

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2022

Commander Sheldon called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M

Members Present: Commander Sheldon, Commissioner Jim Rotondo and Alderman Devon Neary

Guest Present: Chris Barnett

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to take a look at a large overgrown bush at the intersection of Park Court and Belmont extension and a long standing stationery grey truck located at 1 Belmont Avenue Extension – Laurie Dahlin

Alderman Devon Neary asked if the car was mobile. Commissioner Rotondo sent the foresters here to check out the situation. The bush is on private property. Commissioner Rotondo recommended that we install a 4 way stop, here and if everyone feels the same way, he doesn't have an issue putting up the Stop signs. Devon mentioned that it really doesn't give a lot of space with the overgrown bush. He asked if there was a Yield sign here. No. There is a Yield sign on Park Court. Commissioner Rotondo feels that if we install the stop bar and the 4-way stop signs, it should control traffic, here. Devon asked if we have restriction on vehicle in yard. They are allowed one non registered vehicle. Our guest, Chris Barnett asked if public comment was allowed. Yes. He suggested we could make a diagonal barrier. Would make way safer for biking, walking. Devon mentioned that the volume of this street doesn't warrant this counter measure. There isn't a lot of vehicular traffic, here. The guest mentioned that he is an Urban planning student & certified drone operator. Commissioner Rotondo mentioned that he is more concerned with where the car is parked, than the truck. Is it a curb cut? It was decided that we do need something here to control traffic. It was decided to put up a 4-way stop at this location.

2. Proposed Class I Paving & Roadway Reconfiguration (US Route 7 & US Route 4) – James Rotondo

Commissioner Rotondo mentioned that he was first contacted by Brandon Kipp on January 28, 2022. He will be the contact person regarding this roadway reconfiguration project. They are in their early stages of the paving contract for 2024. We have the option to talk about lane reconfiguration. Commissioner Rotondo mentioned that he received an email from John Kaplan. There is a lot of benefit if we go along with new reconfiguration. Jim had concerns with curb cuts, etc. The packet came from him on May 23, 2022 with the last page to indicate they needed a decision by July 1, 2022. Jim mentioned that John Kaplan wanted to show how the process would work. If we say yes, Vtrans, to redesign traffic. Would follow the schedule on the last page of this agreement. Commander Sheldon asked when the test of new configuration would take place. The last time that we did this, we had issues with traffic at Rutland High School. 2024 would be the test trial. Is traffic committee unanimous on saying Yes or No? Jim invited Mayor Allaire to today's Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Devon mentioned having a lot of thoughts about this and asked that we table this until next month. If you look at the data in the Charts, there were 388 crashes in our City. That's high. We need traffic safety improvements along Route 4 & Route 7. He also mentioned if we do this, his concern is related to pedestrians and there isn't a crosswalk

from Deer Street to Stratton Road. There are some opportunities for safety enhancement, here. Commissioner Rotondo would love to start discussion with the State to get additional funds & reconstruct Woodstock Avenue. If it makes sense from safety & volume wise, to have Woodstock Avenue go down to 3 lanes, have a bike path and put in Street trees. Is there money available? Does it make sense? Our guest mentioned that we could do a safe bike path program through the school. Maybe we can start closing some curb cuts on Woodstock Avenue.

Mayor Allaire mentioned that when we tried to reconfigure Woodstock Avenue previously, the Business owners didn't have feedback before the reconfiguration was done. He feels that North Main Street is a straight stretch and maybe we could reconfigure without a lot of push back. He also feels that Woodstock Avenue will be a hard sell to reconfigure. Devon agreed. People say it will impact their Businesses. Then, Devon showed how if we calm the traffic, slow things down, there are benefits to their Businesses and we need to highlight these benefits to the Businesses. We need to do this early in the process. If at the Board of Highway, we vote for this, we can bail out after the trial period (60 days). Commissioner Rotondo will be back in touch with Brandon and will mention that we need more time to review this than the original deadline of July 1, 2022 and we will get back to him with our decision. Devon asked with this repave, if we are going to press them on more durable markings? Jim said Yes. We will need to do some coordinating with him. Epoxy is what was put on Center Street and it still looks brand new.

Updates from DPW Commissioner in regards to Old Business Items:

We are continuing with installation of pedestrian signs downtown and we did get the Amtrak stenciling done on the parking spots.

We put a couple of large orders in for Signs. We have started buying signs with Anti-graffiti film. We'll try it. If it works fine, this will be what we buy from now on.

In regards to the Deer crossing signs we installed on Stratton Road, they are no longer there. We now need to use anti-theft hardware. The only thing left is the base where the sign was attached. The homeowner at this location hit the base with their lawnmower.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 A.M.