

Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Friday, January 17, 2020 9:00am

Persons in Attendance: Chief Kilcullen, Mayor Allaire, Jim Rotondo, Jeff Wennberg, Dave Sears & Rebecca Mattis

Absent: Commander Sheldon, Ted Gillen and Brad LaFaso from LaFaso Electric

Guests: Susan Schriebman, Lisa Ryan and Nikki Hindman

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am by Chief Kilcullen

New business discussed.

1. Request for a "blind pedestrian" sign to be put up near 146 Harrington Avenue – Frank Melendy

Rebecca stated that Frank moved from a trailer park on Allen Street. She's not sure if there is still a need for the "blind pedestrian" sign to still be up on Allen Street. If it isn't, can it be relocated to 146 Harrington Avenue? Are there any objections? No. Dave will have this sign relocated.

2. Request to discuss parking problem on Willow Street – Tom Holland @ VFW

This item has been on our Agenda a few times. The area is currently posted "Rutland Herald parking only". The sign is on the building and the Rutland Herald is no longer located here. We have two issues here. There is insufficient parking for in & out traffic and not enough room for buses to get through if there are vehicles parked in this area.

Jeff Wennberg stated that Domino's is complaining and they don't park on Willow Street, now. There are no spots. They would like it posted for 15 Minute parking, only.

Chief mentioned that when people park for longer periods of time, they usually park further back. Chief thinks the solution is to restrict parking all day.

Rebecca mentioned that for the past month, she's been looking at this area and there always seems to be one car parked at the corner. She mentioned that in her conversation with Tom @ VFW, it was mentioned that if Domino's could stay back, that might work.

There was mention of Domino's looking to relocate.

A guest at this meeting asked what was up with the property that Mark Foley, Sr. bought, where the old Turner Electric was) and suggested that maybe we could have

designated parking further back for Domino's. Jeff stated that we can't designate parking for a particular business. Chief Kilcullen will have Officer Blongy talk to the Manager at Domino's to see if there is any off street parking for them. Mayor Allaire mentioned that he just so happens to have a meeting with Mark Foley, Sr. in an hour and will inquire about the old Turner Electric property.

This will be tabled until next month.

3. Request to discuss the results of their transportation project (Pop up Demo on Killington Avenue) – Christ the King students

This was put on this month's Agenda by mistake. It will be on the February 21, 2020 Agenda.

4. Request to have the street crossing chirps checked at the location of Stratton Rd/Woodstock Avenue and Lafayette St/Woodstock Avenue – Frank Melendy

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that he checked these yesterday. They were working at Lafayette St/Woodstock Avenue. When he hit the button to cross Woodstock, there are chirps coming from Northside of road. Chief doesn't know if there are any on Stratton Road.

Is Frank expecting something to be there that isn't? Rebecca will call Frank to find out.

5. Request for a crosswalk and bench put in at the bus stop across the street from Olivia's market – Tiffany from Rutland Mental Health

Chief Kilcullen wouldn't suggest putting a bench in the right of way. Jeff mentioned that a crosswalk there, is illegal. You can't have a crosswalk lead to no man's land. Is a crosswalk to bus stop legal in lieu of a sidewalk? According to manual of uniform traffic devices, a crosswalk needs to connect sidewalk to sidewalk. There's only a sidewalk on the West side of the road. Rebecca asked if it would work if they move Bus stop to Gilrain? Dave Sears stated that is where it currently is. Dave mentioned you'd be dumping them into traffic. Jeff stated that if we don't follow manual, we'd be liable. Rebecca, said, so you're saying if there isn't a concrete designated sidewalk, there can't be a crosswalk? She also stated that up in her neighborhood, they don't have sidewalks, so no crosswalks? She asked if the only way to do this, would be to build a sidewalk? Jeff replied, Yes.

Chief mentioned that we will look at putting a committee together to address this City wide. We're looking at Safe routes to school guide, you'd want to restrict parking 30 feet from crosswalks. This will increase visibility and remove parking spots. We need a plan when we get requests for crosswalks & do it right. We need a Commitment on the City to allocate funds, because it will cost money. Chief has been looking through NTSA

material. Almost have a budget, a line item. It's hard to find money for these things. Mayor Allaire mentioned that it makes sense to set up a committee, we have time now and could do this before next budget is prepared.

Rebecca asked who will assemble the committee. The Mayor suggested that Susan Schreibman, Sharon from Board of Alderman, Rebecca, Mayor and different representatives from different areas.

Dave said a simple solution to this one would be to move bus stop to other side of the street. So, now you don't have people trying to cross Stratton Road. Mayor asked if it was that simple. Dave said he wasn't sure who determines where the bus stops are. Jeff said we'd have to communicate with Marble Valley Regional Transit. Dave will call Marble Valley and will report back to this committee.

6. Downtown 25 mph speed limit – Rebecca Mattis

Would like a outline of the two possible ways to achieve that, from Jeff Wennberg and to know what the plan is

Susan Schriebman mentioned she did the leg work on this. This was sent to the City Attorney to look at. He hasn't yet. Chief mentioned that they're looking at Statute 23V, section 1007. It states a speed limit on all or part of a City which is not more than 50 mph, not less than 25 mph. Another part, this is what he asked of Matt, wondering if it suggests we can change speed limit (is it invalid for the 1st 5 years, then would it be valid after 5 years)

It was mentioned that we could certainly change the speed limit with an Engineering Study. Jim asked if that is an option and what are we going to gain? Chief mentioned we can enforce the valid 30 mph speed. Chief mentioned the other thing we looked at, is that we have speed detecting devices to track data. Data indicates that on Stratton Road, average speed was just about 30 mph, the 85th percentile was closer to 34 mph or less. This is considered reasonable & prudent speed. If you lower it to less than 30, you risk that people wouldn't be reasonable & prudent. There was a reading of 62 mph headed South. This could have been ambulances or police cars.

Chief mentioned that he's not opposed to City wide 25 mph, around all schools. Allocate money to do this. Jim stated that he agrees with what the Chief is saying. He suggested putting those speed carts out to analyze more data. He asked if we just made downtown 25 mph, how would you sign & enforce that? He feels it should be one speed limit for rest of the City. Downtown, if you went to 25 mph from 30 mph, when it's congested, people can't go 30, anyways. Let's collect a lot more data & analyze and come to a solution.

Jeff asked if it would make sense to do a Request for Proposal for the study. It might take 6 months to a year. This would be preferred option with the State. Jim asked how much work is it really. Jeff mentioned the City of Burlington did it. We could reach out to them. Susan Schriebman mentioned that she reached out to them. The Engineering study isn't defined. Doing an area is different than a road. Chief suggested that we read in the AOT handbook about setting speed limits and what is needed. Ideally, let's get a real good picture of what we're talking about. The students at Rutland High School produced stats of 156 crashes since 2009. Chief came up with 146. Roadway, there were 10.

Rebecca mentioned that in regards to what's reasonable & prudent, she knows street design determines vehicles driving patterns. It helps Pedestrian safety. How much of people's speed when data is being collected, how much is affected by posted speed limit. I'm not willing to say that the 85% should be the speed limit.

Susan Schriebman stated that people usually drive a speed limit where they feel comfortable. That's why you look at the 85th percentile.

Jeff mentioned that Killington Avenue is narrow with curbs. The neighbors originally hated it. They used to complain about speed before the curbs were put in. The narrow lane with curbs did exactly what it was expected to do.

Lastly, I do think 25 mph in the City makes sense. When I lived in Barre, it was 25 mph. Study would be wise. Mayor does think that a study would have to be done. This is a different time. Maybe people's perspectives will be different. Chief stated that we'll commission engineering study.

7. Request to make Kingsley Court "No Parking This Side" on the south side of the street – City of Rutland, DPW

Dave mentioned that this area is probably a fire hazard, too. IF DPW can't get a truck there, a Fire Truck can't, either. Would this be alright with everyone? Chief mentioned that we are enforcing it up there. Chief asked if it would just be until May. Chief isn't opposed to this. He asked if there is sufficient on site parking for tenants. Dave indicated that there is. Chief asked why the tenants are parking on the streets, then. Jeff mentioned that we have this problem every year with them wondering where the City road ends & their property begins. This request was approved.

Non Agenda Item -

Mayor Allaire mentioned that he got a call from the Shriners. They have meetings a couple nights a week. There is a lack of parking near the facility and lack of handicap Spaces close to building for their 5pm or 6pm meetings. They would like designated Parking or can they park at a meter and not get tickets? Mayor asked if they could send a representative to this meeting but they couldn't. Dave mentioned that we can't designate parking for a particular business and if we put Handicap parking, Bardwell residents may park there. There are two Handicap spaces on Wales Street they could use, when we get the signs up.

Other old business

1. Request to modify signage on Washington Street in front of City Hall – Kim Peters, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Department

On **2/15/19**, was decided to use existing sign, just add M-F & 8-5

On **7/19/19**, signs still need to go up

On **10/18/19**, Dave mentioned the signs are in, just need to get someone to put them up

On **11/15/19**, Chief asked for a time line. Dave said pretty soon.

As of **1/17/20**, this has been completed.

2. Bardwell House parking signs

On **4/19/19**, it was decided that the signs should be at a 90 degree angle (2nd priority)

As of **7/19/19**, signs still need to be moved to a 90 degree angle

As of **10/18/19**, Dave mentioned he needs to take out post, re-core holes, then Will be able to hang the signs

On **11/15/19**, Dave said this could be done pretty soon. It's a little bit of a Project, definitely before Spring.

As of **1/17/20**, Dave mentioned that they broke the coring bit. This Agenda item Is in process of being done.

3. Kiosk signs

On **4/19/19**, it was decided that a 7 foot post would be installed and new signs would be hung (1st priority)

As of **7/19/19**, not completed

As of **10/18/19**, Dave said this would be an end of construction season project

As of **11/15/19**, will be done pretty soon, before Spring.

As of **1/17/20**, Dave mentioned needing to order brackets & corer. Chief

Kilcullen asked if the corer is the best application. Dave mentioned it is, in order to get them up high enough. Jim stated that if Dave needed help from Engineering, they could look at & see what would work best.

4. Request for better enforcement in the area of the 2 traffic lights near intersection of Killington Avenue and Main Street – Tim Brennan
On **6/21/19**, it was decided that we would add a delay to the sequencing of the lights so that the first one would turn yellow, then the second one would turn red.

As of **7/19/19**, was discussed but no action taken

On **10/18/19**, there was a brief discussion that it might work better to have first light turn red and second light to turn yellow, instead of the other way around. Jeff will talk with Brad to see if he can do this.

As of **11/15/19**, Jeff was asked to please check with Brad. Jeff asked him to Check this out & didn't hear back from him.

As of **1/17/20**, Jeff mentioned that he hasn't heard from Brad regarding this. It was also mentioned that the other area of concern was Evelyn & West and also Pine & West. He will also ask Brad if the same can be done at these other lights.

5. Request for the East Business 4 sign with arrow, Columbian Avenue & State St signs to be replaced or repaired – Sgt. Joseph Bartlett

On **08/16/19**, it was decided that Dave Sears would look into this

On **10/18/19**, Dave said he will see if he ordered these signs. Jeff asked if we go after people who have damaged signs, for reimbursement. Chief asked if we should be having the Officer forward the crash reports to DPW when this happens. Jeff indicated that it would be helpful, because when a sign is knocked over or damaged, there's a cost to fix this.

As of **11/15/19**, Dave said he's not sure if this sign was ordered but will check on it.

As of **1/17/20**, this is still a pending item.

6. Requests a look at information from Glens Falls about pedestrian safety in crosswalks – Glenn Reed

(Print-outs of the Articles are attached)

As of **10/18/19**, we are working on this.

As of **11/15/19**, it was mentioned that we're looking to personalize handouts. Sgt. Whitehead had some officers out, doing some enforcement. Education piece side is on Pedestrian side. Issue with drivers are that they're not paying attention.

Caprice mentioned that when you're in Montpelier and step into the road, people stop. This doesn't happen, here. What's the purpose of doing bump outs? Thinks its dual education. Commander Prouty agreed.

Jeff mentioned that people here, could have expectation they won't be in trouble if they don't stop. Commander Prouty said that he wouldn't want to write a citation, a \$220.00 ticket, just to get to the ASA Bloomer building. Mayor Allaire asked if that would be for jay walking. Commander Prouty stated that there's a term for it. Dave mentioned an instance where there was a girl at the crosswalk, phone in her hand, never looked up, people were stopping, she wasn't paying attention.

Mayor spoke about bump-outs and that they are more visible and you're taking a conscious effort to try to do in a safe manner. That's not what's happening all the time. He indicated that he walks all the time.

Jeff got a report that someone got a grinder and watched 11 people who didn't Use the crosswalk or bump-out. The point you're making is well understood. Jeff isn't sure how you change the behavior. Phones are a problem, people have injured themselves by being on the phone trying to cross a street. Jeff asked if a local ordinance with less punitive fine, do this to make Policeman's job easier?

Chief said if it's going to happen, we're going to see it. It's difficult to allocate Resources to monitor this when we have officers dealing with other involved Issues.

Commander Prouty said that maybe language could mirror statute, and make fine reasonable.

Jeff mentioned that he sees a lot when he's out walking Evelyn Street & Merchants Row, people aren't paying attention. Jim mentioned when Mario was here regarding the all way stop at the Bardwell House. It backs up Traffic to Center Street. Jim indicated that they didn't discuss this area.

Commander Prouty asked where the Chief wanted the speed sign, next. Chief Indicated that he'd like it on Stratton Road, near the school.

As of **1/17/20**, it was stated that we looked to identify grants for enforcement in this area. We can use the Highway grants. Day shift is doing safety enforcement on Merchants Row. Next month, we should be able to tell you how many tickets and warnings were written.

7. Request for law enforcement around bicycles on the sidewalk, right turn on red in regards to pedestrian safety and crosswalks – Karen Ranz
From **9/20/19**, we are working on law enforcement regarding bicycles
From **10/18/19**, a couple of signs were put up regarding right turn on red. At the intersection of West & Merchants, should we change to left turn lane and

then a right & straight lane? Jim said he wouldn't change the timing or anything. Said we need some pedestrian education and suggested that we put up Yellow, Yield to Pedestrians in crosswalk signs, on the crossbars.

As of **11/15/19**, still working on this.

As of **1/17/20**, it was stated that we have some handouts that we got from Locomotion. We don't have any with our logo, yet. This item is also part of initiative with the Day shift.

8. Request to move the stop sign at the end of Aiken Place near N. Main St – Rebecca Mattis

From **9/20/19**.

As of **10/18/19**, there was discussion about not being able to move the sign, Due to federal regulations. Jeff will take a look at this.

As of **11/15/19**, Chief asked if the Business sign went up. He was told, Yes. Jeff asked if we could move it and have it be legal? Dave said the only place we could put it is in green belt, if that's what we want to do. Dave mentioned it's a black sign, not sure if lighted or not. There's not a lot of foot traffic, here.

As of **1/17/20**, the Stop sign was moved.

Meeting adjourned at 09:58 am by Chief Kilcullen.