

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2014

PRESENT: Chief Baker, Lt. Geno, Evan Pilachowski, and Jerry Hansen

GUESTS: Timothy Pockette and Steven Kent from Vermont Agency of Transportation

ABSENT: Butch Shaw, Jon Kiernan, Jeffrey Wennberg and Chief Schlachter

The meeting was called to order by Chief Baker at 8:20 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Woodstock Avenue Alternative traffic markings – Evan Pilachowski

Tim Pockett stated that in early April, the contractor is to start on the 4 & & project & paving for Business Route 4, Western Route 4 & Eastern Route 4. Pipe work from West Street down to Strongs Avenue is supposed to be completed by then. There is a proposal to change line striping down Woodstock Avenue. We're concerned this won't work. It's being presented as a pilot. It's a temporary restriping. What will constitute success? There have been some interesting conversations with the City regarding this work. Tim with the Vermont Agency of Transportation made a suggestion to come up with a plan to what happens before & after pilot.

Chief Baker stated that Evan has been in meetings with the Mayor on this. The Mayor has concerns. Our concerns are the number of curb cuts. None of them match up from one side to the other. Chief said that he would be all for coming to an agreement as to what success means. Chief also stated that if he understands it correctly, that if the City says to pull the plug on this, they can. Tim Pockette mentioned that he has concerns, being that he has two children at Rutland High School and he also has concerns with the bike lane. He stated that we are kind of locked in that we have to give this an attempt. He knows that talk is skeptical that it will work. It states that City has final say if we keep this or not. Tim has talked with Evan about this project. Do we want to do some monitoring near the school, take pictures? He wants to make sure we have a plan. Regional Planning Commission & Local Motions were some of the supporters for this. Chief Baker asked what the time frame is for when we'll have skim coat down & temporary markings? Tim stated that it should be mid April. By contract, by May 1st, it has to be complete without the final coat. It has to be ready while school is in session. There is a 30 day test period. Should City find it undesirable, City can stop this, if there are concerns of traffic backed up, etc. There has to be a reasonable time frame to get it back to what it was. Tim stated maybe 3 – 4 working days. Chief Baker mentioned that if there is a serious accident due to these markings, we're done. City's subcontractor has to put it back to what it was. Chief asked if 5 days was reasonable. Tim, said yes. Chief said that maybe we could survey the businesses when this is happening. Tim stated that if we try it for the month of May & like it, City still has another 30 days, say something happens in June. Chief mentioned that he didn't think that we'll be seeing many bikes up there. We could do traffic detail and position cars up there & run video. He's open to any other suggestions. We have to decide what determines craziness up there. Evan asked if videos can be set up to see corner of Stratton Road. Tim Pockette mentioned that maybe in March, when there's a day or 2, we could do some pre work. Tim also stated that he wasn't too nervous until a meeting he had with Mike Fowler saying we have to do this, now. Tim sat at McDonald's, watching the congestion. Chief Baker Stated that we can do some pre work, ahead of time. We have Police cadets. Maybe we can use them to do some traffic monitoring or maybe use some of Deb Perkins students from Stafford Technical Center. What is the number of vehicles backed up, that is unacceptable?

Evan stated that he didn't know Tim Pockette's background but wondered if they are able to do level of service analysis. Tim stated that they haven't for awhile. Chief Baker asked if we could explore that? Evan stated that he doesn't have software or background to. Chief Baker asked Tim if he could explore this & get some help from Vtrans. Tim stated that he would and that he just doesn't want to see it put in, removed and then put back in. He also stated that he can foresee this helping with maybe some different types of accidents but can also see it creating some other frustrations.

Chief Baker mentioned that in his prior life that he was involved in the early planning of the rotary in the Town of Manchester. The town hired a public relations person, that every day, an email would go out with updates of what you could expect for the day. He also stated that he felt it was crucial that we let the public know what's going on for the day and when it will end.

Tim Pockette mentioned that they have hired a public relations firm and that they will have a facebook Page to post updates. He also mentioned that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was approached By Local Motions.

Chief Baker stated that we have had a fair amount of accidents up there. Jerry mentioned that we're trying to apply common sense approach. If we're not impeding traffic flow, impacting businesses, etc. If we can incorporate into existing infrastructure. Jerry also asked if they are doing this. We will need to prove if it didn't work, documentation, pictures.

Tim stated that if it works, then we leave it in place. Jerry asked how long this has been going on. Tim stated since 2008 in when traffic study was done. This has been going on since 2012. Jerry asked if there are plans. Tim stated yes and that he could get a copy for Jerry.

Chief Baker stated that we have to try this. He asked Tim if his PR person can join us at our next meeting, to be held on Friday, February 28, 2014. Chief recapped that in March, we will do some base line work and use the Cadets for traffic counts. He mentioned to Evan that we might be able to reserve counters from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Tim stated that he didn't think that traffic counters will be an issue. he thinks that it would be the ques, just through video and visual. We need to determine where we want to check the ques. As we get into April, we will measure business surveying and any type of injury accident site views. Tim stated that he would figure out with the coworkers at Vtrans, to get help with level of service software. He also stated that he believed we were at level C, in the 2008 study. After this work is done, it could be at D or E level. Tim also mentioned that he would talk with Mike to see if consultant company would do this.

Evan stated that maybe we could have two ways of doing the survey.

Tim will have Natalie, the PR representative join us at our February 28th meeting. He also mentioned that by that meeting, they should have a good base line and that he would get a copy of the plans to Evan and will also make sure that the Traffic Safety Committee also has a set.

The work to be completed is as follows:

Woodstock Avenue will be day work to May 1st, afterwards will be at night time.

South Main Street – will be redoing railroad crossing and when they get to Tire Warehouse, they will widen the road.

Jog at Jackson Avenue – they will straighten it out

Court Square – We're closing off Court Square. Doesn't require a no outlet sign

Top of West Street to Merchants Row, up Merchants Row to State Street, to Columbian Avenue to Town offices in Rutland. (All Business Route 4 West Street railroad tracks will be reconstructed, Going down to Belden Road.

Ripley crossing – 3rd set of tracks are being removed

Raised island at Central Vermont Motorcycles area is being removed.

Jerry mentioned that the Court Square item came before the Planning Commission.

Tim stated that he wasn't sure that they'll have enough coverage with City Police and may have to Request to get Sheriff's.

Tim mentioned that the last time they paved Woodstock Avenue in 1995, people weren't happy because it was being done at night. Chief Baker asked if on Woodstock Avenue, it was just ripping up and paving being done. Tim said that they would be adjusting DI's, water valves, not major pipe work.

Chief thanked Tim and Steve for coming to our meeting today. Chief asked when they would start Woodstock Avenue. Tim stated that it would be April. Evan mentioned that it's basically weather permitted. Tim mentioned that they are working on drawings, West Street, left turn lanes. He'll bring a copy of plans to us. Evan mentioned the flashing traffic deacons. Tim mentioned one of the pedestrian crossings is being eliminated (one on west side of Cottage Street). Maybe we'll bring solar powered flashing.

Tim Pockette asked if Nora could send group email to him, so that he may pass it on to the Public Relations representative, Natalie. Nora will take care of this.

2. Butch Shaw's monthly report – No report was made this month
3. Other New Business

Evan gave us an update on Northwest neighborhood sewer separation project and that they are putting in curbs on both sides which would consist of Library Avenue, (from Pine Street intersection to Cleveland Avenue), pending successful bond vote. On Library Avenue we will eliminate parking by installing the curbs. Evan had originally thought this construction was going to be done from 2014 to 2015. He thinks that maybe most of it can be done this year.

Old Business

1. Other old business

Stop signs and traffic in the neighborhood of Hillside Road

Chief Baker will call Russ today. Chief mentioned that if the Woodstock Avenue construction dumps more traffic to this neighborhood, we'll have to have ways to measure it. Evan asked if Chief Baker wanted him to call Regional Planning Commission to see if we could borrow their traffic cart.

Request to change 12 parking meters from 2 hour meters to 30 minute parking meters on West Street between Church Street and Merchants Row – Donald Billings, Roots & the Bakery

Chief talked with Donald Billings. The parking doesn't seem to be an issue. The City has been in conversations about getting new meters. As part of the construction, West Street will be getting ripped up. So, let's see how the next 3 – 4 months go.

Jerry mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is concerned that people are parking in their spot.

2. Stop sign at General Wing Road

This agenda item is being tabled for now. Chief Baker will follow up with John at the Maple's to discuss his concerns at a later date.

3. Stop sign removal at the intersection of Plain Street and Granger Street

Stop signs have been removed. Evan talked with Dave Cyr and he mentioned he is just waiting for the school bus signs to come in.

Chief Baker asked if anyone had anything else? No.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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

