TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2015

PRESENT: Commander Geno, Butch Shaw and Jeffrey Wennberg
ABSENT: James Rotondo

GUEST(S): Michael Coppinger, Andrea Coppola & John McKenna of the Housing Trust and Representative Herb Russell

The meeting was called to order by Commander Geno at 9:03 A.M. Minutes from April 24, 2015 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved.

New Business:

1. Killington Avenue (the one way section) not being properly marked – Mrs. Crowley

   Commander Geno mentioned that he received a letter thanking Bob Gorruso for putting up signs at this location. He assumed that DPW did something here. Jeff Wennberg asked if this is fixed. Her letter asked for more, larger signs. Jeff will see what we can do.

2. Removal of the street signs saying 10 minute and 20 minute parking on State Street, near Burnham Hollow Restaurant – Dan White

   Commander Geno has looked at this. Dan White's issue is that there are businesses there and are worried that people are going to take up a spot all day. Mike Coppinger asked what the request is. Andrea Coppola she would ask for 20 minute parking here. Commander Geno said we will leave it as it is and he will talk to Dan White. Jeff Wennberg asked if Burnham Hollow is a restaurant. Mike mentioned that it isn't a restaurant, they sell pies. Jeff suggested that Dan White should talk with the business owners regarding this. Commander Geno read the request to the committee members.

3. Parking that is allowed along the roadway of the intersection of Columbian Avenue and State Street and Cars that are speeding – Rep. Herb Russell

   Commander Geno received pictures regarding this issue. At the address of 188 State Street, it showed a visible sign and also a sign set back in the trees. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that we have to cut some trees. Herb Russell mentioned maybe we could trim the trees. The right turn lane sign can't be seen and this is a busy intersection. Jeff mentioned the signed should be lowered but we can't because of them needing to be standard height of 8 feet. Jeff will give this job to the forester to put on his list to do. Commander Geno asked for Mr. Schneider's cell phone number. Herb Russell showed pictures of cars parking over the lines, encroaching on safety. If there were "no parking" signs in front of the Housing property, he is concerned about congestion. People are parking close to his driveway. In case of fire, there isn't any place for the trucks to come to the housing property. The Housing Trust has talked to residents about this. The residents and the Housing Trust are in Agreement with this. The Housing Trust will send a new letter out to the residents. Commander Geno asked if Wennberg is ok with this. It was asked if someone could go with Ricky so he knows how to lay it out. He asked Andrea Coppola from the Housing Trust where she wanted it to start. Herb Russell mentioned that when the Community Cupboard is open, it will be busy at this location.

4. Timing of light at Park Street and South Main Street – Jeffrey Wennberg

   This isn't a new thing but we have received a number of inquiries. Gary Donahue mentioned if you Want to head South up Park Street, the light provides very little window to clear. They want more time. Maybe have no turn on red removed? Butch Shaw mentioned that we had an issue with people jumping yellow on South Main Street and green light would come up on Park Street and we

would have accidents and when Park Street light released, there was no stacking. It alleviated stacking problems. Commander Geno said that a lot is caused by people driving South bound running red light.

If tell tale is aimed more towards Creed Ice, this would help. Butch had brought this before the Board of Alderman long ago regarding this. Commander Geno mentioned that this is an offset intersection and can be problematic. If sequence of signals between Route 7 and Park Street are so people coming from Park Street could clear through Allen Street intersection, this would be great.

Commander Geno mentioned that traffic on Park Street is cut through traffic. It's not the people or Businesses there. Butch stated that if we take Allen out of the sequence, we'll back up at Strongs Avenue and Curtis Avenue. He would strongly recommend looking at it to see if side streets are Getting what they need. We won't do anything at this location until Dorr Drive opens up. Commander Geno said it's too bad that we couldn't add a third lane to the right. He suggested thatWe go there sometime in the afternoon. Butch mentioned that PM peak is Northbound and the AM Peak is Southbound.

5. Grade crossing at the railroad tracks – Jeffrey Wennberg

   This is located by the fairgrounds on Park Street. We know the railroad has control. Jeff mentioned it would be nice for this committee to make a request to the State that the grade crossing at this location needs some attention. The City can't touch them. This currently is the worst crossing in the City. It would be great if it's rebuilt like the others have been.

6. Relocation of handicap parking spaces in downtown – Michael Coppinger

   Mike Coppinger brought some photos showing handicap spots and their proposal to adjust and add some. The Downtown Partnership presented this to care committee and they agreed. Would like us to consider and maybe walk it out with Mike. It would be great to put these spots where ramps are. In front of City Hall, there isn't a handicap spot here. Jeff Wennberg remembers looking at it before. He couldn't then and doesn't find any fault with any of this. No objections. Butch Shaw mentioned that the spot at the crosswalk isn't full all the time.

7. Placement of pedestrian crosswalk signs on Washington Street – Michael Coppinger

   Could we put lights on the South side all the way up? DPW made cut through. Put crosswalks Downtown. Would love a crosswalk sign put up permanently on the side. Jeff asked if he meant on the North side of the road. Mike replied that in a perfect world, they would be on both sides. (One facing west and one facing east.)

8. Other new business

   Jeff Wennberg mentioned the word is out on the Road closure for Dorr Drive.

Old Business

1. Other old business

   It was asked if anyone knew what has happened at "Our House" on Mansfield Place. They have expanded parking and paved up there. Jeff Wennberg talked with residents And the no parking should be on the South Side. This will be less inconvenient. We Have to shut off one side for safety reasons. We've already had the issued with fire

Trucks not being able to get where they need to go, there.

2. Butch Shaw wanted to comment on minutes with problems on Route 4 and 7 project. Jeff Wennberg and Butch attended the final meeting. Most problems have been solved. Still issues with the contract door & quality of work. Commander Geno asked about the switch of sirens. Butch said that they disconnected, repaired and put back together.

   At the new tire store near the Trolley Square, they need to move traffic light 15 feet. Jeff Gave them Brad's name and number. Butch mentioned that it depends on which way he Moves it. Also mentioned they will get back to us on this. Jeff asked that Butch talk with Brad and Brad will see if it makes sense, Brad does the work and charges the business owner.

3. Washington/Merchants Row walk light – need to know they will need to put up Black Out signs.

To close out the meeting, Commander Geno asked if there were any other issues to discuss. No further issues were raised at this time. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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