

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2014

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

ABSENT: Chief Schlachter and Butch Shaw

GUESTS: Doug Henson and Susan Schreiberman

The meeting was called to order by Chief Baker at 9:00 A.M. Chief asked if anyone had any issues or concerns with the minutes from our last meeting. No issues.

NEW BUSINESS

1. “No left turn” sign located at end of Mansfield Place – Kathy Harm & Evan Pilachowski

Chief Baker mentioned that if we take this sign down, it could be harmful. There was a brief discussion regarding this. It was decided that based on the safety concerns of having to cross five lanes of traffic, that it is necessary for this sign to stay in place.

Alan Shelvey was introduced as the acting engineer until a replacement has been found for Evan Pilachowski. His email address is Alans@rutlandcity.org. Chief Baker apologized for not doing introductions.

2. “Hidden drives” sign as cars approach State Street intersection from west on Columbian Avenue – Herb Russell

Jeffrey Wennberg mentioned that Herb Russell had contacted him about this issue. Jeff wasn't aware that this issue had been previously presented to the Traffic Safety Committee. Chief Baker asked Alan what his thoughts were regarding this. There was a brief discussion. There isn't traffic accident data to support this request. It was decided that we wouldn't be honoring this request.

3. Rutland Creek Path Segment 5 from Dorr Drive bridge to the College of St. Joseph regarding preferred alignment – Doug Henson and Susan Schreiberman

Susan stated that she wanted to have the opportunity for her and Doug Henson to present the segment 5 scoping study, preferred alignment and get our thoughts. Doug held up a diagram of what the segment 5 scoping study will look like. He stated that it will start where the new River Street bridge will come across the bank. There isn't a place for a crosswalk here. There's a short section of boardwalk with diagonal post going over the bank, then, a wider flatter area. Then, 150 feet past church driveway, are proposing a shared use path. Could be boardwalk with edge separated or boardwalk, flat. They are proposing a crosswalk across Dorr Drive to allow pedestrians & bicyclists a safe place to cross. They could leave striping the way it is or do new striping.

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that the City is interested in eliminating where option exists to do retaining wall.

Jon Kiernan asked if the City has projects coming up that DPW is doing and if they could fill in the path and this could be considered the base. Jeff mentioned that DPW does usually have extra material. He mentioned that the leftover fill could be an issue with it being near the water. Doug Henson mentioned that the issue is that the flood plain comes close to the road. Jerry mentioned that if we use fill, we would have to use stabilization for it not to go over the bank.

Chief Baker asked Susan what the timing is on this project. Sue stated that they are asking the City to go through engineering & right of way. There was a lot of discussion when trying to put it through the College of St. Joseph. The cost was quite high. Jeff asked Susan if she had any idea of when it might get to construction. Sue stated that if it is funded this summer, they could do engineering next year.

Jeff mentioned that they had a meeting with key property owners and they are total supporters of this project. Sue stated that Vtrans has invested federal funds with the Bike/pedestrian program or transportation alternatives process. Right of way seems to be major slowing point. Jeff asked what right of way issues they anticipate. It was stated that “where acquisition is required”, would anticipate easements for all properties on that side. Jeff asked if these would be permanent easements. Doug mentioned that yes, for maybe two properties. He’s not sure where property line lays close to bridge. Doug stated that Segment 4, at end of Meadow Street to River Street is in Right of Way phase right now. Hoping to put it out to bid, start in fall, finish in Spring or Summer. Sue mentioned that they had neighborhood meetings and only heard from a few people.

Jerry asked that with the walkway going in, he was wondering if they are going to widen. He also asked if this will alter runoff on other people’s property. Doug stated that it would.

Alan asked if Doug had seen design plans on 2nd bridge. As far as the second bridge is concerned, College is working on this. It is in the planning phase. Alan mentioned that the Ripley Bridge will give you More room on the North side of the road. Will be putting fill in creek, sizeable stone.

Jeff mentioned that it would be more efficient to have piers put in at the same time. Jeff also mentioned That he hopes that we’ll see how the crosswalks work during this year.

Chief Baker asked if there were any other questions for Doug? It was mentioned that segment 5 is an important safety item. It’s tough to walk through there. It was asked if it will be DPW’s job to match up the sidewalk. Yes. Jon Kiernan asked about the previous segments that were done. Jeff Wennberg stated that we need to get clarity on who will own this. Jon mentioned that it won’t do any good to put this in segment in, if we don’t maintain it. Jerry mentioned that we will need to get answers.

Chief Baker asked if there was anything else to discuss regarding the bike path. No. Thank you, Doug.

4. Street sign for Pine Street – Marjorie Johnston

Ms. Johnston had phoned regarding the “No parking here to corner” sign but didn’t provide us with anything written. She mentioned that this sign is in front of her house and she would like it moved. Chief Baker’s Executive Assistant contacted Ms. Johnston to remind her of our meeting, if she wanted to present her concern.

5. Other new business -

There was a discussion about the traffic counters that were put out, in regards to the Woodstock Avenue project. Evan brought in preliminary numbers. Chief Baker stated that he wasn’t surprised with the figures on Stratton Road. Jeff mentioned that having these counts, are critical. There has been some concerns about how this project was going to affect the neighborhood traffic around Woodstock Avenue. It was mentioned that there wasn’t a Sheriff to conduct traffic at the High School this morning. It was also mentioned that the State’s counters are gone and that we should be able to get those numbers. These numbers would typically go up during construction. Historical numbers at Hillside Rd, show reduction. Maybe this could be because of the stop signs there. The numbers don’t seem to show a significant difference before or during construction. Susan mentioned that they can keep these counters out for a little and then put them back out in August. Chief Baker mentioned that the final piece of construction on Woodstock Avenue will be after school is out. We could have honest conversations with neighbors after August and share this data.

Butch Shaw reported that the information we may want to know, is that the signals at Stratton Road aren’t working properly. At Deer Street, serious problem here. Haven’t configured pedestrian lights. Meeting on Monday about the pedestrian lights. Trying to figure out what sequence will be to stop traffic. Chief Baker mentioned that he has received a lot of feedback on the Deer Street intersection. Glad to have you back, Butch. Butch mentioned that what he understands is the problem at this intersection is that the brains of the lighting system isn’t being changed. Jeff mentioned that the Board of Highway will

want to know how many accidents have occurred. One, so far.

Jeff mentioned that they are starting to collect Business surveys. Most of them have not come back. In a couple of instances, the Business owners have given their praise to this project. A business has timed people coming in and going out and it has shown that the newly configured Woodstock Avenue, has improved how quickly people can come and go. Butch asked if it would be helpful to extend test period. Jeff mentioned that we would feel more comfortable if lights were working properly for us to truly know how this project will run. Butch has been referring calls about the lights to the Project Managers. Jerry stated that it can't be a fair assessment if things aren't working properly. He asked if They are done putting up all signage. Jeff stated that it's a design modification. We have asked for entire reconfiguration from Stratton Road to Gleason Road. Jerry said that even if it's just two signs, it would be great. One for left and one for straight through. Also, at Bellevue Avenue and Woodstock Avenue, if they tapered it, it would help. Butch asked if there was anything else to add to Woodstock Avenue project?

Butch Shaw's report - He mentioned a lane reassignment at Merchants Row & West Street. Jeff mentioned that the Board Of Highway Commissioners is taking it under advisement.

Butch mentioned that there has been a problem near Depot Park with some damage of up to six lights. Maybe we could eliminate cut off near the TD Bank. This would help with pedestrian issues at this location. Jeff mentioned that this would be a Board of Highway Commissioners issue.

Old Business

1. Other old business

No other old business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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