

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2017**

PRESENT: Commander Prouty, Jeffrey Wennberg, Gary Donahue and Bradley Lafaso of Lafaso Electric

ABSENT: James Rotondo

GUESTS: Jean & Marietta Yager, Timothy Payne and Linda Mumford

The meeting was called to order by Commander Prouty at 9:10 A.M. Minutes from the May 19, 2017 meeting were accepted as written. Today's meeting Agenda was approved. No further discussion.

New Business:

1. Request to install a "slow children" sign on Engrem Avenue – Don Tadio

Jeff Wennberg indicated that he has no objection with this. Jeff will call Don Tadio to identify the best location for this sign and have it installed.

2. Request to install a stop sign at the bottom of Hayward Avenue – Linda Mumford

Gary Donahue asked if it's an automatic stop, when there isn't a sign. Commander Prouty indicated that according to Statute, you're expected to yield right of way. Linda Mumford stated that vehicles come off of this street so fast. She doesn't feel it's residential traffic. She thinks it may be coming from Genesis. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that there is a lot of traffic, here. Commander Prouty isn't sure that it warrants a stop sign, maybe a yield. Jeff feels that a yield or stop sign would be appropriate. DPW will take a look at this and spend some time here to determine which would work best.

Linda also mentioned that at the other end of Mussey Street, there are 2 bushes sitting in the middle of a lawn, it's hard to see. Jeff stated that DPW has requested that the property owner modify them. Nothing has been done to these bushes. DPW would prefer to give the property owner a different plant to be planted here, so it's not difficult for people to see incoming traffic.

Linda said that she just doesn't know where to go to get help. For instance, the Railroad company said that problems with the Railroad tracks are the cities issue. Jeff Wennberg indicated that this isn't true. Commander Prouty mentioned that the Railroad company just fixed the tracks on Granger Street and it took like a year and a half. Jeff told Linda that the City isn't allowed to touch anything at a railroad crossing. Jeff will speak to Jim Rotondo about this and will share the information with Commander Prouty, who will correspond with Linda. Linda mentioned that she just doesn't want anyone to get hurt.

Old Business:

1. Speed cart to monitor speeding on Church Street and Kendall Avenue

Marietta Yager asked Commander Prouty what the results were of the data that was collected. Commander Prouty stated that we don't have a problem with speed, at this location. He mentioned that from Lincoln Avenue headed west, the speed wasn't high. Marietta asked what the statistics said. Commander Prouty feels that it should be a 25 mph school zone, here. Speed on Church Street was a non issue. From Grove Street, the speed was a little higher. Jean Yager asked about the speed of the parents dropping the kids off in front of the school. Commander Prouty stated that you're talking about a school that was put at this location in 1929 that has 2000 students between the 2 schools. Even moving busses to the front of the school, where it is a designated bus drop off, doesn't help. Commander Prouty asked what we need to do with charter & ordinance? He indicated that we need to put up a "school sign" West of Lincoln Avenue and "No Speeding" signs to support this. Signage is an issue around this area. The signs on Crescent Street are faded.

Marietta doesn't feel anything is wrong with putting signs for 25 mph, 1-2 blocks around the school. These cars are going so fast. Commander Prouty indicated that 35 mph is fast for this area. Marietta is willing to sit there with a radar gun. Commander Prouty indicated that the Police officer's will do that. Marietta asked if they could also have more signs warning people that they are coming up to a school. Maybe a "School ahead" sign, then when you pass Lincoln Avenue, another sign saying 25 mph. Marietta also asked if she and the neighbors could have cards printed up to put under windshield wipers, saying they are being watched? Commander Prouty indicated that we would not be doing this. Marietta said that there are so many kids walking to school.

Commander Prouty asked Marietta if Chief Kilcullen had relayed to her about the stop sign that is way up in the air. Jeff Wennberg stated that we can't put a 2<sup>nd</sup> stop sign below. That's illegal. He stated that the Federal manual is quite large and the City needs to slavishly comply with this manual. Marietta asked if this was federal law. Jeff indicated that it's the Manual of uniform traffic devices. Jean Yager suggested that we put up local signage not attached to the post of the stop sign. Jeff agreed that yes, local signage can be put up as long as it's not attached to the post, but we have to be sure we comply with the regulations in the manual. Marietta stated that people do stop at the stop sign. Commander Prouty stated that people have complained that they can't see the stop sign. Marietta stated that their issue isn't the sign, it's the speed. Commander Prouty indicated that the speed limit is 30 mph. It's State law. There's a moratorium on this. He also stated that we already have 25 mph established on Church St. He also mentioned that to be consistent with other schools, we need to go one block out when you cross Lincoln Avenue, cross Grove Street, south of Crescent Street, North of Williams Street. Jeff Wennberg stated that we can do this. Just need to plan the layout of the signs. Jean Yager stated that if the City needs volunteers, they will help. Also offered to write letters, if need be. They're happy to help.

Jeff Wennberg stated that he thought he mentioned this previously that he has a draft of the Complete Streets and is open for comments to the end of the month, related to future road projects with paving. This is a guide that the department would use to evaluate what pedestrian, car enhancements would be appropriate as related to the road. Jean mentioned that this particular neighborhood block is heavily used by children. (the zone around the Rutland Intermediate and Rutland Middle Schools).

Commander Prouty mentioned when we weren't allowed to move the sidewalk inside of the fence line. Jeff Wennberg said he could understand that and that we might want to look at this to see as far as the template should be. Commander Prouty said if we head to the West, we don't have an issued down there.

Jean Yager asked if we could put the school zone signs and 25 mph signs up before school starts this year. Commander Prouty stated that he hates doing something that he can't back up. He wants the ordinance in place. Marietta Yager asked if there is a school ordinance for speed. Commander Prouty stated that there isn't. Jean asked local or state. Commander Prouty said we can have village ordinance for speed. Just need a speed study covered by law. The speed study would need to be a recent study, within a certain amount of years.

That street beats up the fire trucks. Commander Prouty stated that he thought we have the biggest Maple Tree in the State of Vermont. Jeff Wennberg stated that it's certified. It's a Silver Maple tree.

Linda Mumford stated that if we didn't have money, then why are they putting trees all up on Stratton Road. Jeff Wennberg stated that that is different money. He also said that for every \$1.00 that DPW spends, they are \$2.00 behind. She also stated that Meadow Street is rough. Jeff stated that DPW is doing Meadow Street this year.

## 2. Charter, Ordinance update

Commander Prouty stated that he sent Commander LaChance to charter and ordinance regarding parking in the City right of way. It's going to the City Attorney. This would be to make a parking ordinance. Once a parking ordinance is in place, then we could exercise our rights to remove properties from linear edge of road to sidewalk. Gary Donahue stated that he is the Chairman of Charter and Ordinance. He asked Dave why. Commander Prouty asked why the value system on one street is different than another. If you parked a \$500.00 car between sidewalk and the city right of way, it look's awful and kills the grass. Some people have paved this area and it's not their property, it's the property of the City of Rutland. It's a safety concern.

Gary Donahue is concerned about reaction to this. You're asking us to take the brat for this. People will be wild. Commander Prouty doesn't feel they will. Park Avenue and Library Avenue hasn't caused issues. It works, it looks nice. People are taking ownership, keeping it so that it looks nice. The "green space" is where the snow is to go. Winter ban in on the street. Jeff Wennberg stated that DPW gets complaints of the plow trucks clipping vehicles from time to time. I'm convinced this change to ordinance will work. Look at Library Avenue. Since making the improvements to this area, we haven't received one call regarding any issues of vehicles not having a place to park. They figured it out. Commander Prouty stated that we haven't written any tickets in this area, either. Commander Prouty mentioned that these neighborhoods have struggled and now it seems there is a sense of pride, here. Gary Donahue asked if this change to ordinance could be done in pieces. Commander Prouty stated that he thinks that Chief Kilcullen would like all this done before winter. Bradley Lafaso stated that the Charter and Ordinance is online. Gary said that the online version isn't user friendly. Commander Prouty said he looked at all applicable ordinances. That's why we sent it to ordinance committee. Gary Donahue said that the City Attorney is working on putting together language. Then, Gary will hold a Meeting, then the proposal would go to the full board.

The perfect example is Killington Avenue. It's traffic calming, makes you slow down. Wait until you see the project that is going to be done on Strongs Avenue. It's amazing.

#### Other Old Business:

Sidewalk on Curtis Avenue – Linda Mumford asked when is this to be done and asked why are they Doing a one way Street (Spellman Terrace). Jeffrey Wennberg stated that the City is replacing a water Main on Spellman Terrace. It's not a street project.

Pothole filling – Linda Mumford mentioned how DPW fills pot holes and then the tar comes out. Jean Yager mentioned that he was going to spray names on pot holes of officials. He asked if this would be illegal. Commander Prouty said it could be.

Jeffrey Wennberg stated that his budget gets \$500,000.00 a year to maintain the roads. We should have 1 million to try to keep up. He has asked for \$750,000.00. Linda Mumford stated that Curtis Avenue could use some of it. Bradley Lafaso also indicated that Maple Street could also use some.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore  
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor  
Police Commission  
Board of Alderman  
City Clerk  
Post