

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2015

PRESENT: Commander Geno, Jeff Wennberg, James Rotondo and Brad Lafaso

GUEST(S): Jon Kiernan, Kathy Harm and Nancy Crandall

The meeting was called to order by Commander Geno at 9:02 A.M. Minutes from March 20, 2015 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved.

New Business:

1. There are serious problems created by vehicles being parked on both sides of Mansfield Place – Kathy Harm

Kathy presented photos from last year and shared them, showing parking congestion. The biggest problem is with snow removal, fire access and oil deliveries. Commander Geno stated that it seems to be because of "our House" business. There are a minimum of 9 cars at any time, average of 12 parked on the street. This business has room for 5 vehicles, to be parked off the street.

Jeff Wennberg asked if it's inadequate width that is the issue. Possible solution could be to change it to "No Parking" on one side of the street.

Kathy Harm mentioned that this may inconvenience homeowners a little.

She also mentioned that it was difficult for the Fire Department to respond to Betty Mumford's fire complaint. Because of the parking congestion on both sides of the street, the Fire truck couldn't get through. They had to park the truck way back, away from the home and run to the home. Kathy mentioned that "Our House" originally belonged to the Lindholm's. So many people are coming and going and we know that it's zoned for business. She mentioned that the City plow couldn't plow the street. This is an inconvenience and hazard to safety.

Jeff Wennberg stated that there has been parking on both sides for as long as he can remember.

Nancy Crandall stated that she just feels it's really dangerous. The owner of "Our House" has encouraged people to not turn around in people's driveways.

Jeff Wennberg remembers an issue on Morse Place where the Fire department determined with cars parked on both sides of the street, there was no way to get emergency vehicles in. Then, they established parking on only one side of this street. The City has done this in the past, for similar reasons.

Kathy Harm stated that probably 15% that turn down Mansfield Place, don't want to be on Mansfield Place.

We need to replace the sign to say "No Outlet".

Jon Kiernan mentioned that when this came up before, he spoke to Mary Lou at Our House and it was mainly a Friday thing.

Kathy Harm stated that it is more days now, not just Friday. She also mentioned that there was a hazmat truck with trailer parked there. There are frequent pick ups and trailers parked there.

Jeff Wennberg stated that maybe we could put up a series of "No Parking to corner" signs half side of the street. (Northern end).

Commander Geno asked that he do half to begin with and let's see how it works.

Nancy Crandall said that it's fine whatever we want to try. Some neighbors suggested to the owner or "Our House" to remove the sign and enlarge driveway. The owner is interested in getting along with us neighbors.

We're agreeable to whatever. Jeff Wennberg will speak to Mary Lou Morisette, of "Our House" and ask if she has any plans, herself, to try to resolve the parking issue. Kathy Harm stated that she gets a sense that the staff doesn't want to walk too far.

Jon Kiernan mentioned that there are a lot of options. Maybe "Our House" could rent parking spots from the Chaffee for employees. Nancy agreed that this was a good idea and that the Chaffee would welcome this.

2. Left turn is prohibited but not enforced. Why not permit it or install a "Dead End" sign? – Kathy Harm

Why can't the no left turn sign be taken down? She stated that the Credit Union next door doesn't have this same restriction.

Commander Geno mentioned that if something happens and you're turning left, you will be found at fault.

Jon Kiernan mentioned that if we took the "No turn on left" sign down and an accident happened, and an attorney brings up the fact that there used to be a "No turn on left" sign here, this could be an issue.

Kathy Harm mentioned that we could always reply with "It's never been enforced".

Commander Geno mentioned that you can't really say that it's never been enforced, because it has.

Nancy Crandall mentioned that there are a lot of lanes, there and Kathy Harm mentioned that she would argue for spot enforcement.

Commander Geno mentioned that he talked with the Fire Department regarding problems getting down this street. Brad Lafaso said that he was there during Betty Mumford's incident and couldn't get down there. They had to back out a ladder truck and 3 engines.

Nancy Crandall mentioned that they appreciate the Fire and Police departments and the work that the Police department is doing on drug issues and everything else. She just doesn't feel that the Fire trucks should have to back down the street.

3. Other New Business

No report was made by Brad Lafaso at this meeting.

Request for Proposal for signal was referred to committee. Seek proposals. 3 Year contract. Expectation of longevity. Not doing this because of complaints with service provider. It's \$3,000.00 over charter limits. Trying to come in complete compliance with charter. Can't specify exactly what we need in the future. (Highly specialized). Maybe July 1st or sooner.

James gave Commander Geno a copy of the Request for Proposal. Wants Commander Geno's comments on response time, etc. Just want to be sure it's written correctly.

Traffic lights on Main Street are definitely messed up. Brad was going to call Tim but his mom passed away. Brad received a lot of calls from dispatch regarding this. A man asked if they were going to fix this issue or what. They're not functioning as designed. 4 intersections are on recall, 2 intersections with loop failed.

The intersections on recall are:

Woodstock/Stratton, Deer/Lafayette, South Main/Washington and Park/South Main

The one on Park, we can fix relatively soon. Just need to adjust cameras. Commander Geno mentioned going back down there to enforce issues. He sent two cars down there and they issued tickets.

Old Business:

1. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that the problem with the Routes 4 & 7 project were that a firm was hired out of Maine to do all the signalization and it just hasn't worked right.

One camera is failed at West & Main. James mentioned that Tim Pockette asked for a punch list. Brad said that one was sent.

To close out the meeting, Commander Geno asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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