

Planning Board Minutes Site Walk 07/09/12

Newmarket Planning Board

Site Walk at Fox Hollow Drive/Grant Road Intersection

Monday, July 9, 2012 5:00 p.m.

The site walk began at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Chairman Val Shelton, Justin Normand, Adam Schroadter, Rick McMenimen, Jane Ford, Elizabeth Dudley, Janice Rosa, Diane Hardy, Town Planner and Rick Malasky, Public Works Director, and Gile F. Ham, P.E. of Vanasse and Associates, Inc. of Andover, Massachusetts. Town Councilor Carmichael was excused due to a conflict with another meeting. The following abutters of Fox Hollow Drive were present: Sandra Allan Tarbox, 3 Fox Hollow Road, Amy Ortins, 24 Fox Hollow Road, Michelle Spiller, 20 Fox Hollow Road, Leria Houle, 12 Fox Hollow Road, Seth and Beth Levenstein, 16 Fox Hollow Road, 4 Fox Hollow Road, and Greg Thayer, 332 Grant Road.

Mr. Ham explained the site distance is measured at 3½ feet above the ground elevation at 14½ feet back from the intersection. There are three types of sight distance: passing, stopping distance, and intersection. The standards are set forth by Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook, issued by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and AASHTO. The sight distance varies depending upon the speed of cars. He explained that he completed a sight distance analysis and the minimum required stopping site distance approaching from the east and west was 260 feet. He measured 500 feet from the east and only 130 feet from the west. His conclusion was the stopping sight distance looking west is obstructed by the mound/hill and vegetation which should be removed to create the needed unobstructed sight triangle. He had marked with cones the distances within the right-of-way to illustrate to those in attendance how the sight triangle was obstructed. The 85th percentile vehicle travel speed was found to be approximately 38 mph in the westbound direction which is 6-8 miles above the posted speed limit of 30 mph.

The Board and the abutters asked questions of the engineer to fully understand how the measurements were taken. The abutters spoke of the hazardous situation and asked if the Town could remove the mound and the tree that obstructs the view. It was noted the most of the area to be impacted would be inside of the town's right-of-way. Rick Malasky stated that would be a decision for the Town Council to consider. There was discussion with the Planning Board of how much the sight distance would be improved if the stop bar was painted closer to the Grant Road, as was the case for Hilton Drive.

It was noted that Public Works Director Rick Malasky had done some work within the Town's right-of-way along Grant Road since the last meeting including the clearing of vegetation and the installation of an additional warning sign. It was agreed by the neighbors present and the Planning Board that those improvements have made a big difference. Chairman Val Shelton announced this matter has been continued to the Planning Board meeting of July 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. The abutters are invited to attend and the discussion can be resumed at that time. A motion was made by Jane Ford, seconded by Rick McMenimen to close the site walk at 5:35 p.m.