

Henry H

From: ED <EDIN2010@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 12:53 PM
To: CityClerkHenry Heck
Cc: Alderman David Allaire
Subject: Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
Attachments: publicsafetycommitteeminutes.doc

Hello Henry: Attached (in Word Doc. form) is the Public Safety Committee Meeting minutes from 02/10/2015. I have also attached it below in case the file doesn't open properly
Ed Larson

Board of Alderman Committee Minutes Public Safety Committee

Date: 02/10/2015 **Chair:** Alderman Ed Larson

Convened: 5:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.

Committee members present: Alderman Sharon Davis, Alderman Gary Donohue, Alderman Ed Larson. **President** David Allaire.

Others Present: Acting Rutland City Police Chief David Covell

Also: John Regan, John Gould, Karen Ranz, Melissa Stevens, Francis Barrett, Martha Barrett, Ruthellen Weston, Kamberleigh Johnston.

(This Committee Report is being submitted in compliance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law-- Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec/312(b) 312 (c) 312 (d), 312 (h) & 310 (4).)

The Public Safety Committee of the Rutland City Board of Alderman met to hear suggestions about improving pedestrian crossings in Rutland City. Primarily in the downtown business district area, with one specific location, being the intersection of Merchants Row, Washington Street, and Strong's Avenue, drawing the most comment.

A number of residents of the Bardwell House; which is a downtown multi-unit residential structure, located on the northeast corner of Washington Street and Merchants Row, attended to voice concerns about the timing of pedestrian crossing lights, and motorist disregard for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Many of those present at the meeting had disabilities resulting in mobility issues.

The Chair requested a show of hands from those present, who while crossing at the crosswalks may have sustained near misses from motor vehicles. All present raised their hands.

Alderman Davis questioned why the traffic control signals did not all go to red at the intersection, such as the lights at Center Street and Merchants Row; as this would allow pedestrians to cross with traffic stopped in all directions.

John Ryan suggested the addition of "No Turn on Red" signage as well.

Several Bardwell residents stated that the fifteen (15) to twenty (20) seconds crossing time was insufficient and this should be modified to a longer period as well. When questioned by the Chair how much time would be sufficient, a response of thirty (30) seconds was given.

Francis Barrett stated she crosses with a walker or a cane and there is insufficient time to cross safely and she has nearby been struck on several occasions.

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Discussion ranged from eliminating turns at the intersection, to increased police presence. There was also concern expressed about the crosswalk on Merchants Row near the Opera House, and that traffic failed to yield to pedestrians in that area as well. That was later expanded to the intersection of Merchants Row and West Street.

Chief Covell advised that the City Police Department is concerned about the increase in motor vehicle accidents in the downtown. The Chief indicated that he will make the downtown beat officer aware of the expressed concerns about traffic ignoring pedestrian rights of way. The Chief was advised that during the noon hour the crossing at the Opera House on Merchants Row should be a point of concentration for police patrol.

Chief Covell, who is head of the Traffic Committee, indicated that he would look into the timing of the pedestrian crossing lights, as well as potential for four way stop of the Traffic Control Signals.

The Chair advised all present that the Committee was concerned about their safety, and that the suggestions made at the meeting would be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Committee, and a report would be made pursuant to our obligations under the Right to Know Law to the full Board of Alderman. The Chair also advised those present that a representative of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission had expressed interest to the Chair about obtaining the comments made at this meeting; and the Chair will forward this report to the R.R.P.C.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alderman Ed Larson
Chair--Public Safety Committee

02/11/2015 el.