somers (DeIDOT Traffic) reported that the request was relayed to his Division. This improvement will be completed within the next few weeks.
3. **ROW and Town Boundary Surveys.** The committee understands that this measure is costly but necessary if most of the projects listed in the Alternative Measures Table are to be completed. Rather than pursue approval now what first needs to be done is the evaluation of projects. Those that are found to have merit and are approved as part of the Town's Mobility Element to the Comprehensive Plan will be considered.
4. The **Title Search for Pine Road**, the recorded paper street adjacent to South Bethany, has been authorized and expected soon.
5. An **inventory of all traffic control devices** (stop signs, regulatory and warning signs etc.) has been prepared for Study Area streets. The inventory is on an Excel spreadsheet and is consistent with the location map prepared earlier. Mr. Janowski will meet with Mike Somers DeIDOT for that update.

Public comment was heard.

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