

From: dan@baysidemaine.com
Subject: Citizen Concern Regarding Bayside "Traffic Calming" Process
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Overseers and Administrators,

I initially sent a version of the following just to Janae, Michael and Bill with the village, but I wanted to make sure it reached the rest of the Overseers and the town administration, so I'm broadening the distribution.

Many of you know I have a strong bent toward government transparency, and a big part of that is following an appropriately transparent decision-making process. I don't think that's been done in the case of the very rushed traffic calming proposal put forth at Sunday's Overseers' meeting and then presented (in a fashion the public does not have the benefit of knowing because it was not published) to the Select Board on Monday.

I suspect you're thinking: "Very rushed?! Dan, we've been talking about this for years." True, but here's where I think the process breaks down. A vote was taken at Sunday's Overseers' meeting on the Safety Committee's proposal (originally presented at a July 6 virtual meeting I attended). That makes it an "Action Item," but it was not telegraphed as such in the agenda. In fact, the agenda mentioned nothing about traffic calming, under "Safety Committee Report" or otherwise. There was no proposal from the Safety Committee for the public (or the Overseers, to my knowledge) to review in advance of the meeting. (The proposal was also not included with the Safety Committee meeting announcement, although the announcement did note that "The meeting agenda will focus primarily on traffic safety — including "traffic calming" and speeding awareness.") Without that information, the public doesn't even know what is being proposed so they can make a decision whether they want to attend the meeting to learn more and/or to use their only public comment opportunity at the beginning of the meeting to express their opinion on the subject.

My understanding from the action taken at the Overseers' meeting was that Janae would be asking the Select Board at its 7/13 meeting to agree to implement the "experimental" measures the Safety Committee has recommended. The agenda for that Select Board meeting did not include this subject, and, while I know it was brought up and discussed at that meeting, I don't know how the select board ultimately handled it. I would hope, as a matter of process, they would not take action without at least properly noticing the request on an agenda and inviting public participation in the decision process, as we would expect of the Overseers.

The concept of putting stop signs and speed bumps/humps in our little village constitutes a dramatic change that, in my opinion, would justify a public hearing during the summer or, at least, a Donuts and Dialog. Instead, the committee is just deciding independently where these calming measures should be installed with no consideration of the impact on the adjacent property owners or unintended consequences and little to no opportunity for more general villager input. I don't think that's appropriate. My sister Vicky's home at 15 George Street would end up with a stop sign right out front, with every southbound car being forced to come to a stop in front of her driveway and then very likely gunning to build up speed to conquer the hill. Going the other way, they'll be queuing up in front of Fryers' and Kazilionis', then accelerating in front of Vicky's to get back up to speed and up the more gradual slope on George Street. Shouldn't property owners in this area (and others to be affected by the proposal) have a voice?

I would love to see speeders obey the law and slow down going through our village, but I urge you to *slow down* and take a more inclusive approach to this process.

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