

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2022

Commander Sheldon called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M

Members Present: Commander Sheldon, Jim Rotondo and Devon Neary

Guest Present: Jim MacFarlane

Members Absent: Ted Gillen, Chief Kilcullen, and Brad Lafaso of Lafaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for a permanent “No parking” sign to be installed on the grass on Porter Street (beside the Sunoco Station) – Jim MacFarlane

Jim MacFarlane introduced himself to the members of the Traffic Safety Committee. He lives in the 2nd house in from Sunoco and has lived there for 46 years. For the first 30 years, this area was maintained as Gateway services. It turned into a junk yard. He mentioned how Matt Bloomer has gone through a lot of trouble to get this cleaned out. Two years ago, people on West side of the Street had sidewalks that were sunken down. The city said they would tear up the sidewalk and cleaned up alongside the Sunoco station. They did a great job. Last year, they repaved the Street, put up temporary signs to keep people off the grass. The wind storms and plows have taken these temporary signs down. People are parking in this area overnight, even trailers. They’re coming from the Hotel and leave the vehicle parked here and the grass is getting torn up. The Gas Station is up for sale. He is asking the avoid having people park there. Whatever you can do would be great. A suggestion was made to maybe install “ No Parking Here to Corner” signs to be installed on both side. Then, after the signs are installed, we could have our Police Officer’s ticket offenders. Commander Sheldon thanked Jim MacFarlane for coming to our meeting today.

2. Assess the Amtrak/City parking lot for proper parking restriction signage (Amtrak Parking Only?) I’m told there are 28 total city owned spots designated for Amtrak on both the North and South side of the Amtrak station. RV’s occasionally occupy these spots for overnight “camping”, believing the lot is a Walmart lot.

Commander Sheldon and Chief Kilcullen looked at this. Steve Little made this request. Walmart can’t have campers park in the parking lot because Brix Moor owns the lot. Steve wants to put signs up.

Devon thinks that the grand opening of the Amtrak is set for Mid May of 2022. He also mentioned that if folks want to do work in downtown, there are permits they have to get and asked if there are restrictions as to public right of way. There are boxes everywhere. Should they set up alternative sidewalks?

Jim Rotondo stated that there is a permit called “blocking right of way” He stated that they are looking at all permits now and we have to address these safety concerns. When there are lifts doing work, (for example when work was being done at TD Bank)

Devon asked if Steve Little was complaining about just the overnight parking. Commander Sheldon stated Yes. Commander Sheldon mentioned that there was one unpleasant RV, in particular and Steve Little brought it up because it’s his responsibility to. Devon mentioned that

they got a grant. It could take a couple of years to do. This might be the time to reconstruct the parking lot. Maybe designate a section for "Overnight only", such as the Southern section. Commander Sheldon mentioned that with the rash of Stolen cars lately, if I'm parking my car somewhere overnight, I'd like it to be secure. Devon mentioned that he'd still like to see a good chunk to be open parking. Devon thinks the State owns Amtrak building and he thinks the problem is that Walmart no longer owns their parking lot. There is a black fence that is the City's. Commander Sheldon asked if we could put signs on the fence, for now. Devon stated that that band of parking on the front might be tricky. It was stated that they haven't noticed Overnights along the front area of lot. It's more towards the back. Devon stated that there are 15 spots along the fence to the South. Jim Rotondo asked Devon how many signs he thinks we need. Devon stated maybe we need 5 signs. Jim mentioned the possibility of doing it with pavement markings, (Amtrak parking only) Devon said that maybe a sidewalk or path can be done beside Broc's building, for their safety. It was decided that for the front and back of lot, pavement markings will be put down for "Amtrak parking only".

3. Request for "Deer Crossing" signs to be installed on both sides of the street, immediately south of #171 Stratton Road – Carol Pariseau

Jim Rotondo stated that he has no problem with installing these signs. Devon asked if there are any regulations for Deer crossing, signs. Jim thinks that we have the right to do it. It was approved to install one sign on each side of the road.

New Item to be added to the Agenda:

Request to install Rapid Flashing Beacon Lights at two locations – RRMC

Jim Rotondo mentioned that he met with Rutland Regional Medical Center 1 ½ weeks ago. Several years ago, at our September 21, 2018 Traffic Safety Committee Meeting, RRMC had wanted to put up several Rapid Flashing Beacon Lights and came to the Traffic Safety Committee to discuss this. A Rapid Flashing Beacon light was approved and was installed at the intersection of Stratton Road and Freeman Avenue. RRMC paid for this light and the City crew put them in. RRMC is now proposing to have 2 of these lights installed with one at the intersection of Allen Street & Commons Street and the other one to be installed at the intersection of Stratton Road & Albert Cree Drive. RRMC will pay for both of these lights and the City crew will do the work to install them. Jim feels that the one at Allen Street & Commons Street is warranted and we should do this one. Jim thinks that a pedestrian crossing sounds like it should be done here and that RRMC would need to do some improvements at this location before we would approve installing a Rapid Flashing Beacon light here. Would need to modify sidewalk, propose 90 degrees to meet the crossing. Jim showed the traffic safety committee RRMC's previous proposal to us regarding the Allen Street & Commons Street intersection. Devon doesn't like that alignment had it on the edge of both driveway accesses. Jim showed Devon what the Traffic Safety Committee proposed to RRMC after it was initially brought up at our 9/21/18 meeting, regarding this location. We had mentioned that we would bring this proposal back to this committee after some improvements were done. Jim stated that a Rapid flashing beacon light costs \$19,000.00 and a solar rapid flashing beacon light costs \$15,000.00 and the footings are about \$4,000.00. Their site designer would come up with a design, the location and final geometry and RRMC will need to present this to us for our approval. Jim said that he will order these beacon lights.

New Item to be added to the Agenda:

Safety of intersection on West Street in front of the Transit Center – Trees, Inc.

Devon stated that he received a call from the lady that runs Trees, Inc. She mentioned that they almost hit people on West Street in front of the Transit Center, Devon asked if there is anything that we can do to make this intersection better? Devon mentioned maybe we could install a Rapid Flashing Beacon light here. He mentioned he could apply for a Rapid Flashing Beacon light grant this June, for this location with a 50/50 match with the City of Rutland. It would be a small scale grant. He mentioned how a traffic study will be funded through the Vtrans bicycle grant with a 80/20 split (City would pay 20 %). Devon will bring this up in his report from representative.

Updates from DPW Commissioner in regards to Old Business Items:

We will be doing crosswalks on Stratton Road, 3 of them.

We will be putting up wider reflective strips at Pedestrian crossing signs

In regards to Signs, we have already overspent our sign budget line. We are preparing for our next budget, now.

Devon asked about traffic markings. Jim stated that they got \$150,000.00. They will be putting it out to bid to 3 places and have to wait until July 1st, award it and then get on their paving schedule. Jim mentioned it would be Epoxy. We will prioritize which places will get Epoxy and look at condition of streets. Devon asked if we've ever tried thermos plastic? He mentioned they used this in Poultney at the Corner of Church St & College St. They said it held up great. It is expensive.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 A.M.