

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, July 15, 2022

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

Members Present: Mayor Allaire, Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sheldon, James Rotondo and Devon Neary

Guest Present: Christine Zullo and Wayne Wortman

Members Absent: Ted Gillen & Bradley LaFaso of Lafaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to install a Stop sign or a Yield sign at the intersection of Victor Place and Healy Lane – Joan Soule

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that it's essentially a driveway for 3 houses. Jim mentioned that maybe we could put up a Yield sign coming down the hill. There's 1 house North of Healy Lane. Jim also mentioned that there could be 3 houses, eventually. Chief Kilcullen agreed with the installation of the Yield sign.

2. Request to install a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign or something similar near the intersection of Bellevue Avenue and North Street Extension – Police Commissioner Romeo

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that he's not sure how far back we'd have to put the sign to address the concerns. Devon got online and stated that if you go to street view, it would have to be way back. Jim Rotondo mentioned that he didn't think we could put a "No parking here to corner" at this location. Mayor Allaire mentioned that it's not a real wide street, anyways. The sign wouldn't address this concern. Jim will go out and physically look at this. This may require having a talk with the neighbor. Devon mentioned that the street trees would make it difficult to open doors from a car. Chief Kilcullen will talk with Police Commissioner Romeo regarding this.

3. Re-establishing Green Belt with curbing – 2022 Paving Plan (Various locations)

Christine Zullo stated there never was an established green belt and their House was built in the 1900's and all streets were dirt. Her house and the house next door share a driveway. They had a parking issue which has now been straightened out with their neighbor. She mentioned that if we make changes to the Green Belt area, she has 2 tenants that would have nowhere to park and she wouldn't have a place to park her other car and is handicapped.

Chief Kilcullen stated that the green belt issue has come up several times and recalls about 5 years ago it coming up. He also stated that the area that we're talking about is part of the roadway. Parking is prohibited no longer than 48 hours, here. Christine stated it is called off street parking. Chief Kilcullen referred Christine to the City ordinances where everything is defined. He stated that when people can't park right in front of their house, it creates a problem for that person. Christine replied with "So, where would you suggest we park?" Christine stated that her husband has been at this location for 44 years. She mentioned how they received a parking ticket. She called the Police station, as Officer measured the distance of where they were parked and said they were fine to park there. Christine then asked "Are you saying we are screwed, then?"

Wayne Wortman stated that he lives on the corner across from the storage building. There are 3 apartments and a hair salon, here. He mentioned talking with a friend who works for DPW and he mentioned maybe he could park at the storage building. Chief Kilcullen told William that he wouldn't suggest parking on someone else's property. Chief mentioned that the the Green belt area's we're looking to install curbing isn't just on Forest Street. In these areas what was grass is now mud. Christine mentioned that on Killington Avenue where the curbing was put in, that she can't just drive down street and let people go by them. She didn't feel it was a safety thing when this was done. Devon stated that the curbing is a traffic calming feature and it slows traffic down. Christine stated she wasn't speeding on Killington Avenue and suggested that we should slow down the UPS trucks and plow trucks that drive on Forest Street.

Jim stated to Christine that he understands that she has parked in the Green belt area for 30 years. He said the reason why we have a street line is to have a separation between street and sidewalk. Now that we're revitalizing the area, it is our opportunity to re-establish the Green belt area and add curbing. Devon said that it looks like all the right side is paved and a lot of people could park across from their houses. Christine mentioned their concern is during the Winter when we have the Winter Parking Ban. Jim asked Christine what they do with their cargo trailer, now. Christine stated "I'm not talking about the trailer." Jim asked Christine where they park their other car in the Summer. Christine replied with "I'm not talking about Summer." Jim stated that our intention is to pave at 28 feet wide and that we might be able to have parking on one side of the road. He also mentioned that when River Street was done, it was paved at 28 feet wide and there aren't any parking restrictions, there. Chief Kilcullen stated that we can restrict parking to one side of the street if the street is less than 30 feet wide. Devon mentioned that he thought they were adding parking, not taking it away. Jim stated that there's room to talk about what the final width of the road is to be and maybe we can add parking, but not during the winter. Christine asked "How do you come up with this when these houses were established before?" Jim stated that we are trying to accommodate and you have to understand it's to protect pedestrians. Christine started talking. Jim stated "If I can finish". Jim stated that we're trying to come up with a solution. Christine asked "What am I supposed to do?" She stated that she didn't get a letter this was happening and had to hear it from a DPW worker. She stated "I don't think that's fair." Chief Kilcullen stated that available parking may be a little around the corner and mentioned that there are Handicapped parking spots in front of Mount Saint Joseph Academy. Chief Kilcullen asked Christine if there is a reason she doesn't park in the street. Christine stated that she has a cut out and it's safer to park off the Street. She also stated that "Shrinking the street isn't going to make it safer." "People walk in the street, baby carriages." "Everybody has different needs." She stated that she posted about the Green Belt to Mayor Allaire's facebook page. She feels that Rutland doesn't support her. Chief Kilcullen stated that we try to consider all the needs of all the residents. All needs are different. We have to determine where the safest place for pedestrians is to walk. We have to establish street line with a defined sidewalk. Jim Rotondo mentioned that Franklin Street is the perfect example. This is what it's going to be now. We can't send letters out to everyone. Christine started talking. Jim said "Well, let me finish." What I'm saying is that we're not just sitting there saying "Let's Change This." That's not what we do. Beyond us, we are trying to make an infrastructure that is built to meet the needs. Christine stated "You really should let everyone know what is going on." "We are your bread and butter." She also stated "I'm sick, I feel like leaving here." "Is this what you want?" Jim stated that No. Jim suggested that we not

overanalyze what we're trying to do. We're doing a repaving project. There should be a clear separation between street line and sidewalk. Christine mentioned "Maybe you should compute a parking space for each unit." Jim stated that most cities have off street parking restrictions that would limit adding to properties.

Wayne Wortman stated that 26 Forest Street is a 3 apartment house with a hair salon and nothing was ever added. He stated "Where I am, I don't know where I'm going to park." Jim mentioned that for Commercial buildings, they are trying to come up with off street parking.

Devon wondered who owns the lot on Howe Street. That would be perfect. Chief Kilcullen stated that we haven't been terribly aggressive with issuing parking tickets. Agreeably, the ordinance says it's in the street and no one should be parking there. Christine stated that "no one has been ticketed, you can look it up, Sheldon." Commander Sheldon replied that "I'm not going to look it up." "You're free to your opinion, as I am to mine." Chief Kilcullen stated that we are trying to balance needs of everyone, City wide.

Mayor Allaire address Christine Zullo. "That's why I'm here." "I took your concerns seriously." "I have been here 66 years, went to MSJ and went to the store near there." "It isn't just prettying it up." "It's for safety" Christine stated "If you're going to change something, everyone should know." "I try to be patient with things and not make a stink."

Chief Kilcullen stated that this issue has just come up recently because we're repaving the road. There's a lot to consider and to balance. He mentioned that she could feel free to bring concerns to the Board of Alderman.

4. Proposed Class 1 Paving and Roadway Reconfiguration – US Route 7 & US Route 4

Jim stated that Vtrans sent us traffic safety data. Devon mentioned that it's pretty compelling. Board of Highway is who makes a decision on this. Jim just wanted to show us the work diagram. They're looking for us to say if we're looking to change anything. They have analyzed traffic safety. Next, design engineers will look at traffic. They will model it and show us the data. Is it helping or will the reconfiguration hurt? We would do a 30 or 60 day trial, late Summer of 2024. Devon asked if that will be pavement fresh lines. Yes. Jim mentioned that he'd like to see the City invest some money in these areas and make it safer for vehicles & pedestrians. He would recommend meeting with the State to propose this. See if we can get some grant money. It was asked if we think they would be interested in making this happen. Devon thinks there is interest with Vtrans. Mayor Allaire mentioned that when the reconfiguration was done on Woodstock Avenue 7 years ago, it was handled poorly. There was a lack of communication. Christine Zullo stated she felt it was very dangerous.

Mayor Allaire said that he is still skeptical on reconfiguring Woodstock Avenue. He stated that he isn't on the Traffic Safety Committee but mentioned if we move to the Board of Commissioners to get the word out that reconfiguring Woodstock Avenue is being discussed and we're looking for input. We need to address this out of the gate.

Devon mentioned that it gives multiple bail points. We owe it to the City to try it. The data here shows 360 accidents in a 7 mile square area. This doesn't capture near misses.

Chief Kilcullen stated that we need to focus on the Stratton Road/Woodstock Avenue intersection and the traffic back ups.

Jim stated that if we do this, we need to figure out who is going to be doing the PR work. He cannot be the guy to run it. The PR piece is huge. Need to decide who is going to do it & how are they going to do it. Devon thinks we can ask Vtrans to help us with the PR portion.

5. Request for 4-way stop on Franklin at Granger/Howe – resident in neighborhood
They're offset, somewhat. 93 Franklin Street. It's not a typical 4 way stop. Jim is worried about if you pull out from Howe Street, if there is enough room for a car to stack. Christine Zullo mentioned that people are pulling out into the street to let traffic go or not. Devon mentioned that if people are ignoring Stop signs on Howe Street, why would they pay attention to a different stop sign in the area. Chief Kilcullen asked if there was information in the MDTC manual. Christine Zullo asked how do you figure these out. Chief Kilcullen said that we map it out. This will be tabled until next month.

6. Request for stop sign on Grove at Meadow – resident in neighborhood

This request is at the intersection of Grove Street and Meadow Lane. Jim mentioned that DPW already has a plan to install a Stop sign on Meadow Lane.

Other old business

Updates from DPW Commissioner in regards to Old Business Items:

1. A 4-way stop was installed at Park Court/Belmont Avenue Extension.
2. Jim put maps together. Looked at all Class 1, Class 2 road and identified Stop signs and Yield signs. Yellow on the second page represents work they're proposing today. Red circles represent where they will be putting Stop signs. Yellow represents where there are Yield signs. We will be taking these Yield signs out and putting in Stop signs. The removal of the Yield signs and Installation of the Stop signs were approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 A.M.