

## Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Friday, September 20, 2019 9:00am

Persons in Attendance: Mayor Allaire, Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sheldon, Jeffrey Wennberg, Ted Gillen, Dave Sears and Rebecca Mattis

Absent: Jim Rotondo and Brad LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Guests: Michael Parie, Barb Spaulding, Matt Whitcomb, Karen Ranz, Glen Reed, Nikki Hindman & Steven Peters from the Downtown Rutland Partnership and Gordon Dritschillo from the Rutland Herald

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am by Commander Sheldon.

New business discussed.

1. Request to close Bellevue Avenue ( the block from Woodstock Avenue to Temple Street) to non local traffic from 3:00 – 9:00 PM on October 31<sup>st</sup> to maintain safety during their open house

Barb Spaulding mentioned that several neighbors on Bellevue Avenue were also requesting the closing of the street. 29 neighbors are affected. Barb sent out a postcard to their neighbors regarding the suggestion to close the street and asked for their thoughts. Of the 29 neighbors, they received back 17 responses in favor of this and 1 not in favor, indicating they felt that it would lower the number of trick or treaters. She indicated they didn't want the Fire truck to hand out candy because it get's congested.

Commander Sheldon spoke with our City Clerk regarding this. Barb also spoke to our City Clerk and he stated that he wasn't sure it required a permit. Jeff Wennberg felt this should be our City Clerk's decision and this is a different request and isn't a block party. This seems like a reasonable request for safety reasons. Mayor Allaire mentioned it doesn't hurt to have the permit, whether or not it's necessary from a safety point of view.

Chief Kilcullen indicated our sense would be that a special permit would be appropriate, we won't close the street, we will use our large electronic sign board for a message and if it becomes an issue, we'll close the street at that time. Jeff asked Barb if there would be issues with the requirements on a special permit and if so, maybe we could waive some of those. Barb indicated there would be and asked if we could mention to Fire Department to not drive through this area. Chief also mentioned that we could put up some temporary "No parking" signs. Jeff asked if a large percentage of people come by automobile and wondered if we could talk to Kim at the Recreation Department and have people park at the Godnick Center.

Barb said that a large percentage of people come by car and that they had 1134 visitors last year. She also mentioned that her 20 – 29 volunteers park at the Godnick Center.

2. Request for a lane shift sign in the southbound lanes of Main Street in front of Burger King and Wendy's

Chief Kilcullen mentioned this is the area where the 2 southbound lanes are. Dave stated that he didn't have to explain. Chief mentioned that permanent road markings with proper width's would help. He asked if there is still work to be done on the road before markings can be put down. Dave Sears indicated that we have been waiting since May. Chief asked what road markings were available. Was told that they could put down thermal plastic and it would last 3-4 years but it has to be put down when pavement is hot. Chief asked Dave for suggestions. He stated that he could have someone grind out where lines will be. Chief asked Dave to plan to get this done.

3. Request for Speed cart at CKS on Killington Avenue

Commander Sheldon stated that we will put a pole mounted radar sign there on the last pole on the left and will have up by Tuesday of next week.

4. Requests a look at information from Glens Falls about pedestrian safety in crosswalks

Glenn Reed introduced himself and mentioned that he works for Vermont Center for Independent Living and is a member of the advocacy group. They look at safety issues. Their office is in the old BROOC building. He has noticed that people are not stopping at intersections and would like for us to consider possibly duplicating what Glens Falls, New York did regarding pedestrian safety in crosswalks. If it's effective in Glens Falls, maybe it could be effective, here.

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that New York provides money for initiatives. We have Highway Safety money here in Vermont and could see if we can use it for this. At the start of next week, we will have an Officer sit on a bench and radio in when they see something of concern. He wants to put together an education handout brochure. V Trans has one. We will reach out to them to see if we could get something from them. Their brochure is "Guide to Sharing VT roads". There's education on both sides, pedestrian & motorist.

Matt Whitcomb stated that Project Vision just completed research getting from their door to pick up point. Chief Kilcullen stated that our preference is to enhance compliance. Part of this is getting vendors to come.

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that the department is putting in flashing beacon lights at 3 or 4 locations . Ted Gillen it started off with the Creek path, and then Rutland Regional Medical Center came to us.

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that bump outs minimize the time a pedestrian has to be in the roadway.

Mayor Allaire stated that a plan will be put together and this won't be an issue next year. DRP will start today.

5. Request for law enforcement around bicycles on the sidewalk, right turn on red in regards to pedestrian safety and crosswalks

Karen Ranz introduced herself and mentioned she was at our Board of Alderman's meeting, previously. She was in the crosswalk, there was a car in front of her and the sign was on for pedestrians to walk. The car went through the intersection and a marked cruiser was behind it. It looks like we need to enforce this. There was another issue, she almost got hit. She went home and looked up the ordinances and cited Chapter 23 and referenced paragraphs , A & C. She read both of these to us. She indicated she spent a good part of 2 days last week at Wales, Merchants Row and West Street and talked with people and business owners. She asked them what their concerns were. They mentioned crosswalks. Bump outs aren't working. There was a suggestion about 3 or 4 years ago to have Blue lights parked. She thinks Police department could partner with business owners. There needs to be an element of public awareness with Bicycles and Skateboards. She saw 5 people riding bicycles on sidewalks. Bike is a vehicle. We need public awareness. Talk with the Female business owners downtown. She has 8 or 9 pages of signatures. Chief Kilcullen mentioned that the brochure we are looking to put together, will help. Karen said that she didn't think brochure is going to help. Chief mentioned that when the Police see something of concern on our sidewalks, we can immediately provide people with the brochure. Karen also stated she would recommend bike safety and bike laws. She offered to write a program. Chief mentioned that the Kiwanis hosts a bike rodeo atleast once a year. Karen mentioned that when Cindi Wight was with the Recreation department, she encouraged people to ride to work. Karen asked when we will see enforcement. Chief indicated that hopefully, next week.

6. Downtown Handicap Parking

We received a request to increase handicap parking spots downtown. We identified current handicap spots on a map in red and are looking to add @ West end and at corner of Washington, Merchants Row. If anyone else wants to help mark up the map, let the Chief know. We will plan to discuss this further, at our October meeting. We had a request from 2 Businesses. The request for one at Washington & Wales St, didn't

approve based on agreement in place with the Bardwell House. Mayor spoke to Jeff at Bardwell House about trading a spot in City Hall lot.

Rebecca asked if we could put a curb cut where Center Street Alley comes out. Is there a reason for curb to be there? Mayor thinks it was there from the past.

Karen Ranz mentioned that the block of Washington Street, sign for reserved parking can't be seen. It's facing City Hall. Chief mentioned that this has been on the Agenda and needs to be in compliance.

7. Alternate Side signage on Park Ave and Library Ave

This came up about 3 years ago. There was some difficulty with wording of the signs. We're not usually writing tickets until sunrise. There was an incident where a ticket was written at 7:30 AM. Individual brought it to our attention and we took care of the ticket. Do we like the alternate side parking? Should signs be clearer? Jeff suggested to pick a side of the street and have no parking on that side. Dave mentioned that the sign would be huge if we kept additional words. Commander Sheldon asked if we would go through the same process we did on Edgerton Street, where we sent mailings to neighbors and asked their preference as to what side of the street they would like to be "No parking"? Chief suggested that we leave it the way it is. Then, at 9:00 A.M. each day, we will enforce this by writing tickets.

8. Stop signs at north end of Shopping Plaza at Evelyn Street

Commander Sheldon said that he's not sure if this is City property. There were stop signs there, before. There is truck traffic. The stop bars are still there. If this is the Plaza's property, we can bring it up with them.

9. Request for "No parking here to corner" signs on Chestnut Avenue near Library Avenue

The biggest problem is that cars are parked on both sides of Chestnut Avenue and can't go around the corner. Drivers can't see kids. Chief agrees. We could need 4 signs to move cars back ( 2 signs on Library Avenue and 2 signs on Chestnut Avenue)  
Chief also mentioned the plan to talk to the School regarding parking, there. Leon Davis asked when signs would be put up. Chief stated that it's up to these gentlemen, Jeff Wennberg and Dave Sears. Dave indicated they should be put up in a couple of weeks. Chief indicated that we can't do compliance with the sign not being there. We may also get our School Resource Officer to talk to the Schools regarding this.

## Non-Agenda Item's :

1. The pedestrian crosswalk at Woodstock & Stratton

Jeff Wennberg indicated that the signs are being replaced. Michael Parie asked about the sun shade. It will be replaced with with LED lights.

2. New Indian restaurant at Main & Woodstock. Stop sign is right in front of their sign.

No further discussion. We will discuss this more at next months meeting.

3. Waiting for lights to turn where there are "No right turn on red" signs

Michael Parie stated that he can sit at the intersection of corner of State Street and West Street, waiting for the lights to turn. He usually has to wait through the other sides 2 cycles of green lights. Red lights are hindering traffic and backing you up and so is the "No turn on red" signs.

Commander Sheldon mentioned that at the intersection of Washington Street & Strongs Avenue, a couple of Bardwell House residents got hit. That is why this intersection was changed so that there are "No right turn on red", here. He is also commented that he's not sure if it's "No turn on red" at the West Street and Pine Street intersection. Dave Sears mentioned that the Oil Company sits far out to the road, there. Jeff mentioned that the lights that allow right on red, cost \$16,000.00. There's cameras at the light signals, too.

Nikki Hindman mentioned that there is a continuous issue on Merchants Row when taking a left on Center Street, on West side of Merchants Row. On June 19, 2018, there was a woman struck by a car when the walk sign was on. Last Friday, my dog was hit while the walk signal was on. Maybe think about this for next years budget.

Rebecca mentioned that there's a one second to two second lead time at other crossings. Nikki mentioned it doesn't help people crossing. Maybe have all traffic stopped. Mayor thinks the lead time was added because it had to do with traffic stacking.

## Other old business

1. Request to modify signage on Washington Street in front of City Hall –  
Kim Peters, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Department

On **2/15/19**, was decided to use existing sign, just add M-F & 8-5

On **7/19/19**, signs still need to go up

2. Request for crosswalk lines to be placed on Meadow Street in front of stairs Heading to St. Peter Church & Rectory – Fr. Thomas R. Houle, O.F.M. Cap  
  
On **2/15/19**, was decided that Jeff would reconfigure parking lot on Meadow Street and maybe add the flashing beacon lights  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed
3. Parking at Rutland Intermediate School & Rutland Middle School  
And request for a few “15 minute” parking spots in front of Rutland Middle School  
  
On **2/15/19**, Jeff Wennberg’s suggestion was that Church St parking be for staff near the playground with parking reverse diagonal where everyone has to back in  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed, part of the larger discussion
4. Request for Parking regulatory signs downtown to be replaced so that they meet the recommendations set forth in the USDOT / FHA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Officer Kevin Blongy  
As of **7/19/19**, signs are on order
5. Bardwell House parking signs  
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that the signs should be at a 90 degree angle (2<sup>nd</sup> priority)  
As of **7/19/19**, signs still need to be moved to a 90 degree angle
6. Kiosk signs  
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that a 7 foot post would be installed and new signs would be hung (1<sup>st</sup> priority)  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed
7. Prospect Street/Pleasant Street  
On **4/19/19**, it was decided to move the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign back on Pleasant Street to the edge of the first driveway  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed
8. Washington Street at Court Street south side  
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that we need something to be done here. The pavement is marked just like a parking space and nothing indicating you cannot park in that space. It is believed that this spot is considered emergency access to the Alley. It either should be marked no parking or at least should be painted yellow with an X in the space  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed

9. North block of Wales Street  
On **4/19/19**, Dave Sears mentioned that maybe they could extend the loading zone at “Turner’s old building to try to alleviate some of the congestion on Wales Street in that area  
As of **7/19/19**, not completed
10. Request to install a “No Left Turn” sign westbound on West Street at Wales Street  
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that this sign would be installed  
As of **7/19/19**, Brad LaFaso has the sign, just waiting for the mounting bracket to arrive
11. Request for better enforcement in the area of the 2 traffic lights near intersection of Killington Avenue and Main Street – Tim Brennan  
On **6/21/19**, it was decided that we would add a delay to the sequencing of the lights so that the first one would turn yellow, then the second one would turn red.  
As of **7/19/19**, was discussed but no action taken
12. Request to designate one of Bardwell spaces in front of the Masonic Lodge as handicapped – Jerry Tomlinson  
On **6/21/19**, this Agenda item was referred to the Mayor.  
As of **7/19/19**, Mayor says this item is under advisement
13. Request for the East Business 4 sign with arrow, Columbian Avenue & State St signs to be replaced or repaired – Sgt. Joseph Bartlett  
On **08/16/19**, it was decided that Dave Sears would look into this
14. Request to revise the Parking Ordinance to better accommodate motorcycle parking - William Donovan  
On **8/16/19**, Chief Kilcullen will follow up with Officer Blongy. We will look into changing wording regarding this and may need to modify the ordinance
15. Request for “No Parking” this side of road signs to be put up on the South Side of Willow Street – Raymond LaMoria, Jr.  
On **8/16/19**, it was determined that we will monitor this area
16. Request for pedestrian crosswalks to be painted – Mary Howard  
On **8/16/19**, it was determined that we need to come up with a solution regarding this. These are safety issues.
17. Request for a lane shift sign in the southbound lanes of Main Street in front of Burger King and Wendy’s – Detective Eric Morgano  
From **9/20/19**.

18. Requests a look at information from Glens Falls about pedestrian safety in crosswalks – Glenn Reed

(Print-outs of the Articles are attached)

From **9/20/19**.

19. Request for law enforcement around bicycles on the sidewalk, right turn on red in regards to pedestrian safety and crosswalks – Karen Ranz

From **9/20/19**.

20. Downtown Handicap Parking – Chief Kilcullen

From **9/20/19**.

21. Stop signs at north end of Shopping Plaza at Evelyn Street– Chief Kilcullen

From **9/20/19**.

22. Request for “No parking here to corner” signs on Chestnut Avenue near Library Avenue – Leon Davis

From **9/20/19**.

23. Pedestrian crosswalk at Woodstock & Stratton – Commander Sheldon

From **9/20/19**.

24. Request to move the stop sign at the end of Aiken Place near N. Main St – Rebecca Mattis

From **9/20/19**.

We received a status update on July 18, 2019 on 2 pending items and removed 1 from the Pending List.

We received a status update on September 16, 2019 and removed 7 items from the Pending List.

All other items are outstanding.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am by Commander Sheldon