

City of Norwich
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes
September 8, 2010

Members Present

B. Merritt, Chairman
G. Cleveland
G. Brookins
D. Lawatsch
T. Knapp
K. Perez

Present

D. Smith, ACP

Meeting called to order by Chairman Merritt at 7-30 PM.

G. Brookins made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 9th, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by G. Cleveland – Approved.

Correspondence: Received three letters of correspondence, which were complaints. It was agreed that the correspondence would be read and introduced in the meeting under New Business.

Old Business:

B. Merritt advised he received a call from Chenango Memorial asking what the status was in reference to their request to change the entrance into the hospital. They were advised the commission has not heard anything back from NYS DOT.

B. Merritt stated that the main problem is the uphill grade approaching the hospital from the north. He suggested that "SLOW" be painted on the pavement in the south bound lane a couple of times prior to the entrance as causing motorists traveling south to slow down may assist motorists in safely leaving the hospital lot.

G. Brookins suggested we wait for a response and suggestions from DOT before anything is done in this matter.

I advised I would attempt contact with DOT and see what the status is with this matter prior to the October meeting.

B. Merritt advised the small "Four Way" signs are still not on the posts under the stop signs at the intersection of Canasawacta and Cortland Streets.

New Business:

I read the letter received from Sarah Ulfik, Market Manager of the Chenango County Farmers Market. (Copy of letter attached).

Sarah was writing to request a permanent sign be placed on the Easterly side of East Park Place requesting the public find parking elsewhere on Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 8am and 1pm to aid vendors and persons shopping the farmers market in being able to obtain a place to park and set up.

Commission members to monitor this situation and bring their suggestions to the October meeting.

I read a letter from Timothy Hagen, Safety Chairperson of Catholic Charities. (Copy of letter attached).

Timothy's letter proclaims there is a "horizontal view obstruction" for motorists exiting O'Hara Drive onto Prentice Street. The limited sight is due to a group of trees and shrubs located between 22 Prentice Street and Fine Line Graphics.

G.Brookins advised there is a limb that does cause a slight sight obstruction and feels that trimming the branches would rectify this issue.

Commission members agreed to monitor the situation for next months meeting.

I advised I would look at the limb issue and possibly get the trees trimmed through Code Enforcement.

I read a letter from Christopher Sprague, resident at 27 Plymouth Street. Christopher wrote that he is concerned with "Speeding" vehicles in the section of Plymouth Street between Cortland and Pleasant Streets. He also states occasionally tractor trailers and other large vehicles, "such as farm tractors with hay wagons" have attempted to travel down this section of street and have difficulty navigating the turn from Plymouth street onto Cortland Street or they have to be assisted in backing their vehicles up to turn onto Pleasant Street.

Christopher gave a few suggestions in his letter to rectify these situations. In regards to the speeding vehicles he suggested speed bumps be installed in the street to prevent cars from speeding. He also suggested that this section of Plymouth Street be made "One Way" with Canasawacta Street being "One Way" in the opposite direction. He also suggested a sign be erected at the intersection of Plymouth Street and Pleasant Street posting the street as off limits to trucks and other oversized vehicles, except for local deliveries, which would require trucks to follow NYS Rte 23.

Commission members agreed to monitor this issue until next months meeting. I advised I would complete a police report and have officers conduct a few speed surveys in that area before the October meeting to see what the survey shows.

Chairman Merritt requested members monitor the parking on the South Side of Conkey Ave between Locust Street and Elm Street as there is curbing along the side since the parking lot and pickle ball court has been constructed there.

K. Perez advised there are trees interfering with the view of the Stop Signs on Rexford Street At Silver Street when you're traveling in an Easterly direction.

K. Perez made a motion to adjourn seconded by D. Lawatsch.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.

Next Meeting
October 13, 2010
7-30PM.

August 23, 2010

Traffic Commission
1 City Plaza
Norwich, NY 13815

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to request a permanent sign be placed on the Easterly side of East Park Place, requesting the public to find available parking spaces elsewhere during the Wednesday and Saturday 8am-1pm Market times. This has been a serious issue for us, recently worse than other years. Not only would this sign allow the vendors who pay for their 10' x 10' spaces along that side of the park to be able to actually park there, but will also allow them to sell their products to customers who will be able to park alongside them.

I am extremely grateful for your time and consideration in this matter and hope that we can come to a quick decision and installation, as unfortunately the vendors who are unable to set up in their allotted spaces, lose revenue each time they arrive to a full parking lot of vehicles not there for their shopping pleasure.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah K. Ulfik".

Sarah K. Ulfik
Chenango County Farmers Market, Market Manager
P.O. Box 469
Oxford, NY 13830
(607) 244-3209

July 2, 2010

Norwich City Traffic Safety Commission
Chairman Bernie Merritt
One City Plaza
Norwich, N.Y. 13815

Dear Sir:

We are writing to you to request your commission to consider safety concerns that need to be immediately addressed. Specifically, there is a traffic hazard that exists for motorists traveling north on O'Hara Drive at the intersection of Prentice Street. For motorists exiting O'Hara Drive there is a horizontal view obstruction as they look for traffic traveling east on Prentice. This limited sight is due to a large group of trees and shrubs delineating property lines (between 22 Prentice and Fine Line Graphics) that severely limits and obstructs the motorists clear view.

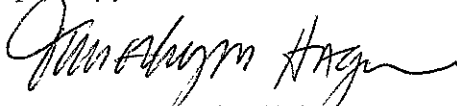
This consideration was exacerbated this week by the placement of a port-a-john on the small piece of open property that delineates the aforementioned properties. This along with a large piece of construction/demolition equipment which is parked in front of 22 Prentice St. makes entering Prentice St. extremely hazardous. We are aware that Chenango County recently acquired possession of the abandoned property at 22 Prentice Street.

It is evident that the residence on 22 Prentice Street is soon scheduled for demolition. It is imperative that the port-a-john immediately be relocated. This will alleviate the worsened condition that it has created. It is our opinion that this hazard could be eliminated by clearing a section of the aforementioned trees and thus allowing for greater sight distance of motorists on both roadways.

There is a large volume of traffic that exits on O'Hara Drive at Prentice Street on a daily basis. O'Hara Drive is the home to the New York State Department of Labor Office, Catholic Charities of Chenango County Office, Marlene Meadows apartment complex and the Norwich Aero Products building.

Kindly advise us of your opinion in this matter and what, if any, actions your office will initiate to alleviate this hazard.

Respectfully yours,



Timothy M. Hagen, Safety Chairperson

Catholic Charities of Chenango County

Christopher Sprague
27 Plymouth St
Norwich, NY 13815
(607) 336-5728

City of Norwich Traffic Commission
Bernard Merritt
10 Hayward Avenue
Norwich, NY 13815

August 8, 2010

Dear Mr. Merritt,

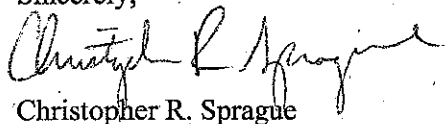
I am writing to you about the traffic on Plymouth Street between Cortland and Pleasant Streets, where I have lived for the past 7 years. I spoke with my alderman, Terry Bresina, and he suggested that I contact you regarding this matter. This section of Plymouth Street is a common short cut for drivers going between downtown Norwich and State Highway 23. This block is not an especially long block, but many drivers feel necessary to speed down the block on their way in and out of the City. There have actually been times when drivers have honked their horns in displeasure when parked cars have caused them to yield the right of way to other vehicles. The volume of traffic at certain times of day is disconcerting, but the speed of the drivers is of particular concern. There are many children living on the block now in addition to the children walking to and from the pool at Kurt Beyer Park.

One other minor concern I have is that occasionally tractor trailers and other large vehicles, such as farm tractors with hay wagons, have attempted travelling our street instead of following the State Highway. These drivers have likely missed the signs to follow Pleasant Street only to find that they are unable to navigate the turn at the corner of Plymouth and Cortland or get around parked vehicles on the street. There have been multiple times when car owners had to be located to move vehicles or truck drivers had to be assisted in backing their truck out the way they came. Similarly, trucks have come west down Cortland to Plymouth to meet similar obstacles.

I would like to suggest several possible solutions to the problems stated above. The easiest and most effective solution to the speeding problem is to install a couple speed bumps on our street. This minor inconvenience to drivers will certainly reduce or eliminate speeding and may ultimately help reduce traffic. I have seen this effectively employed in many other cities. A more controversial solution is to make Plymouth and Canasawacta Streets between Cortland and Pleasant one way streets in opposing directions. This may not help reduce speeding, but it would cut down on traffic and increase safety. Another more immediate but perhaps short term solution is to increase police patrols to catch speeders and discourage other speeders. Finally, regarding the truck traffic, I request that a sign be installed at the corner of Plymouth and Pleasant posting the street as off limit to trucks and other oversized vehicles, except for local deliveries. Trucks should be required to follow State Highway 23.

Thank you for your time. I hope you seriously consider this request. I would be happy to discuss this further with you and the Traffic Commission.

Sincerely,


Christopher R. Sprague