



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Special Meeting, Thursday, June 13, 2019
Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Meeting Room

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

Present: Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Joan Plouffe
Absent: Joel Faxon, Andy Sachs

Also Present: Chief James Viadero, one member of the public and one member of the press
Commissioner Budd called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Public Participation: none.

Police Union Participation: none.

Consideration and action on the minutes of April 2, 2019: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of May 7, 2019. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Chief's Report: The accident reconstruction team is investigating the Mount Pleasant accident that involved two cars; one person remains in serious condition. Capt. Vanghele is in Boston for high level, police executive training. Monday-Thursday of next week there will be simmuniton training, using projectiles that simulate live fire, for all officers. The year to date budget is in good standing. DUI and Distracted driving enforcement continues. There is still a lot of construction and roadwork around town. The next big job will be Mount Pleasant, past the flagpole and PD toward Wasserman Way. Exit 11 house demolition is due to begin. Former Commissioner Duane Giannini retired from Newtown Savings Bank. Commissioner Budd and Chief Viadero attended the party and wish him well in his retirement. The Citizen Police Academy is complete. Every officer contributes to the program. The Torch Run was last Friday; Special Olympics was Saturday.

Old Business:

- a.) **Police Building Update:** The project is in the zoning process, everything will be out to bid by August; shovel in the ground in September. Occupancy is expected in October 2020. The property will be fenced in sometime in July.
- b.) **Toddy Hill Road Update:** Chief Viadero went through a power point presentation relative to data on Toddy Hill Road (att.). Route 34 and Route 25 traffic has increased 40-50%; Toddy Hill Road is a cut through road. If trucks have business on the road, or on side roads they can travel a road posted with a No Thru Truck sign. Data indicates that enforcement is having an impact. The plan is enforcement using speed trailers, improvement in signage, and education through media/social media and police presence. The department communicates

Rec'd. for Record 6-17-20 19
Town Clerk of Newtown 932am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

with the public and the Toddy Hill residents. A traffic engineer, Michael Galant, has been hired to take independent traffic and speed counts. He will look at the road and make recommendations to the Police Commission as to what can be done to calm traffic on the road. A report is expected mid-August. **Kim Jaeckel**, 93 Toddy Hill Road asked about the timing of the improved signage. Chief Viadero will wait on the recommendation of the traffic engineer. Ms. Jaeckel said that there is not a feeling that the police aren't there, the feeling is that the police shouldn't *have* to be there. Commissioner Budd noted that studies and implementation can take 2-3 years. However, the process has already begun with enforcement and education on Toddy Hill Road; it's already in the pipeline. A professional study should reduce liability. Speed trailers need to be on a line of site and a straightaway. Ms. Jaeckel believes the enforcement is more effective than the speed trailer. Once the report is complete, depending on the recommendations, a funding request will have to go through the town boards. Chief Viadero would like to have rumble strips in the center lines of Toddy Hill Road.

Correspondence: Letters of Appreciation: none.

New Business:

Chief Viadero explained the department is bound by CT State Statute to implement the following policies:

- a.) **Policy 2.15 Revision (Acceptable Use of Computer Equipment):** Commissioner Plouffe moved to approve Policy 2.15 Revision (Acceptable Use of Computer Equipment). Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Motion unanimously passed.
- b.) **Policy 2.16 Revision (Cyber Security Incident Response):** Commissioner Plouffe moved to approve Policy 2.16 Revision (Cyber Security Incident Response). Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Motion unanimously passed.
- c.) **Policy 2.17 Revision (User Account – Access Validation):** Commissioner Plouffe moved to approve Policy 2/17 Revision (User Account – Access Validation). Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Budd noted there will be no meeting in July.

Public Participation: none.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report the police commissioners adjourned their special meeting at 7:25p.m.

Att: Toddy Hill Road Traffic Calming Program

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Marcinek, Clerk*

TODDY HILL ROAD

TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM



TODDY HILL ROAD – ROADWAY FEATURES

- Paved, 2-lane Town-owned public high
- Toddy Hill Rd. runs in a North-South direction
- Toddy Hill Road turns into Botsford Hill Road at Button Shop Road
- Toddy Hill Rd. is 2.4 miles long
- Botsford Hill Rd. is 1.1 miles long
- Toddy Hill Rd. has a mix of straight-away sections, curves, and several elevation changes



TODDY HILL ROAD – ROADWAY FEATURES

- A painted double-yellow line along its entirety was completed after an NPD traffic study of passing issues in 2011 to bring Toddy Hill Road into MUTCD compliance
- State DOT just completed a bridge project to improve the intersection of Toddy Hill Rd. and Rte. 34
- There are 15 roads the enter onto Toddy Hill Road along its length. Nearly half of these roads are dead ends or cul-du-sacs.



TODDY HILL ROAD – LOCATION AND USAGE

- Classified as a “Class A” roadway – Highly traveled, major arterial roadway
- Classified by State DOT as a “Feeder” road
- Toddy Hill Rd. runs between two major State roads. Toddy Hill Rd. begins at Rte. 34 and links to Rte. 25 by way of Botsford Hill Rd.
- Toddy Hill Rd. is the direct route to lower Fairfield County and I-95 for any vehicles exiting I-84 at exit 11



TODDY HILL ROAD – LOCATION AND USAGE

- Toddy Hill Road is in the vicinity of I-84 exit 11 on ramps and off ramps
- Toddy Hill Road is also in the vicinity of Newtown High School and Wasserman Way (State Road 490)
- Various industrial parks and businesses are on Toddy Hill Rd. or accessed by using Toddy Hill Rd.



TODDY HILL ROAD – LOCATION AND

USAGE

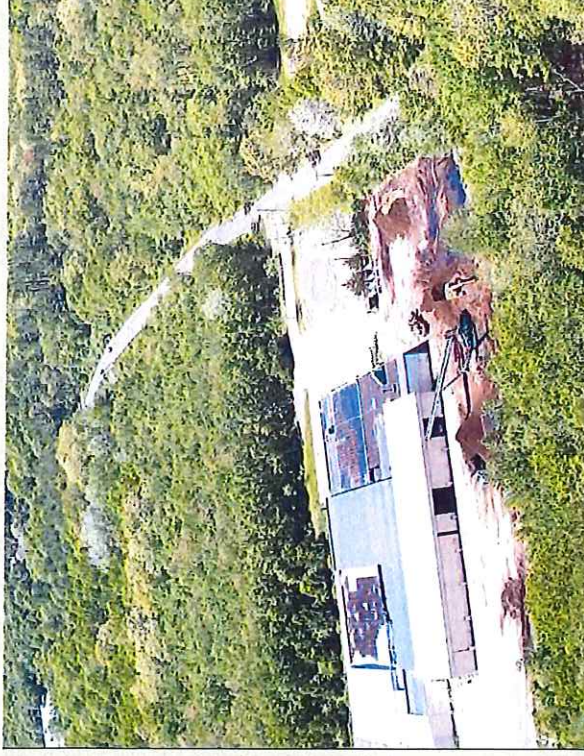
Traveling North to South the following businesses are on or off of Toddy Hill Rd. include:

- Berkshire Veterinary Hospital
- Lenahan Land Clearing (Walsh's Mulch)
- Curtis Packaging
- East Haven Building Supply
- Architectural Glass Industries
- American Stair
- Environmental Energy Services
- Newtown Rehabilitation Center (Masonicare)
- Interstate and Lakeland Lumber
- SMT Corporation
- Wind River Environmental
- United States Post Office (Botsford)



Traffic Feeders

Below are commercial entities which feed the traffic in the Toddy Hill area.



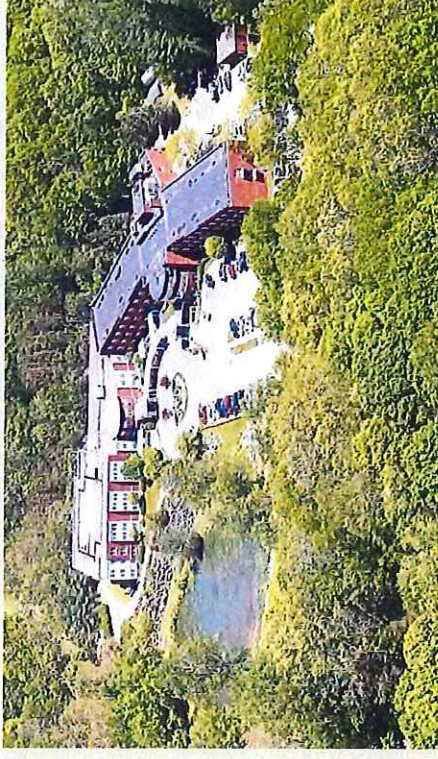
Traffic Feeders

Below are commercial entities which feed the traffic in the Toddy Hill area.



Traffic Feeders

Below are commercial entities which feed the traffic in the Toddy Hill area.



Traffic Feeders

Preferable traffic route from all points south to I-84 and return.



Traffic Feeders

Below are commercial entities which feed the traffic in the Toddy Hill area.



TODDY HILL ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING

- One of the major goals of the Newtown Police Department is the safe and efficient travel of the motoring public through the Town
- Goal of Traffic Calming is to identify traffic safety issues on a particular road, to address those identified safety concerns utilizing a variety of techniques
- Techniques may include traffic studies, engineering, enforcement, signage, education, etc.



TODDY HILL ROAD – TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES

- VEHICLE COUNTS (How many vehicles use the road daily)
- SPEED COUNTS (Data gathered by police through stationary speed gathering equipment)
- MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT DATA
- SIGNAGE (Speed Limits, No Thru Trucks, Stop Signs)
- ENFORCEMENT DATA

TODDY HILL ROAD – VEHICLE COUNTS



- 2010 CT DOT indicated average daily traffic was **6,650**
- NPD study 6/7/17 – 6/14/17 indicated an ADT of **6,788**
- NPD study 8/11/17 – 8/18/17 indicated an ADT of **6,459**
- NPD study 10/3/17 – 12/1/17 indicated an ADT of **7,005**
- NPD study 5/1/19 – 5/10/19 indicated an ADT of **3,664 (NB)**
- NPD Study 6/1/19 -6/7/19 **3,585 (NB)**

TODDY HILL ROAD – SPEED COUNTS

- Toddy Hill Rd. has a State DOT approved 30 mph speed limit throughout its length in both directions. (Botsford Hill Rd. has a 35 mph zone)
- NPD Study June 2017 indicated average speed of **39.1 mph** (85th percentile **44.6 mph**)
- NPD Study August 2017 indicated average speed of **39.9 mph** (85th percentile **45.1 mph**)
- NPD Study 10/3/17 – 12/1/17 indicated an average speed of **33 mph** (85th percentile **38 mph**)
- NPD Study 5/1/19 – 5/10/19 indicated and average speed of **33 mph** (85th percentile **38 mph**)



TODDY HILL RD -Speed Counts

- NPD Study - 6/01/19 - 6/07/19 Average speed **32.53 mph** (85 Percentile **37.75 mph**)

TODDY HILL ROAD – ACCIDENT DATA

- 2014 = 15
- 2015 = 12
- 2016 = 16
- 2017 = 15
- 2018 = 13
- 2019 = 5 (thru May)



- No fatalities. Only a handful of injury mvAs
- Average MVAs per month is approximately 1.25
- Monthly accidents in relation to amount of traffic: 1.25 mva per 207,000 vehicles

2018 Crash Data Analysis

- Total of 13 Accidents
- 7 of crashes were rear end due to inattentiveness or weather
- 3 Crashes were the result of deer strikes
- 1 was in avoidance of a deer, striking a stone wall
- 1 crash involved a side swipe of a car
- 1 crash involved a car vs. pole attributed to alcohol
- 90% of crashes were during peak commuter traffic hours a.m/p.m.

TODDY HILL ROAD – SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

- Currently there are 3 speed limit signs in the southbound lane and 4 speed limit signs in the northbound lane
- Botsford Hill rd. Has 3 speed limit signs (35 mph) in the southbound lane and 2 speed limit signs in the northbound lane.
- A signage study and work order was completed on 5/23/19 which will replace and fix all of the current signs on Toddy Hill Rd. and Botsford Hill Rd.



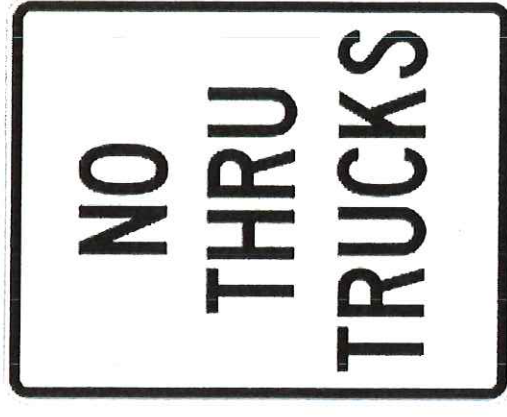
TODDY HILL ROAD – NO THRU TRUCKS SIGNS

- In December of 1999 the State DOT officially designated Toddy Hill Rd. and Botsford Hill Rd. as “No Thru Trucks” zones

- Currently there are 2 “No Thru Trucks” signs on Botsford Hill Rd. approaching the railroad bridge and 2 signs indicating a low bridge (11’-5”)

- Currently there is 1 “No Thru Trucks” sign on Toddy Hill Rd. heading south by Little Brook Lane

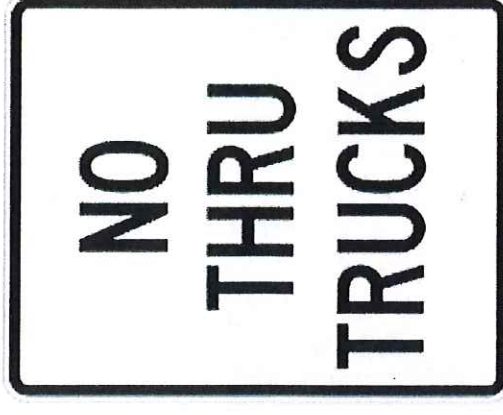
- Tractor trailers cannot fit under the railroad bridge



TODDY HILL ROAD – NO THRU TRUCKS

SIGNS

- According to the DOT A “Thru Truck” is a truck which travels from a point outside of the limits of a city in Connecticut through such city without any scheduled stop in such locality. Any truck originating or having a destination within a city where any thru truck prohibition has been established is not subject to such prohibition within that city where the truck originates or has a destination within.



- Police cannot enforce unless they have other probable cause to stop the vehicle and then discover the trucks travel plans

TODDY HILL ROAD – STOP SIGNS

- There are no Stop Signs on Toddy Hill Rd. itself. Stop Signs are erected at the intersections of the roads that empty onto Toddy Hill Rd.
- To date, Toddy Hill Rd. does not qualify to have stop signs erected due to MUTCD guidelines and a low number of “failure to yield” accidents at intersections.
- MUTCD guidelines prohibit Stop Signs from being used for speed control. Traffic engineering study can be completed to confirm.



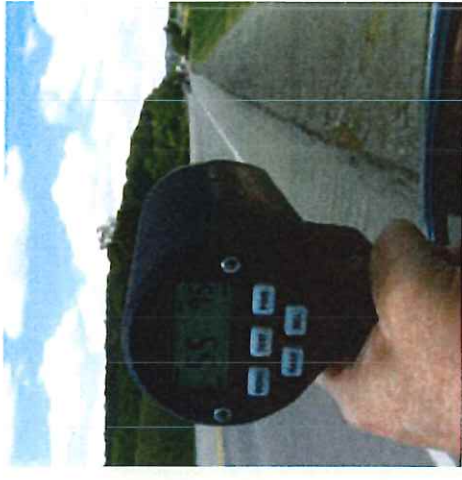
TODDY HILL ROAD – ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- Toddy Hill Rd. traditionally a road on which officers run radar. Various saturation efforts have focused on Toddy Hill over the years.
- 5/2/17 – 5/25/17 = Officers made 124 traffic stops for speed
- 1/31/18 – 2/6/18 = Saturation Speed enforcement effort around in area between Longview Rd. and Settlers Lane. 32.25 manhours, 50 traffic stops consisting of 2 misdemeanors, 23 infractions and 25 warnings.



TODDY HILL ROAD – ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- 5/10/19 – 5/23/19 speed initiative
 - 65 directed radar assignments
 - Over 146 motor vehicle stops
 - 82 infractions (avg. speeder 46 mph)
 - 29 written warnings (avg. 42 mph)
 - 37 verbal warnings
 - Toddy Hill Stops accounted for 47% of the total Newtown Police stops during this 2-week time period



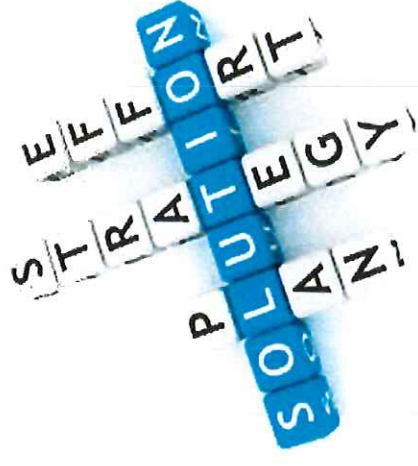
TODDY HILL ROAD – ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- 2016 222 stops on Toddy Hill rd.
5% of total stops for NPD
- 2017 399 stops on Toddy Hill rd.
10.6% of total stops for NPD
- 2018 336 stops on Toddy Hill rd.
8.3% of total stops for NPD
- 2019 316 stops on Toddy Hill rd.
(YTD) 14.3% of total stops for
NPD (YTD)



TODDY HILL ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING SOLUTIONS

- Improved signage
- Educating public – media efforts, social, etc
- No Thru Truck enforcement efforts
- Continued speed enforcement
- Installation of speed displays
- Use of travel apps to reduce vehicular traffic such as WAZE
- Continue open communication between residents and law enforcement
- Out of the box solutions



TODDY HILL ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING SOLUTIONS

■ TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY

- A traffic engineering study completed by a competent and experienced traffic engineer is very important as it will include information on road design, site lines, environmental issues, topographical concerns, and can inform decisions on speed limits, necessary signage (such as stop signs) and uses of other traffic calming devices.



QUESTIONS



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