

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2016

PRESENT: Jeff Wennberg, Jim Rotondo, and Commander Prouty

GUESTS: Ron Hemenway and Susan Ellis

Jeff Wennberg requested that an item be added to the Agenda. This item is “no parking this side” for Library Avenue and Park Avenue. We approved adding this item to the Agenda for today’s meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Sgt. Prouty at 9:07 A.M. Minutes from the May 27, 2016 meeting were accepted as written and today’s meeting agenda was approved. No further discussion. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. Request to install a traffic light at the new Goodwill location on North Main Street – Cindy Haviland

This issue was discussed. Unfortunately because the request is for a signal light, we wouldn’t be able to honor this because it’s a State highway. Possible solution might be if they had a lane people could pull into, to wait to get in travelling lane, this would help. This section of the highway is wider and there are good sidewalks for most of it. Commander Prouty mentioned that our data on crashes located on Route 7, where we have two lanes heading North and South, are mainly from vehicles turning left or people rear ending vehicles. Jeff asked if in the complete streets draft if North Main Street was identified as road diet? Jim mentioned they don’t identify it in complete streets as that.

2. Request for a “Stop” sign at the corner of Union St. & Howe St. – BROCC

This item was discussed and the decision was made to honor this request and install a stop sign at this location.

3. Issue with 53 Ft. trailers travelling on Forest Street – June Zambon

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that this item has also been brought up by atleast 3 other people. There has been excessive truck traffic here. The neighborhood is getting hammered with these trucks. Gary Donahue brought this issue to DPW’s attention as well. Some of these trucks have businesses on Park Street. Vast majority can’t be going through here. Commander Prouty mentioned that the trucks are too heavy for residential streets. If they are overweight, the City issues permits. These trucks need to stay on roads designed for them. The trucks are typically coming from the West and taking a right on Forrest Street. Commander Prouty stated that there needs to be “no thru trucks signage” put up and the Police will enforce traffic control device. On DDAC, (Data driven approach to crime and traffic safety), zones are showing on upper Southwest, Forest St., Howe St. and Cherry Street. He will be deploying officers this summer to deal with this. Jeff stated that he will get the sign ordered and installed to be put on both ends of the Street. Commander Prouty will have Sgt. Kenneth Mosher come up with a plan for this.

4. Traffic volumes, stop sign running and speeding on Temple Street – Sue Ellis

During the school year, the traffic volumes are the biggest problem. Sue has watched people use Temple Street as a bypass from Route 7. There are lots of busses and kids. They shouldn’t be flying up there on Temple Street. Many years ago, she had asked an officer to watch the intersection and write tickets. She said the officer said he could spend the entire day writing tickets here. It’s becoming a quality of life issue and is dangerous for the Adults and the kids. It has gotten worse since we fixed North Street extension. She mentioned that there is a frost heave on Bellevue Avenue that seems to be some kind of solution to speeding. Jeff mentioned that they are redoing this road this year. He

wondered if there are traffic calming features that could help. We did a speed survey and the counter was located past the Northeast school entrance headed West. Excessive speed here was pretty bad. She mentioned that landscape trucks with trailers fly through here. She's trying to preserve quality of neighborhood, whether it be a stop sign or depression in road. Commander Prouty mentioned that there should be something we can do to get the speeding down. Jim mentioned they will be paving up there this summer. Maybe can change horizontal. Commander Prouty asked if they were thinking environmental design could help. Jim will look again to see if they can slow it down, somehow. Commander Prouty will get the speed cart up there. Sue stated that people are driving East, not stopping at the Stop sign. We asked if it was in the shade, if there is shrubbery blocking it. It was decided to take a look to see if something is blocking people from seeing it. Sue appreciates any help with these issues.

5. City owned crabapples blocking visibility of the sign for Moulthrop Avenue/Howe Scale complex – Joe Giancola

Maybe put additional sign for Commercial vehicles in front of trees, closer to Route 7, the turn is coming. Would be better for drivers to have notice that the turn is coming up soon.

6. Request to apply reflective paint to a driveway apron on North Main Street at Pond Meadow Park – Enid Reiman

Jeff checked out this location at night time. The lady who proposed this item lives at Pond Meadow Park. There isn't a light at the entrance. It's dark. Commander Prouty mentioned that if this was done, it would be dangerous, as the glass beads are slippery, especially on a wet night. Enid went to the Homeowners association and mentioned this. Jim mentioned maybe we could put up a solar light here. Commander Prouty also suggested that maybe they could change the lighting on their sign. Jeff will respond back to Enid.

7. "No parking this side" for Library Avenue & Park Avenue - Jeff Wennberg

Commander Prouty suggested that we alternate days for each side of the street for no parking. It would be traffic calming. This would prevent people from parking on the sidewalk. Jeff asked Commander Prouty if he wanted to put something together to maybe explain this proposal so DPW can send it to the Board of Alderman. Commander Prouty said that one side of the street would not be able to park on the odd days of the month and the other side would not be able to park on the even days of the month.

8. Other new business

It was brought up that our Traffic Safety Committee doesn't have a representative from the Board of Alderman, like we have had in the past. Commander Prouty will reach out to them to find out who from the Board of Alderman should be on our Committee and advise us.

Bus stop on Allen Street – Ron Hemenway

Ron is concerned about the location of this bus stop. He said he works with the bus a little bit. Ron will call Commander Prouty to see if the Bus is on the Agenda for an upcoming meeting and if so, will plan to attend.

Old Business:

Other Old Business:

To close out the meeting, Sgt. Prouty asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post