

Jonathan Anderson, Chair person
David Hall, Vice Chair
Jesse Limanek, Clerk
Jeffrey Bannon
Normand Champigny



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes
Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk 1/16/2024 with a roll call vote of 4-0
Vice Chair Hall absent

6:00 p.m. – January 2, 2024

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jonathan Anderson, Vice Chair David Hall, Clerk Jesse Limanek, Select members Jeffrey Bannon & Normand Champigny

Also attending in person: Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Public Forum – N/A

Vice Chair Hall motions to accept as presented the December 19, 2023 Select Board meeting minutes Select Person Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote

Vice Chair Hall motions to accept as presented the Executive Session December 19, 2023 Select Board meeting minutes not to be released until related matter finalized Select Person Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote

CMRPC Presentation- Central Tpk. Corridor study (power point presentation attached to final minutes). Present from CMRPC is Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director Transportation for CMRPC, Kevin Krasnecky and Rich Rydant- Project Managers for CMRPC. Sujatha says they are here tonight to present the Sutton Ave. & Central Tpk Corridor profile done over the 2020-2021-time frame. This study covers CMRPC's observations and deficiencies. Some of the noted issues are no pedestrian crosswalks, no bike lanes, minimal width or lack of shoulders for vehicles to pull over onto, large number of crashes with animals, narrow roadway, 2 culverts identified as severe barriers to streams. Kevin Krasnecky reviews the power point- traffic studies were done (average speed is 39) under the Congestion Management process of this study as well as crash data (49 total crashes from 2018-2020). Heavy vehicles include school buses, trailers and different size trailer trucks. Pavement condition which has improved from when this report was done as the majority of the area (5.1 miles in Sutton to the 146 overpass) has been repaved since this study was completed. Included in this study is Suggested improvements such as trim trees, upgrade road pavement markings, pedestrian crosswalks, repair or replace the 2 severe barrier culverts (there is federal funding available) but requests & planning can take 6 years. Rich Rydant states the town has a Jake Brake law recently passed as a local ordinance restricting Jake Brake on local roads. This does not limit truck use on Central Tpk. which the town has seen an increase in from 395 in Oxford to 146 in Sutton. If a town wishes to request no trucks on a roadway the town must provide a suitable alternate route such as a parallel road for the truck route. MADOT is the only group that can exclude heavy vehicles. Sujatha goes on to say CMRPC can reach out to MADOT but it is highly unlikely- next to impossible that trucks would be excluded. Vice Chair Hall talks of the importance CMRPC does for the region- Dave says that this profile study predates the residents request for issues with trucks on this roadway. Sujatha states this study should be thought of as a snapshot in time of the entire length of roadway. Select person Limanek (Select board delegate to CMRPC) had reviewed the report and agrees with the conclusions made. Jesse asks if the accident data reflects accidents related to trucks- CMRPC states it does not show that info- Jesse goes on to say this is a major corridor between two industrial towns- unless there is information showing damage by trucks they have every right to be there. Select person Bannon asks why was this study done- Sujatha replies a corridor study is done once a year but in different regions- every 6 years or so it comes back to the specific region- there were requests to look at Central Tpk as a major connector of 2 major highways. Rick Rydant states there are ways to make the road way gentler (to slow the traffic) such as roundabouts. Select person Champigny has concerns with roundabouts as it requires easements to be taken and it does disrupt those residents involved property. Normand does have concern with the issue with the culverts- water is a common enemy. Normand also questions why the intersection at Uxbridge and Central Tpk was omitted in the report- Sujatha replies they can request the crash data and update the report for that intersection. Chairperson Anderson is grateful the study was done but says truck traffic certainly has increased and at what point does it become a hazard. Sujatha says they would be happy to update the traffic count. Sutton Community

Development Director Jen Hager is present via zoom- she outlines the TIP projects over the last few years (Blackstone St bridge completed a few years ago and the Depot St bridge ready to start this year). Jen states Central Tpk. was intended to be a connector corridor and was adopted as a public roadway on May 9, 1836- it has always been intended as a throughway. Central Tpk. is the only road in town with a 60 foot right away- which we can use for any calming traffic measures. At this time the public is invited to speak- and some of their comments are included-

Christine Watkins 65 McLellan Road- asks about the Complete Street policies as well as requests accident data from the Uxbridge Road intersection. Christine questions the table on page 80(freight movement) and the percent of heavy vehicles. Christine has seen an increase in truck traffic through Manchaug- with Blackstone Logistics opening at some point- this will increase. Is there any way trucks can use a different GPS technology? Christine also mentions a discussion the Police Chief had with a resident that if heavy truck traffic reaches 10% in volume- at that point it becomes a safety issue.

John Hebert 23 Singletary Ave- resident for 73 years- 50 years in Public services as well as time spent as delegate on CMRPC. John thanks CMRPC for their work and mentions the bridge replacements in town at no cost to the town. John says we have invited some of the issues by promoting industry and we have given good tax breaks and it has added to extra traffic.

Bill Augustus 646 Central Tpk. questions the 60-foot rite away- this would significantly impact many homes – Bill asks if there is any way to limit size and weight of trucks - the steep grades do add to the problem.

Karen Cadrin 468 Central Tpk. has lived in town 30 years and recently moved to Central Tpk. – truck traffic is an issue with many near misses she has witnessed. Make it a toll road again- trucks will find other routes- it would be a gentle deterrent. Karen states all the different types of trucks that she sees on Central Tpk. Including logging trucks. She smells diesel all day every day- this is not preserve Sutton; this is not country living.

Darin Winkle 636 Central Tpk. sees an issue with corner cutting from Central Tpk onto West Sutton Road- Darin believes the 15% heavy vehicle use is correct. Darin suggests an island put in at that intersection to slow drivers down.

Andrea Matte- 21 Golf Ridge Drive thanks all involved in tonight's discussion- a sensational job by all.

Town Manager Update:

- Suttons Fair Share Apportionment- The Gov. office notified the town that we would receive an additional \$274,172. As a result of revenue raised on 4% surtax on taxable income over \$1 million. This is to be spent on public education and transportation. These funds will be automatically incorporated into our existing Chapter 90 annual allotment.
- Drinking Water Notice- at 4pm on Dec. 22 the BOH was notified that a well under Wilks Water was taken off line on December 21st as it tested positive for E.coli. Disinfected water samples from the same well tested negative for E. coli. The well was taken off line for further testing. On Dec. 28th the well tests came back negative for E.coli and coliform but will do 1 more round and then ask DEP to bring the well back online.
- Jersey barriers on Leland Hill Road- the ins. Company for LMT Oil truck that crashed and rolled down an embankment has placed jersey barriers along the east side of Leland Hill Road. The ins. Company has hired a mason that will repair the wall at this site in January. The longer term solution for this issue is to put a box culvert with guard rails at this location.

Announcement's / Round Table:

- Select person Hall says there is a potential for a big storm this weekend- please use caution
- Select person Limanek thanks those that donate to the Mike Chizy Food Pantry and reads the list of items they are low on.
- Chairperson Anderson acknowledges the correspondence received from Christopher Lannon.

Select person Limanek motions to adjourn, select person Bannon seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm