

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2014

PRESENT: Commander Geno, Jeff Wennberg, James Rotonado, Chief Schlachter, Butch Shaw

ABSENT: Jon Kiernan and Jerry Hansen

GUEST(S): Susan Schreibman, Carol Wagner, Brad LaFaso, Bryon Hathaway, Russell Lennon, Michael Coppinger

The meeting was called to order by Cmd. Geno at 9:00 A.M. Minutes from October 17, 2014 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved.

New Business:

1. New Street light proposed at Water Street near State Street and other lower lighted areas including Shepard Lane and Perkins Road.

More research is needed on the proximity and placement of light poles on Water Street light. GMP will evaluate.

Jeff Wennberg motioned to move the request for additional street lighting on Shepard Lane to the Board of Highway Committee. Cmd. Geno will check out the lights on Shepard Lane and report back to Committee.

2. Jeff Wennberg requested that representatives from the BOA, public officials and police along with members of the Traffic Committee and Board of Highway Committee take a walking tour of the NW neighborhood in January/February to assess street lighting issues and the impacts on public safety. There are a variety of concerns that need to be addressed such as which specific areas require more lighting, direction / distribution of current lighting in place and so on.

The new lighting, placed by GMP is specified to light the road/street. The lights in place are typical of what is used throughout the state. However it was noted that the new lights cast shadows on some sidewalk areas. Jeff Wennberg has spoken with GMP who is willing to swap out lights in specific areas (Park Ave. as one possible location) as an informational pilot to see if there is a significant difference in the lighting. Further research is necessary. Motion made by Jeff Wennberg to report findings back to the Board of Highway Commission for further evaluation and consideration. All voted in favor.

3. Guest Russell Lennon asked for update on the residential area speed limit study being conducted by the Regional Planning Commission. Susan Schreibman from the Commission provided the Report Dated December 2014 on data collected from September 22 – October 28, 2014. The report provides volume, speed and vehicle class data for the seven roads constituting the scope of the traffic study (Killington Ave., Stratton Rd., Hillside Road, Jackson Ave., North St. Ext., River St., Temple St.). The Commission has scheduled four public meetings during the months of January and February to be held at locations throughout the city to create conversation. Meeting sites include the Godnick Center, VAC and CKS Parish Hall and a location in the North West Section. Cmd. Geno will present at these neighborhood meetings to access the perception of speed and feelings toward reducing the speed limit. Assessment of the summary data provided in the report continues.

4. A short discussion was had regarding the timing of the traffic light for left turn onto Woodstock Ave. Butch Shaw noted that the timing of the light has been established to recognize the peak traffic times. No changes are currently planned at that location.
5. Guest Carol Wagner addressed the Committee about her concerns traveling south on Mussey Street and making a left hand turn onto Curtis Avenue. She presented aerial and street photos of the location. Visibility, due to shrubbery on private property, is causing a blind spot that requires motorists to inch out into the roadway - and potentially in the travel lane into oncoming traffic, to turn east. Carol requested that trees/shrubbery be trimmed and she also suggested that a Slow/ Caution sign be placed at the intersection as an additional precautionary measure. She also noted that there is no Stop or Yield sign at Haywood Ave. / Mussey Street - an area that is seeing an increase in traffic. Cmd. Geno will drive through the area and make a recommendation. The City engineer will also investigate options on adjustments at that intersection for potential changes in spring. The Committee will inform Carol when they have reached a resolution regarding her concerns.
6. Joseph Zingale, Rutland Town Administrator, has submitted a request for a West Street Crosswalk in the area of the Town Hall in Center Rutland. The exact location of the city line on West Street needs to be defined. Byron Hathaway noted that the District 3 Office will have mapping to address the line dispute. Discussion followed on where the safest/appropriate location for a crosswalk to be placed is based on the concern of sight distance due to crown of the hill approaching the Town office, where there is sidewalk access and what is the pedestrian demand – how many and on which paths are the pedestrians traveling.

VT Agency of Transportation can place pedestrian counters to collect data to assist in the evaluation of pedestrian traffic, volume and location. It was agreed by all present that spring placement of these counters would be helpful. Susan Schreiberman agreed to assist with the placement of the pedestrian counters.

7. Michael Coppinger from the Rutland Downtown Partnership presented maps of current parking areas throughout the city. He noted the need for more reserved Handicapped Parking. He requests that 4 currently marked general parking spaces be converted to Handicapped Parking and one parking space be adjusted. The locations noted for conversion of parking spaces to HC parking are on State Street, West Street (both directions), Merchants Row – closer to crosswalk/ramp. Additionally, he asks that the 15 minute parking space in front of City Hall on Strongs Avenue be converted to HC parking. He will submit his request to the CARE Committee for their endorsement of these changes as well.

Old Business:

1. The elimination of the right turn lane onto West St from Merchants row is complete and working well. However it was suggested that there either be a No Right Turn for Trucks or a bollard be placed on the curb to protect the pole. The cost to replace the pole is significant and action should be considered. It was noted that if a bollard is placed, that it not block sidewalk access.
2. Discussion to adjust timing of cross walk for Pedestrian traffic on Woodstock Avenue /Main Street. The paving project contractor has a spare controller with 3 second timing available for use by the City at a cost under \$2,000.

3. Court Square at the intersection of West Street – Lt. Geno

The road is printed with “STOP” and there is a “YIELD” sign on the pole.

Chief Baker stated that he believed that this issue has been resolved. He will follow up with Lt. Geno on this.

4. West Street by Merchants Row has been stripped and now there are lines through the Posted handicap spot – Lt. Geno

There was a brief discussion regarding the need to have a handicap spot at this location. Suggestion was to change the Chamber of Commerce parking spot to a handicap spot and move the Chamber of Commerce parking spot on West Street.

5. Ross Street – Ed Larson

Tractor trailer trucks are using Ross Street to turn onto Harrington Avenue to make deliveries to Sherwin Williams and are driving across lawns.

Lt. Geno will stop at Sherwin Williams and talk with them regarding this.

6. Rutland Street – Ed Larson on behalf of Steve Bernier

On three occasions, tractor trailers have come off Woodstock Avenue, turned onto Harrington Avenue, and then Rutland Street (which is a dead end).

This is a GPS situation. Maybe put sign up saying “No Trucks”.

7. Crosswalk sign of some sort to alert motorists of the crosswalk at Meadow Street and Convent Avenue – Father Jim Lawrence

It is believed that the street light has been updated. Cmd. Geno will drive by location to reassess the needs of a pedestrian strobe/flashing light at the location.

To close out the meeting, Cmd. Geno asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary-Kaye Zambon
Executive Assistant

Cc. Mayor
Captain Tucker
Lt. Geno
Police Commission
Board of Alderman
City Clerk
Post