

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2014

PRESENT: Chief Baker, Lt. Geno, Chief Schlachter, Mayor Louras, Evan Pilachowski, and Jerry Hansen

ABSENT: Butch Shaw, Jon Kiernan and Jeffrey Wennberg

GUESTS: Timothy Pockette from Vermont Agency of Transportation & Natalie Boyle

The meeting was called to order by Chief Baker at 8:20 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Baker greeted everyone with Good morning. He asked if everyone knew each other.

1. Woodstock Avenue Alternative traffic markings – Evan Pilachowski

Natalie Boyle introduced herself as the Public outreach person on the Rutland Paving job. Natalie mentioned that we may have seen an email from her. Chief Baker stated that he did. Chief mentioned that like he told Tim Pockette, he was involved when the rotary was installed in Manchester and it was really helpful to be given updates on the project and what could be expected for the day.

Tim Pockette mentioned that Evan, Jeff Wennberg, Natalie and himself drafted a letter, to survey the businesses. They wanted to get it out pre construction and will enclose a postage paid envelope to return the survey. He also indicated that they would attached a letter detailing b markings. Chief Baker asked Tim if we have an approved schedule time line. They will be modifying South Main Street. He will make sure to have this put with the minutes. Tim will email electronic ones that are on the Facebook page. Natalie mentioned that she would make user friendly and email out to the distribution list. Chief Baker mentioned he would get Natalie connected with Mary Kaye Zambon and link the Rutland City Police Department Facebook to their Facebook page, regarding the Construction project.

Mayor Louras asked when the outreach to the businesses on Woodstock Avenue was going to start. Door to door is the best way. Tim Pockette responded that it will occur in mid March. This will give them a couple of weeks to look at how flow is now. Natalie will hand deliver information regarding the project, to the Woodstock Avenue businesses. Mayor Louras stated that he felt that a 1 page press release describing what we're doing, why we're doing it and that it is a 30 day free trial, would work well. It would be great to get this Press Release out the day after you have made contact will all of the businesses. Tim Pockette stated that he spoke with the Secretary of Transportation public relations officer, in regards to him speaking with the Rutland Herald to let everyone know what is going on with the project in the City and that we are looking at some alternative markings. Tim will check with Eric to be sure he is all set with that. Mayor Louras stated that it's important that this information get's out there with ample notice of the project beginning. Tim Pockette stated that his discussion with Mike Fowler was that with today's federal regulations, we have to explore all alternate transportation on our roads. It's almost law that we have to do this. Mayor Louras was in on the discussions that stated we needed to try this. Tim Pockette mentioned that if we don't have reasons for why this project isn't working and just pull the plug on it, he is just concerned about how this may look upon the City. Evan stated that if we just make a decision that we don't like it, without reasons documented along with the perception that is already out there that we don't want to do it to begin with, it wouldn't look good. We really need to have this justification. Chief stated that the conversation last month was to give us some cover. We're just trying to give you ammunition to support reasons it works or not. Have supporting documentation. For example, businesses are happy. Chief asked Evan what he thought the cost being expensed with this trial, is? Tim? Tim Pockette stated that he can come up with an estimate by the end of the day. Evan stated that the State is spending a lot of money and we need to do this. Tim stated that we need to show videos, surveys, proof that we did try it. Tim mentioned that Natalie and himself will get out and around to the Woodstock Avenue businesses next week. Tim also asked Evan if he can find the survey letter and sign it. Jerry suggested that maybe Tim and Natalie could do a follow up, just to be sure that all the businesses received it.

Tim Pockette stated that they will get out there with hand delivering the survey letters and put article in the paper. Natalie asked if we are giving this letter to the Rutland High School or will we do a different letter for the school? Evan mentioned that he thinks we might want to do a separate letter for the school. Natalie thinks that Sgt. Putnam would be a great resource. Mayor Louras mentioned that the Yes plan at the High School will be from June 2nd to the 14th and that exams are May 28th through May 30th. Tim stated that this project will be done by May 1, 2014, or there will be fees. Tim stated that leveling course to be completed by April 23rd, temporary signs by April 25th and that May 1, 2014 through May 30, 2014 will be the 30 day trial period. A question was asked how we get rid of alternative b markings if City doesn't like them. It was stated that we've given them 7 working days.

Jerry asked if this work was put out to bid. Tim told him that it was. Chief Schlacter mentioned that he was approached by a man at the Bus, that they are aware of the project. Natalie asked if it was Ken. Chief Schlacter stated that it was Ken. Tim mentioned that Natalie tried a mass emailing and had some problems with it, but email did go out Monday. Chief Baker mentioned to Lt. Geno that we should meet with our Sgts. to get information out, especially regarding temporary markings. Evan mentioned that Butch has had problems at South East corner of Merchants Row, northbound turning east, keeps clipping a pole. Maybe get rid of right hand turning lane, change to parking spots? Tim stated that he may have to bring this up with Mike Fowler. Chief Baker mentioned his concerns that they may clip cars instead of poles. Mayor Louras offered to walk with Natalie to some stops. Tim will probably walk with her, too. Tim asked if this committee wants a "No outlet" sign at Court Square. Yes.

2. Request for 2 "School Bus Stop" signs to be put up on Killington Avenue toward the top by Grandview Terrace and the other at the bottom by Killington Avenue & Killington Terrace – Rutland Public Schools

Evan stated that he thought this was more of an issue with volume and the hill. Does anyone have a concern with this? No issues. Evan will put out for work order and get this done.

3. Granger Street, School Bus Stop Ahead Sign

Chief Baker mentioned that Mrs. Warner contacted him regarding the School Bus Stop Ahead sign at this location and mentioned that this sign is beyond where school bus actually stops. Chief Baker asked Lt. Geno if he could check on this. Chief Baker stated that he understood that the sign is when you head South, beyond the tracks.

4. Butch Shaw's monthly report – No report was made this month.

5. Other new business

There are issues with Park Street, South Main Street location, with the light not turning green to go left.

Old Business

1. Other old business

Jerry mentioned that he had the opportunity to talk with a New York Officer regarding strobe lights. New York's intention is to attract attention, by having these lights. Evan mentioned that Butch said they attract so much attention, that you're not looking at what's happening around you. Butch had stated that there is a federal guide line to go by. Chief Baker stated that we can't be in violation of federal guide lines. Jerry asked if the guide lines are suggested or required. Chief Baker stated that it's a requirement.

Chief asked if anyone had any other business. No. Chief mentioned that we need to stay on top of the Woodstock Avenue project. Evan will get together with Lt. Geno & the Sgts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Captain Tucker
Lt. Geno
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post