

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2014

PRESENT: Chief Baker, Evan Pilachowski, Jeffrey Wennberg, Jon Kiernan and Jerry Hansen

ABSENT: Lt. Geno, Chief Schlachter and Butch Shaw

GUESTS: Ron Hemenway

The meeting was called to order by Chief Baker at 9:03 A.M. Chief asked if anyone had any issues with the minutes from our last meeting. No issues.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concern of traffic control at Rutland High School, this is directed by Sheriff's Office – Evan Pilachowski

Evan stated that there seems to be a difference in traffic control, based on the Sheriff conducting the Traffic. Some of the Sheriff's are more effective. Are we able to make a request that the top notch Sheriff is on duty at this location at the beginning of the trial? Jeff stated that observation is that it really is an art. Jerry mentioned that he feels that they get distracted because of the conversations they are having with motorists. Jeff mentioned that there are a couple of Sheriff's that are excellent with controlling the traffic here.

2. Removal of "no left turn" sign located at end of Mansfield Place – Kathy Harm & Evan Pilachowski

Evan stated that a resident, Kathy Harm, noticed that half of the people take a left turn onto Route 7. Evan stated that there are certain times that people can drive through efficiently and sometimes, not. Can we remove the sign? Jon mentioned that this sign is here for safety. Chief Baker asked where this location is. Jeff mentioned that if you come out to Route 7, it's a no left turn sign and traffic can get stacked. Chief mentioned that people are cutting across five lanes of traffic. Jon is concerned that if we take it out, it could be harmful. Chief Baker recommended that the sign stays in place. Jeff mentioned that maybe we could certain hours on the sign when a left turn isn't advised. Chief Baker asked if we have any time based signs. Chief will talk to Lt. Geno regarding the history of traffic at this location. Put on agenda for next month.

3. Request to have a lift placed on the sidewalk in front of the Bardwell House – Russell Construction & Evan Pilachowski

Evan asked if we wanted to put a time limit on how long the lift can be on the sidewalk. Do we want to modify it, when someone wants to put obstruction on sidewalk? (like at the Post Office location) Chief asked Evan to explain the current process for requests of this nature. Evan stated that there is a permitting process and that the Commissioner of DPW signs these requests. The requesting individual or business states the amount of time they would like. Evan asked if we are happy with the system in place? Jeff mentioned that we're kind of ok with it. Jerry mentioned that sometimes you don't want a lift reaching over people. It would be helpful to have barrier for pedestrians. Chief asked about permits & mentioned that if people requested a long period of time, that Jeff could then ask for a more extensive plan. Jeff stated that he is happy with the process.

4. Duration of the walk lights at Woodstock Avenue/High School and reconfiguring of traffic on Woodstock Avenue at same intersection – Ron Hemenway

Chief told Ron that the floor is yours. Ron mentioned that a couple of weeks ago, (after the last Traffic safety committee meeting), there was an article requesting we shrink the duration of time for the pedestrian crossing at this location. Ron thinks that this is a bad idea. If they are doing striping, they should look at the entire road. Evan mentioned that the new equipment for pedestrian crossings hasn't been installed yet. Once installed, it will be a dedicated pedestrian cycle. He's not aware of

any changes to this plan. Jerry mentioned that there is a lot of misinformation out there. Ron was told that this has been temporarily fixed. Ron mentioned that he's not sure if they need to change their light bulbs.

At Lafayette Street and Woodstock Avenue, it's not fixed.

Ron also noticed one at Wales Street and West Street that doesn't light up. There's a white pedestrian light that lights up but red light flashing doesn't light up. (near CCV & Longfellow building). It doesn't blink.

At end of Stratton Road, there's a white faded light, says no turn on red and it's not bright enough. Does it need to be cleaned? Ron knows that many people have gone through from Stratton Road, taking right on Woodstock Avenue.

There's no signs on Woodstock Avenue or Stratton Road, saying that it is a "School zone". Evan will look at the plans to see if any are due to be installed.

Chief Baker thanked Ron for coming and that he is welcome to stay. Ron thanked everyone for listening to him. Jeff thanked Ron for passing these things on to us. Ron stated that he believes the Woodstock Avenue light has been fixed and also thinks that the Stratton Road light was fixed as well.

5. Owner of 29 Pine Street advised that she would like "The Bus" stop sign moved to a location down the Street (maybe a vacant house)

Chief Baker will have Lt. Geno contact "The Bus" and see if they feel there is an advantage to moving the sign. (If operationally, it would be beneficial). Jeff mentioned that it's easy enough to move. Jeff mentioned that the property owner could contact "The Bus" and ask them to remind people to please respect private property. Evan wondered if the property that the City owns on Pine Street could be knocked down to allow for bus stop.

6. Replacing of damaged or missing bus stop signs – Jon Kiernan

Will we continue to use the existing bus stop on West Street @ Court Square?
Add the Bus stop sign for the stop @ Hickory Street, add a stop on State Street at Watkins Street and
Add a stop at 105 Curtis Avenue (trailer park).

Evan talked with Ken at "The Bus" about West Street/Court Square. The bus stop is coming out. The Multi-use path is coming in and will go through where existing "The Bus" shelter is. So, bus stop and Pick up would be the same as it is today. He wants it to stay where it is. The Shelter and pad will be Moved 20ish fee.

Jon mentioned that if you go up by Green Mountain Realty, you will see that there is no color at all to "The Bus" signs. Jeff mentioned that if "The Bus" provides the signs to the City, we can get them in. Jon mentioned that there is currently one "The Bus" sign on Crampton Avenue and with the Senior Housing complex going in on Watkins Avenue, they would like permission for another to be put up. The people at the trailer park have to walk to the corner. Chief Baker stated that he wouldn't want a stop to be placed too far up Curtis Avenue, with the hill that crests there.

- a. "The Bus" signs around the City are worn out and need to be replaced.
- b. At Forest Park, sign needs to be put back up.
- c. Request for new sign at Watkins Avenue.

Jerry asked if it's that "The Bus" provides sign and the City puts it in. Jeff said that he wasn't sure. He will check. One way or the other, we can get it done.

7. Other new business

It was asked who owns the concrete block @ Citizen's Bank. How do we get rid of it? It was mentioned that it was placed there when work needed to be done several years ago. Evan mentioned that it would need to be evaluated.

Old Business

1. Other old business

Granger Street bus stop sign - Evan stated that the bus stop sign on Granger Street has been moved.

“Bus Stop” ahead signs on Killington Avenue – These signs have been installed.

Woodstock Avenue

Chief Baker asked Jeff when he thought striping would be going down. Jeff stated he thought it was scheduled for today. They have half of it done. Jeff mentioned that he just got an update to state that line markings are to be in place before Monday, April 28th. Paving of side roads are to start on Monday. Jeff also stated that once they get base course of paving & striping done, the rest of the work will be done at night. The fact that they are going to be doing it then, is great. Jon stated that they almost have to. Chief stated that he will have Lt. Geno talk to the Sheriff regarding traffic control on Stratton Road. Evan mentioned that we have 4 traffic markers out at the following locations:

Killington Avenue, Stratton Road, Hillside Road and Temple Street
We will leave these out for a bit and check the traffic on these side roads.

Jeff mentioned that he had some allegations of traffic being spread that aren't true (of someone waiting 45 minutes to get into a business). Jeff has driven it many times this week and has gotten through within a reasonable time frame. The Mayor drove it 5 times in one day. He was also able to drive it, with no time delays. Jeff mentioned that they have many flaggers and thinks they are doing a great job. It is a construction zone.

Chief mentioned that after next week, they'll be doing the work at night, before putting the final coat down. Jeff mentioned that the Board of Highway will meet on April 28, 2014. If necessary, there will be a special meeting called by the Mayor at the end of the first week. Chief mentioned that this will be good for Lt. Geno to know, in case I'm not around. Chief also mentioned that he will get cars up there to run video.

Jerry mentioned that he was at a Chamber meeting and they know that he's on the Traffic Safety Committee and they were referring to adding bike paths. He remembered that Natalie Boyle and Tim Pockette were going to deliver packets to everyone on Woodstock Avenue and talk with people about the upcoming changes but the story the Chamber got was that only packages were dropped off to everyone on Woodstock Avenue. Jeff had asked Natalie about this. Natalie and Tim weren't able to meet with everyone on Woodstock Avenue. Natalie did talk with some of the managers of the businesses. They didn't reach and talk to 100%. They made a great effort to and were able to talk to quite a few people.

Jeff mentioned that in regards to the point on the “bike path”, a survey was handed to business owners and on the map and on survey, it says bike lanes. Interpretation was it was about bike paths. Jeff also stated that we aren't creating a skinny road to accommodate bike paths. Jerry stated that atleast he was at the Chamber meeting to dispel this. Chief Baker will meet with Lt. Geno to bring him up to speed, regarding the status of where this project will be as of Monday, April 28, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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