

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2018

Present: Commander Greg Sheldon, Jeffrey Wenberg, Jim Rotondo, Dave Sears, BOA-Rebecca Mattis and Brad & Tina Lafaso of Lafaso Electric, Inc.

Guests: Susan Schriebman, Dimitri Ampatiellos - Chaffee Art Center & Dean Pierce - RRMC

Absent: Ted Gillen

Meeting called to order at 09:09 A.M. by Commander Sheldon

New Business:

1. Rutland City's plans for East Center Street and their potential impact on the Chaffee Art Center- Dimitri Ampatiellos, President of the Chaffee Art Center

Dimitri Ampatiellos made a presentation to the Traffic Safety Committee regarding the expansion that the Chaffee Art Center is going through, which will allow them to share unique art, by becoming part of a Circuit. They have to pay \$150,000 to be a member of this circuit. The Chaffee Art Center has over 3500 members and are the oldest nonendowed Art Center and has survived without public monies. In 1961, they loaned out the building to the Rutland Area to display seasonal art. They are looking to purchase 3 additional homes on East Center Street. These homes would be used for residency of the artists. They also plan to restore the lift in the central Tiage room. An international cafe is being put in so you'll be able to sit with art work and eat/and or drink. They will have art therapy and will also be bringing art into the home for those that are home bound. The Art Center will be integrated into the permaculture and will open to national & international artists, while still showcasing the Vermont local artists. They are raising money for all this work to be done.

The Chaffee Art Center sees this project as a catalyst for the City. They are trying to create a different ambience. Power line will be buried, streets will be repaved and the area will have new sidewalks. What they have accomplished within the last year and a half has been incredible. They are nurturing relationships with the neighbors, they have cut trees down and delivered the firewood to whomever wanted it.

A possible adverse affect for the Chaffee Art Center would be bus traffic. The Art Center would like to see access to the Chaffee from Main Street and they want to prevent excess traffic to the neighbors. Dimitri Ampatiellos asked if anyone had any questions. Jeffrey Wennberg mentioned that currently, parking area is behind the building and East Center Street is a residential street and is pretty narrow. Jeffrey asked what plans they had to reconfigure traffic flow within the property? Dimitri advised that for the adjoining property on East Center Street, they have 10 designs for permaculture projects. They need to bring it down to two plans and want to present the two plans to the public. One plan would have a roundabout within the parking lot, moving entry further east. Jeffrey Wennberg asked if they were planning to increase driveway access from Route 7. Jim Rotondo asked if they have a plan regarding the driveway that they could share. Dimitri stated that they don't have one, yet. Jeffrey mentioned that if East Center Street was to be Two way to access their property, it would require re-engineering of lights, etc. Dimitri mentioned that they are mindful enough as a board to know that all of this is a process. Goal is to bring all parties together to see what we can do together. His presentation ended at 9:45 a.m. Jeffrey Wennberg thanked Dimitri for taking the time to give us a preview of where they're headed. This is helpful to see plans & work with you as it develops. Dimitri said, Thank you and said he would be in touch.

2. Proposed Guardrail and Alignment of Rutland Creek Path Segment 5— Susan Schreiber

Susan mentioned that they have constructed segment 1, 2 and 3 and have put out to bid segment 4 and the plans are almost finalized. The City will pave the sidewalk from driveway of Meadow Street Park to River Street. Segment 5 represents the western end of Dorr Drive bridge to sidewalk of Ripley Road bridge. Susan stated that this segment has been an environmental challenge. There is 250 ft boardwalk because there's no land, then paved path & connects to sidewalk of Ripley Bridge. The preliminary plans show that they are within City right of way. The engineer thought it would be best to move the Green Mountain Power poles. This would put poles on the edge of the street and that would be dangerous. Green Mountain Power asked if we could put path next to road and they could move poles a bit. Susan walked with Jim Rotondo & Ted Gillen to approach them about locating path beside the road with a guardrail. Metal on travel lane, wood finish on path side. She asked the Traffic Safety Committee what they thought of this idea. Jeff Wennberg asked what the shoulder width between the guardrail and side of road was, as he is concerned about snow and where it would go. Susan stated that she didn't know, yet. Jim Rotondo asked if they could draw a cross section with dimensions so we could see what they're talking about. Jeff also asked what the snow removal on the path is done by. Susan replied that it isn't done. Jim wondered who is responsible for that. Jeff stated that the Recreation Department is responsible for clearing the snow and if it isn't done, it will be a mountain and not attractive if people want to cross country ski.

Susan asked what the requirement as to the area that the City would need? Dave Sears replied that probably 2-3 feet. Vtrans said they can narrow path for short distances. She's not sure that they'd have 2 or 3 feet for snow removal. Jeff asked if we could move the road to create space. Sue asked if that would be moving it to the South.

She indicated that there is ledge & a historic wall, there. Rebecca Mattis asked if snow is the consideration if people want to use bike path. Sue will ask for them to look at area to see how much distance they have and will report back. Jeff mentioned that 11 feet is the minimum for travel lanes. Sue asked if the path is separated from the road, are these concerns to anyone. Commander Sheldon replied that this is really up to City DPW and not his say. Dave Sears mentioned that if they can get the snow off the road, that's what he's concerned with. Jeff mentioned that they could run the blower over the path. Jim asked how far the blower throws. Dave mentioned that it doesn't really throw it, it just pushes it. Susan asked if they could push the snow to just one spot. Dave said that they couldn't because their wings are angled. Dean asked if a revision could be done to run a snowmobile through the snow, just to create a flat area for walking and cross country skiing. Sue mentioned that she might be able to have the Recreation department come after the City has plowed. Jeff Wennberg thanked Susan for her persistence with this. Presentation ended at 10:09 a.m.

3. Request for RRFB's on Allen Street & Stratton Road- Dean Pierce, RRMC

Jim Rotondo & Ted Gillen met with Dean Pierce prior to our Traffic Safety Committee meeting today, to better understand his request for the installation of RRFB's at crosswalks near the hospital. Jim provided the Traffic Safety Committee with notes from their meeting and also included his recommendations. Dean stated that the Hospital Campus has expanded out to Commons Street, Albert Cree Drive and Freeman Avenue and there is a tremendous amount of foot traffic, as you can imagine. The increased foot traffic exists at these three points:

- Allen Street main entrance,
- Between hospital & Albeit Cree Drive and
- Allen Street to Freeman Avenue

We have put a pedestrian man out by Albert Cree Drive and it has helped a lot. Jeff explained that the pedestrian man doesn't work when you have a corner . It won't work at Allen Street entrance or Freeman Avenue. Dean asked how we make it safer for pedestrians. Do we have a flashing sign and touch the side of the sign, to give drivers warning? Dean mentioned that he has proposed to get these flashing signs & have them installed. We're concerned for the area of Freeman Avenue and the Hospital is interested in finding a solution. Jeff stated that Jim has given this a lot of thought. Jim Rotondo passed maps out to the Traffic Safety Committee members and indicated that the City would support Rapid Flashing Beacons at Freeman Avenue and at the mid block of Allen St with site improvements. He mentioned that there is also a sidewalk that leads to the pedestrian crosswalk on Allen Street (outpatient therapy entrance), there are probably 100 crossings there a day. Jim mentioned that in these packets on page 2, from outpatient therapy entrance is a concrete sidewalk. We would have additional signs to warn drivers that they would be coming into a crossing area. Dean asked who would be paying for City sidewalk changes, the City or the Hospital. He indicated that if there are changes to his proposal and put signs contingent on sidewalk, it's a fairly substantial change & could take awhile. He indicated that the Hospital has a process for requesting changes. The Hospital is interested in assisting with flashing signs. Jeff asked Jim what the ball park price would be? Jim estimated that it might be \$7,000.00. Dean said maybe round to \$10,000.00? Jim stated that the estimated amount of \$7,000.00 was for equipment. Brad Lafaso asked if this would have to be ADA compliant and mentioned that there is a lot factored into the button. His quote was for \$5,261.00 for ADA push button for one assembly. Jim will check to see if this needs to be ADA compliant. Brad shared quote with Jim. Jim stated that they'll sort out the cost and thinks that at the very least, it needs to go across the green belt. Dean mentioned that they're trying to get signs up to warn people of walkers, temporarily. Jim stated that we can't just leave it as is & put up signs without a permanent solution. This is only one idea. Jim pointed out that it would be taking out some pavement and would extend sidewalk out. Jeff asked, "there's no objection to RFB's with improvements, right? Conunander Sheldon stated that our position is always going to be to not support mid block crosswalks but that's not reasonable in this situation. He also mentioned that as long as everyone is reasonably patient at crosswalks. Pedestrian's don't always have the right of way. We haven't had anyone get hit at these locations. Dean responded that if we leave as it is, we're installing a sign. Jeff stated that we'd be putting \$20,000.00 of equipment in and I have a concern with that and we need to have an assurance of crosswalk improvement. Jeff stated that it's not the safest way to do it. We could take the crosswalk out and move it to the corner. RFB'S aren't the whole solution. We need to see other improvements before we make this investment. Dean stated that that changes things tremendously. Jim stated that in regards to Freeman Avenue, we have no objections there. Jeff totally agrees. Dave Sears inquired about doing away with the crosswalk and putting a sidewalk in to connect to Stratton Road. Jeff mentioned that if hospital pays for the equipment, we could get it put in. Dean asked if we could move forward on this one? Brad asked Dean if he wanted to know numbers. Jim mentioned that the three of them will look at it, then will get it to Dean for approval and asked Brad what the time frame would be. Brad said 4 - 6 weeks, Dean said 4-6 weeks. Brad mentioned that they can get concrete bases in, then mount the flashing beacon light when it comes in.

Presentation ended at 10:45 a.m.

Old Business:

1. Request for a speed limit sign to be put on Haywood Avenue and to have it enforced - Jeffrey Fredette
The speed cart is currently there recording data.
2. Inquiring why the traffic light at State St & Merchants Row isn't a blinking one - Donald Billings

The reason for this is because of the pedestrian traffic. The light will remain as it is.

3. Inquiring why the traffic light at Library Ave & Grove St isn't a blinking one -Donald Billings

The reason for this is because of the School.

4. School zone speed limit - Pending
5. No parking signs to be installed on Temple Street, starting at Main Street

Sign was removed.

6. No parking signs to be installed on St. John Street

This item is complete.

7. One Way section of Killington Avenue showing 3 different speed limits-Pending

8. Handicapped parking in front ofMSJ

This is on the list to be done. Do we care where the spots, are? Commander Sheldon stated that we just need to make sure that it meets ADA requirements.

9. Installation of a "Do Not Enter" sign facing south on Wales Street

This isn't necessary.

10. "No Parking" signs to be put up on East Washington Street between East Washington Street and Butterfly Avenue

This isn't necessary.

Other old business - No other business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M. by Commander Sheldon.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post