

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2017**

PRESENT: Commander Prouty, Jim Rotondo, Brad LaFaso

GUESTS: Connie Sue Erickson, Chad Erickson, Russ Lennon, Geraldine Burke – Dismas House, Larry Walter and Louise Harrison

ABSENT: Jeffrey Wennberg

The meeting was called to order by Sgt. Prouty at 8:59 A.M. Minutes from the February 17, 2017 meeting were accepted as written. Today's meeting Agenda was approved. No further discussion.

#### New Business:

##### 1. Request for 25 mph speed limit – Russ Lennon

Russ Lennon stated that he represents all the people who signed this petition. He formed a group called HALT, which led to a lot of discussions with individuals that were previously on the Traffic Safety Committee.

In 2013, this got robust and I brought it to the Traffic Safety Committee's attention. He also mentioned a traffic study wasn't necessary. There was a 5 year moratorium on this. A traffic study was done in 2013 with Susan Schriebman in hopes to try to isolate certain streets. He went to the Board of Alderman regarding this, this issue then went to Department of Public Works to reduce the speed to 25 mph. It went nowhere.

Russ provided us with a 3 page handout. Page 1 referenced data taken from "City of Rutland, Speed Limit Discussion, Jan/Feb 2015", Page 2 referenced traffic data for Rutland City, December 2014 and Page 3 referenced HALT (Homeowners Against Local Thru-Traffic).

He mentioned that on Hillside Road, 31.5 % of vehicles are going over 35 mph and that on North Street Extension, 37.5% of vehicles are going over 30 mph. We need to seriously consider how we can resolve some of these issues with speeding. We put stop signs in but this hasn't stopped the speeding.

There's a daycare that walks toddlers, putting kids in dangerous environment. There was a situation where a driver had to comment that Russ didn't have the right to walk the way he was at that location. There was also another situation Russ observed where a car with 3 passengers went through the stop sign at 40 mph and the occupants were all elevated from their seats as they passed through this intersection, due to rate of speed.

He stated that within the last 2 years, it was introduced that municipalities have unilateral control to reduce speed limit. This didn't go anywhere with the transportation committee. He also mentioned that he hasn't seen our Police Officers monitoring speed in this neighborhood in like 2 years. He indicated that our officers should stop people and ask them where they are coming from and where they are going to.

Jim Rotondo mentioned in wanting to reduce the speed limit, he would think that enforcement of the speed limit would be the first step. And asked if any road was posted to no cut through traffic, if cut through traffic wasn't allowed, where else would the traffic go?

Brad Lafaso mentioned that we tried to control traffic on Stratton Road by putting up a Stop sign, even though we advised against it. It didn't work. The stop sign at this location was removed.

Commander Prouty stated that from a Police perspective on speed, don't have an issue with speed limit going back to 25 mph. Would probably have to keep North Main Street and South Main Street at 35 mph.

2. Request to close Hillside Road and North Street Extension to cut-through traffic – Russ Lennon

Russ Lennon had a meeting in September of 2016 with Amy Gamble, she said this would be easy. Did engineering study. She said paperwork needs to be done. Traffic study is already done.

Commander Prouty stated that we wouldn't be enforcing cut through traffic. It's impossible to do this. People have the right to drive on the public highways. Russ responded "that's your right but it's not your privilege to cut through." He also indicated that people cutting through could be defined as not appropriate behavior. It's also state of mind.

Russ Lennon mentioned that when we put up the Stop signs on North Street Extension and Hillside Road, it helped to lower traffic. He also stated that he is asking for something, rather than nothing to be done.

Larry Walter stated that if we were lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on these streets, it would give the Police more of a tool to give someone a ticket. The challenge may be getting time to radar the areas. Russ stated that if we PACE speed, we still would find that 85% of people will abide. Commander Prouty mentioned that he will talk with Jeffrey Wennberg and also confer with Chief Kilcullen. Commander Prouty will reach out to Russ Lennon, after doing this.

3. Request for there to be "no parking" on one side of Park Avenue and allow parking on the other side – Geraldine Burke from the Rutland Dismas House

Geraldine stated that the Rutland Dismas House has over 300 volunteers to cook, it's dark when they come to work, they can't see the sign. Commander Prouty mentioned this was recently done on Park Avenue and Library Avenue and that it was set up for property owners.

Geraldine feels it's unfair.

Commander Prouty asked how many people had received parking tickets. Geraldine knew of one but said it's hard to say exactly how many. She realizes that we need to get fire trucks through. Commander Prouty mentioned that's why we did alternating parking. Commander Prouty said we may be able to add to the bottom of the sign, an overnight exception from 10 pm – 6 am. Geraldine mentioned that wouldn't help. The volunteers leave at 7:30 a.m. Jim Rotondo asked if we may still have problems with Fire trucks getting through during the exception time of 10 pm – 6 am, if we were to do an exception. Commander Prouty didn't feel we would have an issue because most of the properties have driveways they can park in.

Geraldine stated she didn't want to lose volunteers and that this exception wouldn't help them during meetings that they have early in the evenings. She mentioned she has a Board meeting tonight, which would mean about 15 people and the cooks would be there.

Jim Rotondo asked if she could send out notice to all her volunteers regarding the "no parking". Geraldine responded that she couldn't because most of her volunteers are from Churches so she doesn't have their email addresses. She feels this is ridiculous.

Commander Prouty stated that he has no problem taking this under advisement and that he will look to Jeffrey Wennberg for a solution.

Geraldine mentioned that the Rutland Dismas House has 300 volunteers and there are only 50 residents. She said this is a big detriment to the business. She stated that they're a presence in the City and have been for 27 years and that she would hope us folks would be trying to be helpful for them. Brad LaFaso said it would depend on how many volunteers were parked on the street at one time to know if there would be an issue with Police, DPW or Fire to get through. Jim Rotondo asked how many volunteers vehicles would be parked at one time. Geraldine mentioned 4 cars for volunteers and they have 4 staff members, have a van for the Rutland Dismas House and 2 residents. Geraldine asked if she could have a follow up. Commander Prouty stated yes and that we would put it on the Agenda for our next traffic safety meeting.

#### 4. Illegally parked trailer – Jeffrey Wennberg

Prior to this meeting, we were sent 6 photos showing the trailer. Commander Prouty mentioned that where the trailer is parked is at the old Tina's variety store. He asked who owned the VW beetle. He also stated to not park on the sidewalk. There is an old "15 minute parking" sign at this location, too. Commander Prouty said that people are allowed to park between the road and the sidewalk. It's considered the right of way. He is not sure if we need to do a new charter regarding this. We had a similar situation to this on Columbian Avenue.

Louise Harrison stated that she purchased her property in December of 2016 from Jeff Dejarnette and he said these 2 parking spaces were on her property. Now, it's considered to be part of the road, not travelled portion of road. The owner's of the utility trailer have another utility trailer parked on the other side of the street. She asked if she could just go buy a van and park it in front of everybody's property. She was told that she wasn't the only person with this problem in the City. Commander Prouty mentioned that where he lives, his car has gotten hit by new drivers, as he lives on one of the streets that the Driver's License tests are done on.

Louise mentioned that the utility trailer hasn't moved since she bought the property in December. She is renovating her house and she was expecting to put about \$30K into her property, which now it's looking like it will be more like \$75K. The owners of the utility trailer that is in front of her property have refused to move the trailer 6 feet, for her. Louise has noticed an elderly lady in the neighborhood that has to walk around this utility trailer. Louise also mentioned that she parked her 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle in front of the utility trailer's owners van and they called the Police to have her move the vehicle because it was their parking spot. Louise doesn't want this utility trailer parked in front of her house indefinitely.

Commander Prouty asked Jim Rotondo if the City could send them a letter, asking them to move the utility trailer. Louise mentioned that the other utility trailer that is parked across the street was in the way of the Fire trucks when there was a fire there. There is a definite issue of visibility. What about bikes going through here when the good weather comes?

Other new business

No other new business was discussed.

#### Old Business:

Request for audible crossing at the intersection of Wales Street and Center Street – Chad Erickson

Commander Prouty asked if Jim Rotondo would take the lead on this request. Brad LaFaso mentioned that he Spoke to Dave Cyr with DPW and they decided against a 3 way stop at this location for truck traffic reasons. We could put signalized intersection here for pedestrians, exclusive. Cost would be approximately \$18,000. Would just have to put another phase in. Commander Prouty asked if we would have to do some changes.

Brad said that we will need truncated domes in, 4 hatches. They'll have to get in to do that. Junction boxes are there. Jim mentioned that due to Jeffrey Wennberg not being at this meeting, he will need to weigh in and look at his signalization budget.

Chad Erickson mentioned that there are truncated domes at Wales Street and West Street. Brad LaFaso mentioned that it is a newer location. Connie Sue Erickson mentioned that one reason why her and Chad have asked for this audible crossing at the intersection of Wales Street and Center Street is because of the hill on Center Street and electric cars and cars coasting down the hill, Chad can't hear the coasting of the vehicles and he could think it's ok to cross, but it's not. The girls at Avanti watch out for him. Brad LaFaso mentioned that he thinks they watch out for handicapped people, too.

Connie mentioned that when Chad is going down Wales Street, he stays to the left. Near the Rutland Herald, the side road of Willow Street, there isn't truncated domes on this side.

Jim Rotondo said that he will wait to discuss this with Jeffrey Wennberg. He feels it's a worthy thing to do. He asked that I put this on the Agenda for next month.

Other Old Business:

No other old business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore  
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor  
Police Commission  
Board of Alderman  
City Clerk  
Post