

**Minutes**  
**Safety Committee Meeting**  
**August 29, 2019**  
**Blair Agency**

The Safety Committee held its last in-person meeting of the season on the porch of the Blair Agency on Wed., August 29.

Present were chairman Michael Tirrell, Beanie Einstein, Jim Huning, Lisa Fryer, and Gina Cressey. On the phone were committee members Jeffrey Wilt, Jessica Cohen, and police chief Michael Boucher. Several visitors also attended the meeting, most of whom had concerns to share.

Items discussed by the committee:

Ruggles Park Playground: There are holes in the ground cloth under the playground equipment, so small kids can get a foot caught in the hole, trip, and fall. Twisted metal steps on the slide are another hazard. Also, the black mulch on the playground is suspected of containing unsafe matter. These concerns will be raised to the Overseers with a recommendation that they be resolved before next summer.

Traffic Safety: Several people complained about speeding in Bayside, particularly on George St., Shore Road, and Bluff Road during morning and evening rush hour times. We all discussed this vexing, ongoing issue.

Lisa Fryer has researched the flashing signs and told us that studies show that they are quite effective at slowing people down. Some permanent flashing signs, in addition to movable ones, would be good to have.

Lisa mentioned another speed deterrent called delineators, widely used in Lincolnville and Camden. These get drilled into the ground in crosswalks, are relatively inexpensive, are soft and can be hit many times and still be useful.

Other traffic-slowing measures touched on were radar guns which Police Chief Michael Boucher said would help the officers stop speeders going in both directions, speed bumps and speed tables, which are expensive, and are objected to by some community members.

The committee agreed to pursue fundraising options to raise money for new speed tracking and enforcement equipment beyond what the Village can cover. A sub-group will explore those options over the winter, with the goal of raising money to purchase necessary equipment.

We are limited in what we can do on streets like George St. and other roads owned by the Town of Northport, but they may be willing to work with us in experimenting with ways to deter speed that we are not asking them to fund. Michael Tirrell is going to ask the Overseers' Northport liaison person to explore options with Northport officials.

Waterfront Safety: A sub-committee met with the lifeguards whom we hope will be back next summer. They provided useful feedback, like reporting a slippery board that is causing people to slip and fall on the dock. In turn, they were reminded of the importance of paying close attention to what's going on at all times, a challenge when there are many people on the dock.

Our 2020 plans include posting a large sign on the dock that clearly details dock and swimming rules. Additionally, the committee is pursuing safety flags indicating real-time water, diving, and other conditions along the waterfront.

Police Department: It's been tough having the cruiser out of commission for a month, and Michael Boucher suggested the need for a contingency plan for the cruiser. A month is too long to borrow equipment from other police departments.

Several people raised concerns about parking – particularly in Ruggles Park. We also talked about the need for a parking ordinance, with some teeth, so that our officers can ticket cars parked inappropriately, such as in the park for long periods.

Also, effective Sept. 3, Maine will prohibit drivers from holding devices like phones, and all officers, including ours, will be ticketing for that offense.

Both Michael Boucher and officer Ben Kolko plan to return to service in Bayside in 2020.

The committee will meet next sometime in the third week of October (date TBD) and via conference call. Michael Tirrell will publicize then and send out the phone number for those who might want to join us.

Until we can all be together again in beautiful Bayside, have a safe and enjoyable off-season.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Cressey