



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**The Board of Police Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 5, 2017**  
**Town Hall South Conference Room**  
**3 Main Street, Newtown**

***MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS***

**PRESENT:** Chairman Joel Faxon, Vice-Chairman Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari and Andy Sachs.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief James Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, Officer Figol, Department of Public Works Director Fred Hurley, and fifteen members of the public.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. and welcomed Scott Cicciari to the commission. Mr. Faxon also announced that the Police Commission is looking for a replacement for the seat Dan Rosenthal vacated when he was elected First Selectman. Any interested Democrat can submit a resume.

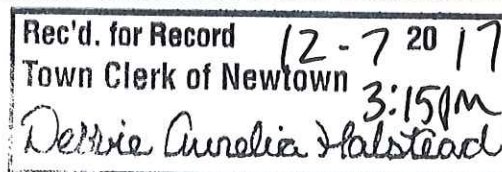
**Dan Rosenthal**, wished the commission well, particularly Commissioner Cicciari as he begins his term on the commission. He has enjoyed working with the commission and looks forward to working together toward the new police facility.

Chief Viadero introduced Officer Figol and canine Aris. Aris is narcotics certified and patrol certified.

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Sachs moved to add, for discussion and possible action, a reconfiguration to the subcommittee for the new police station, adding Commissioner Sachs and Commissioner Faxon. Commissioner Faxon seconded. All in favor.

**Public Participation:** **Mike Mandarano**, 9 Birch Rise Drive, thanked the commission for addressing traffic issues and the construction; it hasn't gotten any better. He interested to find out if there is a defined traffic pattern for Juniper and Birch Rise. Chief Viadero said traffic officers have come up with three options that will be discussed later in the meeting. **Dr. Riebling**, 21 Sugar Street, has been concerned about the excessive traffic and speeding on 302 and Juniper. This residential area is at high risk. Almost all of the cut through traffic and speeding are people turning right onto Juniper from eastbound 302 during rush hour. He suggested making it illegal to make a right turn onto Juniper from Rte. 302 during 4pm-6pm along with installing speed bumps on Juniper and Birch Rise. This would alleviate excess traffic and speeding. Another solution would be to make Juniper and Birch Rise one way to Rte. 302.

**New Business: Alarm Ordinance Notification 228 South Main Street, Plaza South (Subway):** Capt. Vanghele explained the owner of Subway was previously contacted and ignored letters. He currently owes over \$600, which include late fees. He was given the required twenty day notice to appear in front of the Police Commission and has not done so. The last alarm was in May 2017. The business does want the police to respond. Commissioner Faxon said the police will respond to alarms but can continue to try to collect the fees in small claims court. Commissioner Sachs suggested contacting the corporate office of Subway. Capt. Vanghele responded that corporate said the owners are responsible for their own bills. Because he is not following the ordinance a State of CT infraction ticket can be issued. Commissioner



Faxon suggested sending a letter to Subway corporate, general counsel, informing them a franchisee is not following the law. If there is another false alarm a letter will be sent to the owner notifying him an infraction ticket will be issued unless he comes to the Police Commission to plead his case.

**Reconfiguration of Subcommittee:** Commissioner Sachs moved the new organizational subcommittee for the new police department that would include Commissioner Sachs and Commissioner Faxon. Commissioner Faxon seconded. All in favor.

**Police Union Participation:** none.

**Consideration and action on Nov. 7 2017 minutes:** Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of Nov. 7, 2017, 2017. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor (Commissioner Cicciari abstained).

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Sachs moved to add the minutes of the special meeting of Ad Hoc Building Design Selection Committee to the agenda for consideration and action. Commissioner Faxon seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of Nov. 15, 2017. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Viadero stated enforcement activity continues on Toddy Hill Road; speed trailer will stay in place as long as weather permits and enforcement continues. There was a significant arrest of two juveniles from town on November 13 stemming from investigations into stolen property from vehicles; two vehicles were stolen. A meeting was held at Fairfield Police Dept. with thirteen departments grappling with the same issue. There is an identified suspect in the vehicle theft on Church Hill Rd. There were smash and grabs reported the night of the Christmas tree lighting. All arrests seem to be juveniles, either emanating from the area of Danbury or Waterbury. Two officers are out on long term injuries; the new officer is in training until March. A sergeant that has been out will be returning to work this week. The request for the speed limit change on Mount Pleasant and Rte. 25 has been sent into the state. Newtown was named in the racial profiling report. Chief Viadero is confident none of the officers are involved in racial profiling. The statistics are based on what the estimated population of any demographic in Newtown. The department is working with the authors of the report. The areas targeted for motor vehicle violations are the result of complaints received from the public in certain areas, which are highly traveled areas, Rte. 25, Mount Pleasant, Toddy Hill Road, and Rte. 302. The represented driving population on those roads is not reflected in our community demographic. The report states a statistical disparity does not represent racial profiling. The meeting dates for 2018 were submitted for review and will be acted on at the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Juniper Road/302 Report:**

**Road Striping:** Chief Viadero went over the Traffic Unit Juniper Road and Birch Rise Drive Traffic Flow Recommendations (att.). Temporary speed tables will be installed in the spring as soon as weather permits. Enforcement can possibly be increased between now and then. Commissioner Faxon pointed out the recommendation in the report is to temporarily make a one way roadway between Nettleton and Rte. 302. Chief Viadero has spoken to all officers and is open for discussion but believes the best choice is to increase enforcement and put down temporary speed tables. Chief Viadero doesn't think a time limited no right turn is enforceable. Additionally, the town does not have the authority to put a sign on a state road. An application to the state could take up to 90 days. Commissioner Budd favors what's been



done in the past: education, enforcement and an engineering component. By putting up signs and stepping up enforcement he is confident the Police Department can mitigate the problem.

**Jamie Maher**, 8 Juniper Rd., thinks any option will impact the residents. He thinks the application for signage on Rte. 302 should be applied for. No cut through, local traffic only, dead end sign. Also, light timing. **Margaret Moss**, 21 Sugar Street asked in enforcement would be officers issuing tickets. Chief Viadero confirmed that would be the case, sporadically. That combined with speed tables will deter drivers. **Mike Mandarano**, 9 Birch Rise requested a speed trailer; he is concerned with volume and speed and asked if the light pace is re-evaluated. Chief Viadero will leave a speed trailer as long as weather permits; police cannot enforce volume; he also noted the light pace is re-evaluated and changed. **Dr. Riebling** thinks the speed tables will help and agrees the PD should apply to the state for signage. Commissioner Faxon stated that in the interim period between now and the next meeting the commission will look into the feasibility and legality of requesting a sign from the state. Chief Viadero stated a sign on private property would not be binding for law enforcement purposes. **Bill Vayan**, 9 Fleetwood Dr., suggested making Elm Drive one way. He also stated when school gets out the traffic cuts through Caroluzzi's and they drive through the parking lot extremely fast. **Jane Maher**, 8 Juniper said there is a small sign with an arrow that appears to encourage people turn on to the road. The commission will look into that. Commissioner Faxon agrees with the Chiefs recommendation to protect the area, enforce and install temporary speed tables. The commissioner will inquire with the state as to signage on Rte. 302. **Mike Mandanaro**, 9 Birch Rise said the speed increases on the straight away where Juniper ties in; he gave the PD permission to park in his driveway. **Margaret Moss** also gave permission to have officers park on her property.

**Update on speed limit change:** Chief Viadero sent documentation to the state to request a speed limit change on Mt. Pleasant/Main/South Main.

**Road Striping:** Commissioner Faxon had a specific request for Dept. of Public Works; he is hopeful that going forward the line striping will be done accordingly. Mr. Hurley apologized for missing communication on days he was out of the office. The plan was to do nothing until a plan was formed. The Chief and Mr. Hurley received calls from residents regarding the lack of striping. Some requested changes were in the work order; the vendor did not do what they were supposed to do. There is recourse for any error on the part of the vendor; the money will be recouped when the bills come in. Some roads were not done that were supposed to be done as well as roads being done that were not supposed to be done. Mr. Hurley feels there are hurdles in order to do a program; speaking to the Town Attorney there are restrictions but also opportunity. Through WestGOG it is not a unique problem. Due to the size of our road system the financial need is staggering for the entire town, which gives us the opportunity to look at alternative ways as to how to stripe some of the roads in town. The Town Engineer is resistant; he feels the emphasis should be on public safety. Striping can be planned following the next paving effort. Commissioner Budd asked for the paving list for next year and then the commission can discuss striping. Commissioner Faxon said there will be a policy therefore going forward there will be a rule of thumb to be followed. Commissioner Sachs said is an opportunity to maintain safety and save money. The state has regulations, a road 20 feet or more gets a double line; less than that gets no line. Within the state statute there is an opportunity to use single line. Commissioner Cicciari asked if the commission needed to set a standard or a policy. Mr. Hurley said a standard is a regulation or law that needs to be followed. Commissioner Faxon said as long as there is something in writing; a protocol; a voted initiative. Mr. Hurley said that there is room under the LoCIP grant; an application, relative to pedestrian issues at the flag pole, must be submitted by first week in January. Mr. Hurley is getting topographical maps for 37 Sugar Street.

**Correspondence:** Chairman emeritus Mangiafico is moving from Newtown; Chief Viadero thanked him for his service.

**New Business:** none.

**Commissioner's Participation:** none.

**Public Participation:** a member of the public thanked the commission for the unmarked cars on Toddy Hill Rd. Chief Viadero is looking into permanent, solar operated speed signs for the next budget.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:57pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, clerk*

Attached: Newtown Department of Police Services Traffic Unit Juniper Road and Birch Rise Drive Traffic Flow Recommendations.

# Newtown Department of Police Services

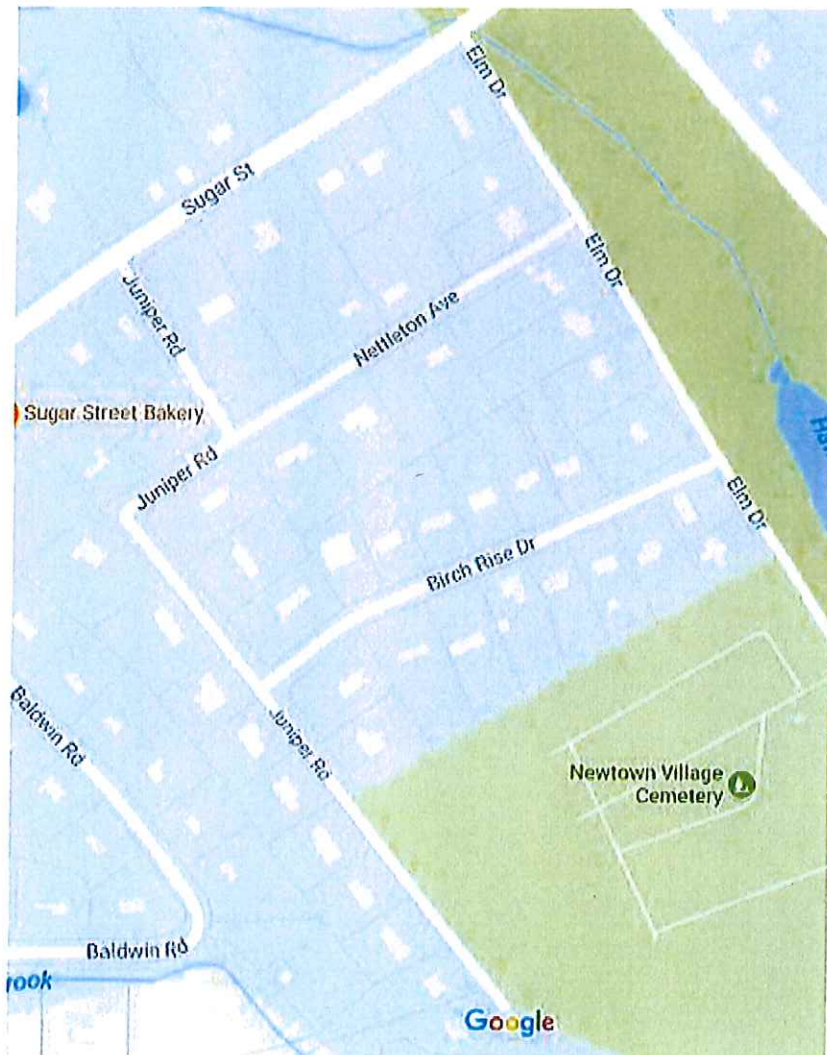
## Traffic Unit

### Juniper Road and Birch Rise Drive

### Traffic Flow Recommendations

**CFS#1700022245**

Completed by Ofc. Benjamin Mulhall





## **Overview**

The Newtown Police Departments Traffic Unit was requested to come up with a solution for the excessive traffic traveling down Juniper Road and Birch Rise Drive, due to the ongoing construction at the intersection of RT302(Sugar Street) and Elm Drive. This construction is slated to last into late 2018. This request came from a complaint from a resident on Birch Rise Drive that was brought up at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Police Commissioners meeting.

## **Location Details**

Juniper Road is a dead end, town roadway that is approximately 1900 feet long. The roadway currently does not have a state approved speed limit and an application for a 25mph is will be summited. There are 17 houses that their driveways exit onto Juniper Road.

Birch Rise Drive is a town owned roadway that connects Juniper Road and Elm Drive and is approximately 1000 feet long. The roadway currently does not have a state approved speed limit and an application for a 25mph speed limit will be summited. There are 14 houses whose driveways access Birch Rise Drive.

## **Complaint**

The complaint Mike Mandarano of 9 Birch Rise Drive, stated that since the town had attempted to put up a display sign on RT302 to inform people not to use Juniper Rd and Birch Rise Dr. as a cut through traffic has been worse and people are speeding.

## **Options**

There are several possible options to address this complaint. One option would be to temporarily make Birch Rise Dr. a ONE WAY street, with traffic flowing from Elm Dr. to Juniper Rd. Do not enter signs (R5-1 in the MUTCD) would need to be placed at the intersection of Birch Rise Dr. and Juniper Rd, one on each side of Birch Rise Dr. facing Juniper Rd. Also two No Outlet signs (W14-2 in the MUTCD) would be placed at the intersection of Juniper Rd and RT302(Sugar Street), one on each side of the roadway.

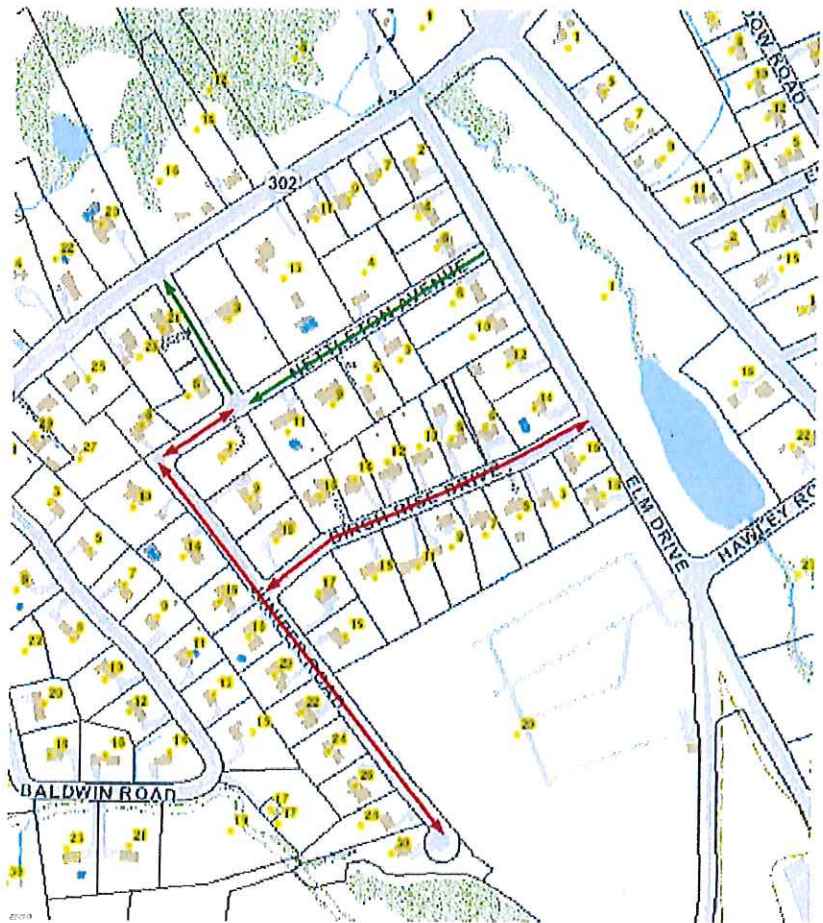
Second option would be to make Juniper Rd a ONE WAY street between RT302 and Nettleton Ave. with traffic flowing from Nettleton Ave to RT302. DO NOT ENTER signs (R5-1 in the MUTCD) would be placed at the intersection of Juniper Rd and RT 302. ONE Way signs (R6-1 in the MUTCD) would be placed on Juniper Dr. at the intersection of Nettleton Ave. This option would directly affect 3 houses on Juniper Rd that have driveways on Juniper between RT302 and Nettleton Ave. This option would keep all cut through traffic coming off RT 302 from entering this neighborhood, but could force some residents to drive around to get on to Juniper Rd.

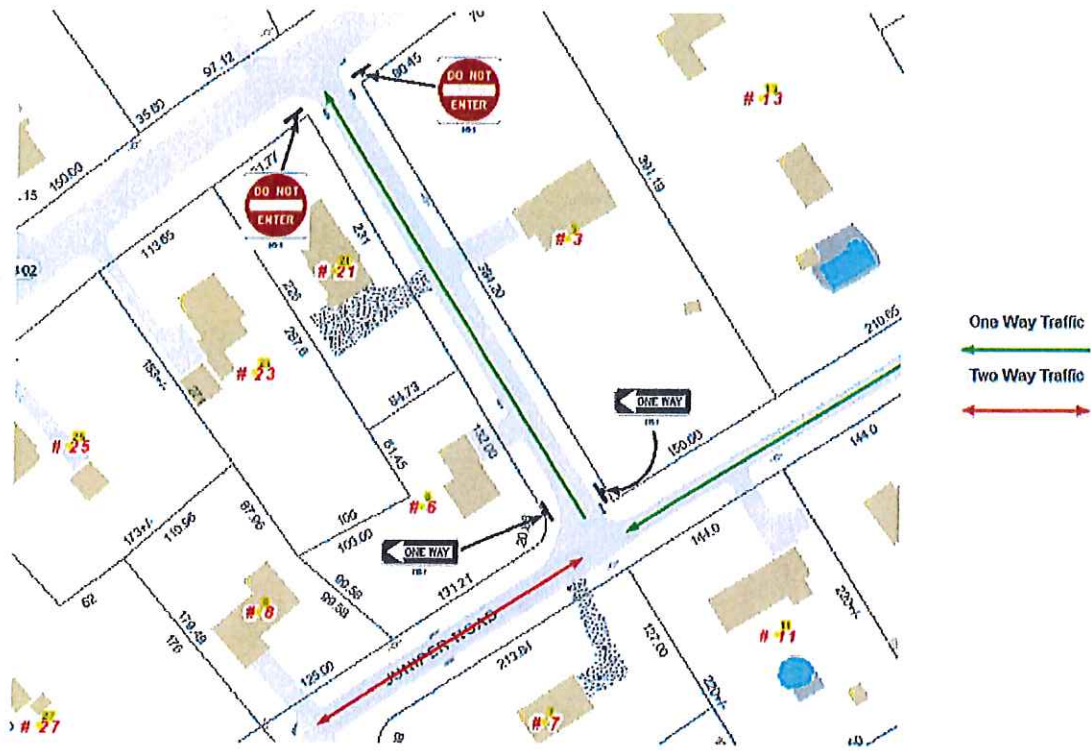
The third option would be to apply for State approved 25MPH speed limits on both Juniper and Birch Rise, and have increased enforcement on the roadways. This option would not address the increased traffic and would be labor intensive.

## Recommendation

In reviewing the options, it is the recommendation of the traffic unit to temporarily make the section of Juniper Rd between Nettleton Ave and Rt302(Sugar Street) a one way roadway. With traffic flow from Nettleton Ave to Rt302. This option would impact the least number of residents and would still give the neighborhood two exits and would not force residents into the traffic on RT302. Below are two maps that show the proposed traffic flow pattern and sign placement.

One way street  
Two way street







Section 2B.37 DO NOT ENTER Sign (R5-1)

Standard:

The DO NOT ENTER (R5-1) sign (see Figure 2B-11) shall be used where traffic is prohibited from entering a restricted roadway.

Guidance:

The DO NOT ENTER sign, if used, should be placed directly in view of a road user at the point where a road user could wrongly enter a divided highway, one-way roadway, or ramp (see Figure 2B-12). The sign should be mounted on the right-hand side of the roadway, facing traffic that might enter the roadway or ramp in the wrong direction. If the DO NOT ENTER sign would be visible to traffic to which it does not apply, the sign should be turned away from, or shielded from, the view of that traffic.

Option:

The DO NOT ENTER sign may be installed where it is necessary to emphasize the one-way traffic movement on a ramp or turning lane. A second DO NOT ENTER sign on the left-hand side of the roadway may be used, particularly where traffic approaches from an intersecting roadway (see Figure 2B-12).



R5-1

Section 2B.40 ONE WAY Signs (R6-1, R6-2)

Standard:

Except as provided in Paragraph 6, the ONE WAY (R6-1 or R6-2) sign (see Figure 2B-13) shall be used to indicate streets or roadways upon which vehicular traffic is allowed to travel in one direction only.

ONE WAY signs shall be placed parallel to the one-way street at all alleys and roadways that intersect one-way roadways as shown in Figure 2B-14. At an intersection with a divided highway that has a median width at the intersection itself of 30 feet or more, ONE WAY signs shall be placed, visible to each crossroad approach, on the near right and far left corners of each intersection with the directional roadways (see Figure 2B-15). At an intersection with a divided highway that has a median width at the intersection itself of less than 30 feet, Keep Right (R4-7) signs and/or ONE WAY signs shall be installed (see Figures 2B-16 and 2B-17). If Keep Right signs are installed, they shall be placed as close as practical to the approach ends of the medians and shall be visible to traffic on the divided highway and each crossroad approach. If ONE WAY signs are installed, they shall be placed on the near right and far left corners of the intersection and shall be visible to each crossroad approach.



R6-1