

Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Friday, February 21, 2020 9:00am

Persons in Attendance: Commander Sheldon, Jeffrey Wennberg, Jim Rotondo, Dave Sears & Rebecca Mattis

Absent: Chief Kilcullen, Ted Gillen and Bradley LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Guests: Nikki Hindman

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Commander Sheldon.

New business discussed.

1. Request to discuss the results of their transportation project (Pop up Demo on Killington Avenue) – Christ the King students

No one appeared from Christ the King School to discuss this item.

2. Request to discuss parking problem on Willow Street – Tom Holland @ VFW

From February 21, 2020 meeting - Rebecca Mattis followed up with Mayor Allaire to discuss his conversation with Mark Foley, Sr. Mayor Allaire mentioned that he spoke to Mark Foley, Jr. and that he plans to rent out the old Turner's Supply building & lot will go with it. Due to this, he is guessing that Domino's will still want to park on Willow Street, due to this.

Jeff mentioned that there was a suggestion to make it 15 minute parking, here. It was asked if the Traffic Safety Committee support a notion of putting a limit on the few spaces, there. With the increased occupancy, drivers are concerned they'd have to relocate. We need to try to find a resolution that makes the best sense. Jeff asked if there is a safety concern to allow parking on Willow Street. Rebecca mentioned that the problem that Tom Holland at the VFW was having, was there was a car always parked at the corner. He hasn't seen this to be occurring, as of recent.

Jeff also mentioned adding "No parking here to corner". He asked if anyone else had a different feeling. Jeff asked Jim if he had concerns. Jeff, said "let's do this and if it creates a hazard, we can revisit this.

This item has been on our Agenda a few times. The area is currently posted "Rutland Herald parking only". The sign is on the building and the Rutland Herald is no longer located here. We have two issues here. There is insufficient parking for in & out traffic and not enough room for buses to get through if there are vehicles parked in this area.

Jeff Wennberg stated that Domino's is complaining and they don't park on Willow Street, now. There are no spots. They would like it posted for 15 Minute parking, only.

Chief mentioned that when people park for longer periods of time, they usually park further back. Chief thinks the solution is to restrict parking all day.

Rebecca mentioned that for the past month, she's been looking at this area and there always seems to be one car parked at the corner. She mentioned that in her conversation with Tom @ VFW, it was mentioned that if Domino's could stay back, that might work.

There was mention of Domino's looking to relocate.

A guest at this meeting asked what was up with the property that Mark Foley, Sr. bought, where the old Turner Electric was) and suggested that maybe we could have designated parking further back for Domino's. Jeff stated that we can't designate parking for a particular business. Chief Kilcullen will have Officer Blongy talk to the Manager at Domino's to see if there is any off street parking for them. Mayor Allaire mentioned that he just so happens to have a meeting with Mark Foley, Sr. in an hour and will inquire about the old Turner Electric property.

This will be tabled until next month.

3. Request to discuss young drivers running a wooden stop sign and also speeding up and down Haywood Avenue – Jamie Ward

Commander Sheldon went up to check this. It's a wooden private sign that we can't enforce. It's property of Regency Manor. The sign is located coming from Regency Manor. Jeff asked if it were our sign, could we enforce? Commander Sheldon replied that yes, if it were our sign, we could enforce. He phoned Jamie Ward and left a voicemail. He hasn't heard from her.

4. West St & Merchants Row intersection – Nikki Hindman

Nikki mentioned that she has been at our meeting before, regarding this subject. General public is approaching her more on this. She needs to be able to bring back something to the public. The lady who hit a pedestrian the other day, couldn't come to this meeting. She will come next month. Commander Sheldon stated that businesses are saying officers are getting grief when they're down in the area working on brochure.

Commander Sheldon mentioned that we will do a PSA with Peg TV and will mention that we're not harassing public. We need to educate public and the shop owners. We've only received 2 complaints from shop owners. When we explain to them what we're doing, they are ok. It's not a new problem. How do you educate, for people to listen? Commander Sheldon made a suggestion of getting Sgt. Whitehead to brain storm with Nikki.

Nikki mentioned that in other towns, people get tickets for Jaywalking. I want them to get tickets. Just don't want people getting hit, we want them to be safe. Jeff mentioned that it sounds like you're doing a lot and felt that doing a PSA is a good idea. It was mentioned that purchasing flags might be worth a try. Nikki asked if there were restrictions to attaching things to poles, height restriction? Jeff mentioned that he wouldn't want the wing plows to catch them and don't want sidewalk plows to hit them. Rebecca asked if the flags will make people feel they have a "force field" around them? Nikki mentioned that she just feels that it would let pedestrians know they need to do something in order to cross the street. Rebecca asked for Jay walking to be defined. Commander mentioned that it is walking against light, if people cut across diagonally, not straight. Rebecca mentioned that the term, Jay walking, comes from the term jay driver. It means crazy person. We will continue to compile data, downtown.

Other old business

1. Bardwell House parking signs

On **4/19/19**, it was decided that the signs should be at a 90 degree angle (2nd priority)

As of **7/19/19**, signs still need to be moved to a 90 degree angle

As of **10/18/19**, Dave mentioned he needs to take out post, re-core holes, then Will be able to hang the signs

On **11/15/19**, Dave said this could be done pretty soon. It's a little bit of a Project, definitely before Spring.

As of **1/17/20**, Dave mentioned that they broke the coring bit. This Agenda item is in process of being done.

2. Kiosk signs

On **4/19/19**, it was decided that a 7 foot post would be installed and new signs would be hung (1st priority)

As of **7/19/19**, not completed

As of **10/18/19**, Dave said this would be an end of construction season project

As of **11/15/19**, will be done pretty soon, before Spring.

As of **1/17/20**, Dave mentioned needing to order brackets & corer. Chief Kilcullen asked if the corer is the best application. Dave mentioned it is, in order to get them up high enough. Jim stated that if Dave needed help from Engineering, they could look at & see what would work best.

3. Request for better enforcement in the area of the 2 traffic lights near intersection of Killington Avenue and Main Street – Tim Brennan

On **6/21/19**, it was decided that we would add a delay to the sequencing of the lights so that the first one would turn yellow, then the second one would turn red.

As of **7/19/19**, was discussed but no action taken

On **10/18/19**, there was a brief discussion that it might work better to have first light turn red and second light to turn yellow, instead of the other way around. Jeff will talk with Brad to see if he can do this.

As of **11/15/19**, Jeff was asked to please check with Brad. Jeff asked him to Check this out & didn't hear back from him.

As of **1/17/20**, Jeff mentioned that he hasn't heard from Brad regarding this. It was also mentioned that the other area of concern was Evelyn & West and also Pine & West. He will also ask Brad if the same can be done at these other lights.

As of **2/21/20**, Dave talked with Bard and this can't be done. It's an old system wired together. Jeff mentioned having called Brad twice and didn't hear anything from him regarding this. Dave also mentioned that Brad is going to look into Pine & West and let us know.

4. Request for the East Business 4 sign with arrow, Columbian Avenue & State St signs to be replaced or repaired – Sgt. Joseph Bartlett

On **08/16/19**, it was decided that Dave Sears would look into this

On **10/18/19**, Dave said he will see if he ordered these signs. Jeff asked if we go after people who have damaged signs, for reimbursement. Chief asked if we should be having the Officer forward the crash reports to DPW when this happens. Jeff indicated that it would be helpful, because when a sign is knocked over or damaged, there's a cost to fix this.

As of **11/15/19**, Dave said he's not sure if this sign was ordered but will check on it.

As of **1/17/20**, this is still a pending item.

5. Requests a look at information from Glens Falls about pedestrian safety in crosswalks – Glenn Reed

(Print-outs of the Articles are attached)

As of **10/18/19**, we are working on this.

As of **11/15/19**, it was mentioned that we're looking to personalize handouts. Sgt. Whitehead had some officers out, doing some enforcement. Education piece side is on Pedestrian side. Issue with drivers are that they're not paying attention.

Caprice mentioned that when you're in Montpelier and step into the road, people stop. This doesn't happen, here. What's the purpose of doing bump outs? Thinks its dual education. Commander Prouty agreed.

Jeff mentioned that people here, could have expectation they won't be in trouble if they don't stop. Commander Prouty said that he wouldn't want to write a citation, a \$220.00 ticket, just to get to the ASA Bloomer building. Mayor Allaire asked if that would be for jay walking. Commander Prouty stated that there's a term for it. Dave mentioned an instance where there was a girl at the crosswalk, phone in her hand, never looked up, people were stopping, she wasn't paying attention.

Mayor spoke about bump-outs and that they are more visible and you're taking a conscious effort to try to do in a safe manner. That's not what's happening all the time. He indicated that he walks all the time.

Jeff got a report that someone got a grinder and watched 11 people who didn't Use the crosswalk or bump-out. The point you're making is well understood. Jeff isn't sure how you change the behavior. Phones are a problem, people have injured themselves by being on the phone trying to cross a street. Jeff asked if a local ordinance with less punitive fine, do this to make Policeman's job easier?

Chief said if it's going to happen, we're going to see it. It's difficult to allocate Resources to monitor this when we have officers dealing with other involved Issues.

Commander Prouty said that maybe language could mirror statute, and make fine reasonable.

Jeff mentioned that he sees a lot when he's out walking Evelyn Street & Merchants Row, people aren't paying attention. Jim mentioned when Mario was here regarding the all way stop at the Bardwell House. It backs up Traffic to Center Street. Jim indicated that they didn't discuss this area.

Commander Prouty asked where the Chief wanted the speed sign, next. Chief Indicated that he'd like it on Stratton Road, near the school.

As of **1/17/20**, it was stated that we looked to identify grants for enforcement in this area. We can use the Highway grants. Day shift is doing safety enforcement on Merchants Row. Next month, we should be able to tell you how many tickets and warnings were written.

6. Request for law enforcement around bicycles on the sidewalk, right turn on red in regards to pedestrian safety and crosswalks – Karen Ranz
From **9/20/19**, we are working on law enforcement regarding bicycles
From **10/18/19**, a couple of signs were put up regarding right turn on red. At the intersection of West & Merchants, should we change to left turn lane and

then a right & straight lane? Jim said he wouldn't change the timing or anything. Said we need some pedestrian education and suggested that we put up Yellow, Yield to Pedestrians in crosswalk signs, on the crossbars.

As of **11/15/19**, still working on this.

As of **1/17/20**, it was stated that we have some handouts that we got from Locomotion. We don't have any with our logo, yet. This item is also part of initiative with the Day shift.

Meeting adjourned at 09:42 am by Commander Sheldon.