

Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Friday, November 15, 2019 9:00am

Persons in Attendance: Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sheldon, Commander Prouty, Mayor Allaire, Jim Rotondo, Jeff Wennberg & Dave Sears

Absent: Ted Gillen, Rebecca Mattis and Brad LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Guest: Gordon from the Rutland Herald and Caprice Hover.

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

New business discussed.

1. Request for a blind person sign to be installed at or near 48 Kendall Avenue – Amanda Shute

Commander Sheldon will contact Amanda Shute regarding this. Commander Sheldon asked if the sign could go up, in the ground, now? He was told Yes it could. After Commander Sheldon speaks with Amanda, he will reach out to Dave so he can order the sign.

Non Agenda Item from Chief Kilcullen

There was some discussion regarding markings to let people know that they are coming upon a School. Dave mentioned that the word "SCHOOL" isn't painted in the road and stated that the State didn't do it. It was stated that there's a crosswalk on Stratton Rd, South, to the entrance of the school, where it could be painted.

Dave mentioned that when the pedestrian signal is activated at this crosswalk on Stratton and Woodstock Avenue, it locks down traffic.

Chief mentioned that it's not clear that there's a school in the area. What are thoughts to putting up, pedestrian crosswalk, ahead? Dave mentioned that there isn't any. It's a sign. We can do that.

Chief asked what everyone's thoughts are in regards to changing to 25 mph in that area. Jeff mentioned that we had come up with a map when we discussed this before. If we lower the speed limit, we could issue warnings for a year. After a year, start writing tickets. It's a good item. We're supportive of it. It should be 25 mph every day of the year.

Dave mentioned that Woodstock Avenue backs up to Hillside. Jeff stated that the plan wasn't to change speed on Woodstock Avenue. We would need to educate the public

because this would be a change. Commander Sheldon stated that we would put up radar to collect data over the next month. We also need to identify crosswalks ahead.

Jeff reported that the No turn on red replacement LED light for Woodstock Avenue is in and Brad will put it up over the weekend.

Mayor stated that reducing speed limits downtown & city wide , It's a bit controversial. Would like people to know our plan. Just makes sense to let them know ahead of time. Jeff stated that he will clear up map to show where we'll be reducing the speed to 25 mph, will present to Board of Safety and Board of Alderman. Mayor indicated that he felt that's the best plan.

Jim state we should collect data and let's see if there is a problem. We could move data cart around to other schools.

Non Agenda Item from Jeff Wennberg

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that he did receive communication from the School Department. Their interest is a school which is located in a house on Stratton Road. They are concerned about management of safety in this area. Jim is trying to set up a meeting with High School regarding adding another bus stop. He will try to get a solution to bring them.

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
On **10/18/19**, Dave mentioned the signs are in, just need to get someone to put them up
On **11/15/19**, Chief asked for a time line. Dave said pretty soon.
2. Bardwell House parking signs
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that the signs should be at a 90 degree angle (2nd priority)
As of **7/19/19**, signs still need to be moved to a 90 degree angle
As of **10/18/19**, Dave mentioned he needs to take out post, re-core holes, then Will be able to hang the signs
On **11/15/19**, Dave said this could be done pretty soon. It's a little bit of a Project, definitely before Spring.

3. Kiosk signs
On **4/19/19**, it was decided that a 7 foot post would be installed and new signs would be hung (1st priority)
As of **7/19/19**, not completed
As of **10/18/19**, Dave said this would be an end of construction season project
As of **11/15/19**, will be done pretty soon, before Spring.

4. 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
On **10/18/19**, there was a brief discussion that it might work better to have first light turn red and second light to turn yellow, instead of the other way around.
Jeff will talk with Brad to see if he can do this.
As of **11/15/19**, Jeff was asked to please check with Brad. Jeff asked him to Check this out & didn't hear back from him.

5. 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
On **10/18/19**, Dave said he will see if he ordered these signs. Jeff asked if we go after people who have damaged signs, for reimbursement. Chief asked if we should be having the Officer forward the crash reports to DPW when this happens. Jeff indicated that it would be helpful, because when a sign is knocked over or damaged, there's a cost to fix this.
As of **11/15/19**, Dave said he's not sure if this sign was ordered but will check on it.

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

(Print-outs of the Articles are attached)

As of **10/18/19**, we are working on this.

As of **11/15/19**, it was mentioned that we're looking to personalize handouts. Sgt. Whitehead had some officers out, doing some enforcement. Education piece side is on Pedestrian side. Issue with drivers are that they're not paying attention.

Caprice mentioned that when you're in Montpelier and step into the road, people stop. This doesn't happen, here. What's the purpose of doing bump outs? Thinks its dual education. Commander Prouty agreed.

Jeff mentioned that people here, could have expectation they won't be in trouble if they don't stop. Commander Prouty said that he wouldn't want to write a citation, a \$220.00 ticket, just to get to the ASA Bloomer building. Mayor Allaire asked if that would be for jay walking. Commander Prouty stated that there's a term for it. Dave mentioned an instance where there was a girl at the crosswalk, phone in her hand, never looked up, people were stopping, she wasn't paying attention.

Mayor spoke about bump-outs and that they are more visible and you're taking a conscious effort to try to do in a safe manner. That's not what's happening all the time. He indicated that he walks all the time.

Jeff got a report that someone got a grinder and watched 11 people who didn't Use the crosswalk or bump-out. The point you're making is well understood. Jeff isn't sure how you change the behavior. Phones are a problem, people have injured themselves by being on the phone trying to cross a street. Jeff asked if a local ordinance with less punitive fine, do this to make Policeman's job easier?

Chief said if it's going to happen, we're going to see it. It's difficult to allocate Resources to monitor this when we have officers dealing with other involved Issues.

Commander Prouty said that maybe language could mirror statute, and make fine reasonable.

Jeff mentioned that he sees a lot when he's out walking Evelyn Street & Merchants Row, people aren't paying attention. Jim mentioned when Mario was here regarding the all way stop at the Bardwell House. It backs up Traffic to Center Street. Jim indicated that they didn't discuss this area.

Commander Prouty asked where the Chief wanted the speed sign, next. Chief Indicated that he'd like it on Stratton Road, near the school.

7. 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**, we are working on law enforcement regarding bicycles
From **10/18/19**, a couple of signs were put up regarding right turn on red. At the intersection of West & Merchants, should we changed to left turn lane and then a right & straight lane? Jim said he wouldn't change the timing or anything. Said we need some pedestrian education and suggested that we put up Yellow, Yield to Pedestrians in crosswalk signs, on the crossbars.
As of **11/15/19**, still working on this.

8. Pedestrian crosswalk at Woodstock & Stratton – Commander Sheldon
As of **10/18/19**, Jeff said he would check on the status of this
As of **11/15/19**, this was taken care of.

9. Request to move the stop sign at the end of Aiken Place near N. Main St –
Rebecca Mattis
From **9/20/19**.
As of **10/18/19**, there was discussion about not being able to move the sign,
Due to federal regulations. Jeff will take a look at this.
As of **11/15/19**, Chief asked if the Business sign went up. He was told, Yes. Jeff
asked if we could move it and have it be legal? Dave said the only place we
could put it is in green belt, if that's what we want to do. Dave mentioned it's a
black sign, not sure if lighted or not. There's not a lot of foot traffic, here.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am by Commander Sheldon