

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2018

PRESENT: Chief Brian Kilcullen, Commander LaChance, Mayor David Allaire, Jeffrey Wennberg, James Rotondo and Dave Sears

ABSENT: Ted Gillen and Bradley LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

The meeting was called to order by Chief Killcullen at 9:03 A.M. hours. Minutes from the February 23, 2018 meeting were accepted as written. Today's meeting Agenda was approved. No further discussion.

New Business:

1. Request to change the speed limit downtown to 25 mph – Regional Planning Commission (Referred to this committee from the Board of Alderman)

Chief Kilcullen stated that the Traffic study was done more than 3 years ago. Jeff said that it was about 3 years ago. It wasn't a formal traffic study. Chief asked if whatever the study that was done at that time, if it would suffice so we could change the speed limit. Jeff stated that it was 25 mph, previously and was accidentally changed. Chief asked if an ordinance change would need to be done. Jeff said that they did a cursory speed study to see how many were going faster. He doubt's that it would suffice. It wouldn't be bad to ask Vtrans if it would suffice or if one is needed. If a traffic study is done, it would measure speeds, then we'd get the report which would defend whether it's appropriate to lower the limit.

Jeff stated that the other option would be to set the speed limit downtown to 25 mph. Then, after 5 years, the Police would be able to enforce it. Basic question is, if someone is driving between 25 mph to 30 mph, are the Police doing to write a ticket? What benefit are we going to get for changing it? We don't have a problem downtown with speeding.

Chief mentioned that the Board of Alderman state that they support this. Does that mean that they support referring it to Traffic Safety Committee or changing the speed limit to 25 mph? Mayor David Allaire stated that there wasn't a long lengthy discussion of changing it.

Jeff said that our view is that 25 mph would seem appropriate, was historically the limit and would guess that the Board of Alderman would have to change the ordinance. It doesn't seem like it would be a reduction in tickets for speeding, etc. Dave Sears mentioned that it is just going to add signs to downtown. Mayor David Allaire asked if it would be special benefits district, defined? Jeff said it was defined. At every boundary, you'd have to put in double the signs. Jeff stated that he is starting to get a little sensitive with sign proliferation. Chief stated that he hasn't identified a need to lower the speed limit. We will do an analysis of crashed downtown. Then, we could report back to the board that we've looked into it over the past 5 years. Chief Kilcullen would then provide a report to show why it's not necessary. Dave Sears asked what the cause of accidents are downtown. Can the Board of Alderman take a vote unilaterally to change it? Mayor, stated that if they change the ordinance. Commander LaChance mentioned that if the speed limit was changed to this throughout the city, it would help. Jeff replied that a lot of people would be happy with that.

Jeff stated that previously, the Chief of Police at that time had wanted to raise the speed limit on Route 4 & Route 7 to 40 or 45 mph and lower it to 30 mph off of these roads. Chief Kilcullen asked if we could change the speed limit on a State Road. Jeff replied with a Yes.

2. “Street sign Approval – Hickory Street” – James Rotondo

James stated that Naylor & Breen sent in a request for all their signs for Phase III of Hickory Street. Jim spoke to them about matching the size of our signs. On private property, Police can't enforce it. If the private property owner wants to put 10 mph, they can.

3. Request to add two “Slow Children at Play” signs on Hickory Street – Kevin Loso

This request was added in addition to the sign proposal we received from Naylor & Breen. They had originally asked for stop signs but they settled with wanting “Slow Children at Play” Jeff asked Jim if they were providing & installing the signs. Jim replied with a Yes.

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that the big thing is the handicap parking. Is it in a lot as opposed to Hickory Street? Jeff stated that it looks like there are two and they're both on Juneberry. Jeff mentioned to Chief Kilcullen that he would have to approve or not approve of what's on the City street. Chief stated that if the handicap parking isn't on the street, they're fine.

Jim asked if we should insist that they buy them from our vendor? Dave said that as long as they match, it's fine. Chief asked what the stickers are that are on the back of stop signs. Jeff stated that it states that the sign met reflectivity requirements that are necessary. The sign expires or you test the sign with a radar gun.

Old Business:

1. Request to put a “Wrong Way” or “Do Not Enter” sign on the entrance to Merchants Avenue from Evelyn Street

Commander LaChance spoke to Officer Morgano and also took a look at the area. A “Do Not Enter” sign would be helpful. Jeff said that we can put it up. Trucks may take it out. Dave said that we will try something, there.

2. School zone speed limit

At our 2/23/18 meeting, we went over the map and located areas that we want designated as school zones.

At today's meeting (4/20/18) - The ground is currently frozen, so we haven't had a chance to do anything. Commander LaChance asked if a traffic study was ever done. Jeff stated, no. He suggested that we could put up the school zone signs and after 5 years, it would be enforceable. Chief Kilcullen asked if we need an ordinance change to establish school zones. Jeff stated that he'd say to go ahead and do it. Laws have changed. Do permanent 25 mph around the schools, 1 block out, including VAC, Christian school and Christ the King.

Jim will take a look at the signs out there now and standardize everything. Police could write warning after 5 years. Mayor David Allaire asked where this emphasis came from. Jeff stated he thought it was in regards to Rutland Intermediate School signage and that it should be consistent and it just seemed sensible to do it for all the schools. Chief asked if “School zone” is defined by statute? Jeff replied with no. That's why I'm wondering if City Attorney should take a look at this and see if a new ordinance should be done. Chief asked Commander LaChance if there's a separate school zone speed violation in Vermont. Commander LaChance said that you can't put the speed lower than 25 mph.

3. Edgerton Avenue

From the minutes of our 2/23/18 meeting –

We will put notices in all the doors of the homes on the upper portion of Edgerton Avenue, letting them know that we will be changing to street to no parking on the North side. In April, we will install signage on the North side, to indicate there is no parking and will have bags on these signs. Then, a new notice will be put in the doors to say when the bags will be coming off of the signs. Then, hopefully, we can have the Police department issue warnings to people, if they see any cars parked on the North side. Commander LaChance stated that this sounds good.

At today's meeting (4/20/18) – Jeff got approval. Just waiting on the weather. Dave asked if we have a time frame. Jeff stated that the frost is out of the ground. You can do it, now/

4. No parking signs to be installed on Temple Street, starting at Main Street

From the minutes of our 11/17/17 meeting –

Brad LaFaso mentioned that Buddy Miles stated that the No parking signs on St. John Street are faded and asked if we could put up new ones. Dave will have these put up. Jeff asked for him to add Temple Street, starting at Main Street. He would like the whole road taken care of.

5. No parking signs to be installed on St. John Street

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Brad LaFaso mentioned that Buddy Miles stated that the No parking signs on St. John Street are faded and asked if we could put up new ones. Dave will have these put up. Jeff asked for him to add Temple Street, starting at Main Street. He would like the whole road taken care of.

6. Barrier to be put back down on Park Street off of South Main Street, near Clear Choice

This has been done. Jeff mentioned that the barrier got hit twice on the same day. One of the accidents was when a "Swift" deliver truck hit it. The cost to repair this could be upwards to \$80,000.00, which would be at the expense of "Swift".

7. One Way section of Killington Avenue showing 3 different speed limits

Once we determine what we're doing in regards to "school zones", this item will be taken care of.

8. Handicapped parking in front of MSJ

From the minutes of our 2/23/18 meeting –

Mount Saint Joseph Academy has requested multiple handicap signs to be installed on the right side of Convent Avenue. Jeff stated that it's the Police Department's jurisdiction to put these signs in. Commander LaChance asked Jeff how many signs he thinks will work. Jeff stated that 2 signs should do it. Commander LaChance has no problem with this. Jeff will have the 2 signs installed.

At today's meeting (4/20/18) – Chief Kilcullen asked why we are getting requests for handicap parking in front when places have parking lots. He mentioned that he has an issued with handicap spots in the road. Jeff will find out who sent the email request for this and ask why one in the parking lot wouldn't work.

9. Signage “All Way” to be added below the stop sign at the intersection of Center Street and Wales Street – Jack Trainor

From the minutes of our 2/23/18 meeting –

Jim asked if we would still want the flashing red light with the stop signs. Jeff stated that he wouldn't take the flashing red light out of there, yet. It's hard to miss. We need to add more permanent signage. Jeff was wondering if all way is to appease the motorists. It wouldn't create a dangerous situation. It makes it more, safe. Jim stated that we'll put in a stop bar and all way stop signs as a permanent route and will leave the flashing red light, temporarily.

From today's meeting (4/20/18) - Jeff will have them look at this area and see what needs to be done.

10. Installation of a “Do Not Enter” sign facing south on Wales Street

From the minutes of our 2/23/18 meeting –

This would be at the intersection of Center Street & Wales Street. Jeff will look at the area to see what we can do to improve the signage. Maybe we don't need new signs. Jeff will also take a look at the intersection of West St., Center St. & Washington St to see if signs are needed at this location, as well. We want to be sure that we have proper signage to discourage people from going the wrong way.

From today's meeting (4/20/18) – Mayor David Allaire mentioned that he has noticed when he has been out walking, that there isn't a “Do Not Enter” sign, here. Jeff will look at this and see if maybe a no left turn or no right turn would work.

Mayor David Allaire mentioned that a request came in to him for “No Parking” signs to be put up on East Washington Street between East Washington Street and Butterfly Avenue from a resident of Butterfly Avenue. The crossing guard brought it up. The street is very narrow through there. They have a hard time getting through. Jeff stated that he will have the Police & Fire Departments take measurements and see if it's justified.

Other Old Business:

Curb cut at the American Legion – We want to clean up the edge of the Parking lot, here. The entrance is on the North end and the exit is now on the South end. Could we close it off and exit right on the South end of Washington Street? We might need to lose a crab apple tree, there. Chief asked Jeff if his recommendation would be to remove the curb cut. Jeff suggested that they go look at it together. Jeff would like to get Chief Kilcullen's input. Let's take a look today or after next Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. hours.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post

