

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2017

PRESENT: Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sheldon, Jeffrey Wennberg, Jim Rotondo and Dave Sears

ABSENT: Brad LaFaso and Gary Donahue

GUESTS: Rosemary Greene & Ron Bauer from Southwestern VT Council on Aging, Shawn Moore from Rutland Mental Health Services, Nick Santoro, Marilyn Griffith, Jane Kendall and John Coffin

The meeting was called to order by Commander Sheldon at 09:07 Hours. Minutes from the November 17, 2017 meeting were accepted as written. Today's meeting Agenda was approved. No further discussion.

New Business:

1. Request to have a permit for their handicap parking – Rosemary with the Southwestern VT Council on Aging

Our existing handicap signs were installed, prior. The Southwestern VT Council on Aging were informed that these handicap signs weren't permitted through Rutland City. Rosemary indicated that these signs were in the plans that were submitted to Rutland City's Building and Zoning Department and the

Southwestern VT Council assumed that everything was OK. She indicated that the Council wants to make this right.

Chief Kilcullen stated that the on street parking is outside of the scope of review of plans & wasn't communicated to the Southwestern VT Council on Aging or Rutland City's Department of Public Works. He indicated that we are looking at this with fresh eyes. He and Commander Sheldon went to the Southwestern VT Council on Aging's location yesterday. The experts with the guidance would be ADA. They are required to have 1 van accessible spot 96 inches wide to load from the passenger side. That won't work in the roadway. If you take the first 2 spots at Maple Street, you can designate them as van accessible. Rosemary indicated that there is only one spot, there. Chief Kilcullen stated that the back parking lot has more direct access to the ramp. Rosemary asked, so it needs to be in my parking lot? The signs are covered, the ground is frozen. She also asked if she has until spring to remove the signs that are currently covered?

Jim Rotondo stated that he has noticed that cars are over hanging the sidewalk. You need some bumpers, to prevent this. Jeff Wennberg indicated that it could be a problem if they were to run the sidewalk plow through this area.

Rosemary stated that for future reference, if plans are being submitted to the City, shouldn't this information have been told to us before the end of the plans? Jeff Wennberg stated that it would have been better that when the plans were reviewed, it should have been flagged to run through differently. Rosemary also indicated that it would have been nice to know we needed bumpers. She was told they couldn't park on Baxter Street. Rosemary stated that the Southwestern Vt Council on Aging have 26 employees and there are only 19 spots. We knew it would be a challenge. We anticipated that we could park on the Street. Chief Kilcullen stated that he isn't aware of any parking restrictions on Baxter Street. Rosemary stated that someone from Project Vision said that they couldn't. The Police Officer came inside and told them. Commander Sheldon stated that he and Chief Kilcullen will plan to go to the Council on Aging's location and take another look at the area. Jeff Wennberg asked that they encourage employees not to park on the sidewalk. Eventually, maybe the Agency could put up barriers. Rosemary asked if it is the primary responsibility of the

property owner to clear the sidewalk. Jeff stated that DPW plows the sidewalks as a convenience and that they can't scrape it to bare because they don't want to have situations with potential for collisions. Jeff indicated that if it's driveway apron, it's the responsibility of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging. Rosemary indicated that it's in the path of the sidewalk, it's past the driveway. Jeff will look at this and let her know.

2. Wants to discuss his concern for kids who frequently use the Park located at Library and Baxter Street – Nicholas Santoro

Nick Santoro stated that he has witnessed clients driving over the sidewalk to the street, #1 issue. He is suggesting that the back area be used for clients. He also mentioned that Marilyn and her grandson were almost run over by an elder client. He stated that Carly Ferro instigated Project Vision, it brought neighborworks & neighborworks has brought the Council on Aging. This has brought another storm. The Development Review board insisted on parking lines and a fence between the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging's property and adjoining property. A traffic study wasn't suggested. We live at 132 Maple Street. There are kids at the park and at bus stops. We have elderly drivers and narrow streets and with your business, there is more UPS traffic, FED-EX, more WB Mason traffic. They're moving fast. There is fast traffic going down Baxter Street, increased car traffic, truck traffic, elderly traffic. Back up space, it's a tough spot for them. At least until Spring, maybe reverse the parking situation. He mentioned to Gail Courcelle that the traffic flow study is imperative. A blighted property could be used for parking. I think it's a perfect storm for people to get hurt or killed. There's a lot of poor people, here. We have to be more attentive with a 4 year old grandson.

Chief Kilcullen stated that we want to give you the opportunity to address traffic committee issues. Looks like your issues are with the Development Review Board. We are beyond that. The data we collect doesn't suggest the neighborhood is dangerous, to support having a traffic study done.

Nick Santoro stated that he is saying we need a traffic study and that the Council on Aging got a free pass.

Chief Kilcullen stated that we need to focus on traffic issues. If you told us speed is an issue, we could put up our traffic cart.

Nick Santoro stated that in terms of front park area, it's completely difficult.

Chief Kilcullen stated that the off street issue may not be under our purview, either.

Nick asked how do you quantify a person whose capacity to drive is a concern? It's a difficult spot. Only resolution for winter, is reversing the parking. Jeff Wennberg said that this would be up to Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging on how they instruct their staff & clients. Sounds like they are open to these options.

Rosemary stated that they have concerns with their clients. She also stated that she has had several conversations with Mr. Santoro. She will talk with management team & board and find some options. We want to be good neighbors.

Nick asked about the handicap signs. He was told that they will come down.

3. Proposal that the westerly end of Engrem Avenue from South Main Street to the entrance to the second Christ the King parking lot be redesignated as Two-Way – John B. Coffin

John Coffin presented copies of his proposal and google maps of the area, showing the 3 parking lots near Christ the King Church.

Jeff Wennberg stated that the basis of the One-way on the East side of South Main Street in area, to limit & control turning movements necessary on South Main Street. With the exception of Jackson Avenue, the streets are controlled by traffic lights. Other roads are One-way in the opposite direction are to prevent traffic from stacking up. The change of making this a One-way street was done in the 1980's and has worked. If we were to allow left hand turns, it would not be advisable. It would be seriously problematic on South Main Street.

Maybe reverse direction of Engrem & Killington Avenue's. Jeff indicated that he doesn't think this would work, either. If we were to change it from what it currently is, he's not sure that people would know where to go. If we want to avoid looping through areas to get to parking lots, no clue as to how effective it would be.

John suggested that maybe Law enforcement could choose to not ticket people going onto Engrem Avenue from South Main Street.

Shawn Moore asked what precluded this. Have you seen more traffic coming in? As the Maintenance Director for Rutland Mental Health Services, from 7 am – 5 pm, our lot is used. As much as Shawn would love to see the street go both ways, it would create more issues. The Police department would be responding for accidents and without a light, you'd stack traffic. It would be an imperfect storm. Shawn stated that he has had many conversations with drivers from their facility about decency.

John asked if Shawn has seen people come from South Main Street. Shawn said that he wasn't going to deny seeing this. John stated that he would withdraw his proposal. Jim Rotondo stated that we have one left out of Engrem and doesn't think there's enough stacking room.

Shawn stated that the Agency owns a lot on Jackson Avenue. We had originally wanted an exit to go onto Jackson Avenue. You might be seeing all that traffic. Maybe our Agency could work with the City to create another exit from their building onto Jackson Avenue.

Nick Santoro asked why is it difficult to make Engrem dangerous? Shawn indicated that they have 300 employees and maybe 60 vehicles.

Old Business:

1. Edgerton Avenue

Jeff reported that the letters to the residents on the Dead End portion of Edgerton Avenue will be going out on Monday, December 18, 2017, indicating that there's a need to do something regarding parking. He indicated that they will solicit comments and give them a deadline. He will bring the feedback to our next meeting.

2. Request for parking meter to be replaced that was in front of 38 Wales Street

Dave Sears reported that they were in the process of repairing the pole for the parking meter when their shop was robbed and the hammer drill was taken. We're trying to get the pole back together, now.

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

Dave Sears reported that he forgot to get this done. He will work on this.

4. No parking signs to be installed on Temple Street, starting at Main Street

Dave Sears reported that he forgot to get this done. He will work on this.

5. Barrier to be put back down on Park Street off of South Main Street, near Clear Choice

Dave Sears stated that he is resisting doing this, but will get it done. He stated it's a big ugly piece of concrete. I know we have to put it up, because big trucks keep nailing the heads on the posts. He asked if we could put dollards.

Other Old Business:

No other old business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

Cc. Mayor
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post