

At the Select Board meeting of 9/15/20, Still River residents expressed their concerns about how their safety and quality of life has been impacted by an uptick in speeding, reckless driving, tailgating, and other dangerous driving behaviors.

The SRV residents also voiced concerns about how the Oxbow NWR has become a magnet for teens and others, who are then speeding and driving dangerously on Still River Depot Rd (and connecting roads). These visitors are causing property destruction in the refuge through graffiti, destruction of historical markers and signs, and leaving trash. There is a particular concern about underage drinking taking place in the Oxbow which poses a threat to area residents when potentially intoxicated drivers leave the refuge. Residents report feeling threatened by some of those drivers when they ask them to slow down.

At informal gatherings and at the Select Board meeting, with input from Chief Denmark, residents discussed various actions that can be taken to calm traffic, including physical measures such as speed tables, as well as visual cues such as narrowing travel lanes and posting speed limits.

The common goals for Still River residents are to reduce speeds, increase pedestrian and traffic safety, and reduce noise levels to improve quality of life in the village. Because Still River Road and Still River Depot Road are fundamentally different types of roadways, the approaches to achieve these objectives will be different.

Chief Denmark has assigned Officer Matt Callaghan as the liaison to SRV residents.

This is a preliminary draft of traffic calming measures that were discussed in those meetings.

Still River Road Traffic Calming Measures--Physical and Visual

- Greater police presence to deter speeding
- Greater enforcement through warnings and ticketing
- Citizens will continue reporting incidents to police
- Designation of the village as “Thickly Settled” by the Select Board and use of “Thickly Settled” signs with accompanying “30mph” sign at both

ends of the Village

- Community Gateway Signs "Entering Still River Village" at both ends of the Village
- Use of the mobile speed radar unit deployed in different areas along the road in various intervals
- Narrowing the travel lanes and using "sharrows" on the side shoulders to signal pedestrian walking lanes
- Installing a crosswalk across from the Still River Post Office/Still River Depot Rd entrance
- Installing crosswalks at other points along the road such as at the Willard Lane intersection
- Posting "School Zone 20mph" signs at both directions at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School

Still River Depot Road Traffic Calming Measures

- Greater patrolling and enforcement of speed limit, particularly during heavy seasonal use of the Oxbow
- Posting of "Thickly Settled" sign and accompanying 30mph sign
- Installation of speed table at appropriate location--below (West) of the residences but well before the entrance to the Oxbow, to prevent rapid acceleration up the hill
- Further discussion of potential areas for other speed tables on the road, if needed or supported by Still River Depot Road residents
- There is no desire by SRD residents to have pavement markings such as a center lane divider or road edge (fog line)

Oxbow

- Chief Denmark said that he has not seen evidence that there were drug deal taking place at Oxbow, residents remain concerned about the use of drugs at the site and that drug deals may be taking place there
- There was interest in building greater cooperation (perhaps through the reconstituting of the "Friends of the Oxbow") between SR residents, HPD & the railroad to encourage enjoyment of the Oxbow but also to deter activity that is detrimental to the refuge and the neighborhood
- Although resources are limited, F&WS officers will step up patrols in area, especially during high seasonal use
- Installation of a gate at the Oxbow Still River Depot Rd entrance was discussed, particularly w/r/t where it would be placed in order to close the refuge to vehicle traffic after dusk

- Town, F&WS and railroad jurisdictions meet in the proposed area for the siting of the gate so specific location, access issues for emergency personnel etc all would need to be worked out
- Still River residents expressed an interest in volunteering to open and close the gate each day
- Increase video surveillance at the Oxbow