

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2015

PRESENT: Commander Geno, Jeff Wennberg and Brad Lafaso

ABSENT: Chief Schlachter and James Rotondo

GUEST(S): Ron Hemenway

The meeting was called to order by Commander Geno at 9:10 A.M. Minutes from February 20, 2015 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved.

New Business:

1. Traffic signal at North Street Extension and North Main Street intersection – Royal Barnard

It was stated that this isn't a street to be taking a left hand turn and drivers should be turning right. Jeffrey Wennberg mentioned to Royal Barnard that the issue at Deer Street with the lights has been resolved. Brad Lafaso mentioned that he needs to replace the old pedestrian head buttons at Deer Street and this should help.

Brad also mentioned that there are a lot of green and some red LED's that are failing. He will replace these. These are located at the following intersections:

Center Street & South Main Street,

Washington Street & South Main Street,

Deer Street & Woodstock Avenue and

there are 2 lights at Crescent Street and North Main Street

Jeff Wennberg asked if we are getting longevity from these lights. Brad said that LED lights last 10 years, usually and these lights have currently been up for 15 Years. Brad mentioned that we could always put up a yellow flashing beacon light at this location. There was no further discussion regarding this issue.

2. When will Pedestrian signage on Strongs Avenue and other locations such as mid block Merchants Row by Barber Shop, mid block by Freemans and possibly one by the Transit Center be installed? Commander Geno

It was mentioned that we do currently have a couple of these signs. Each year, we usually need to buy a couple new ones. Commander Geno asked if we could put one up by the transit center at the intersection of Cottage Street. Jeff Wennberg and Commander Geno mentioned that these signs do work. Jon Kiernan mentioned that he noticed that in the State of New York, on each side of the street, there are flags on a stick. You use the flag and wave it while you cross the street and put it in the bucket on the other side of the street, when you've crossed completely.

3. Rampant continued use of hand-held electronic devices while driving – Larry Walter

Commander Geno explained that the law restricting hand held cell phone use was written very broadly and that you are allowed to use your phone at a stop light and at stop signs. If people continue to use them, after they have stopped at a traffic light or stop sign, that's the violation. He also mentioned that he sees more of these violation's when he is off duty, compared to when he is on duty.

4. Other new business

Library Avenue traffic at Middle School

Jon Kiernan spoke to Alderwoman, Melinda regarding Library Avenue traffic at Middle School. There is a concern with traffic in and out before and after school. He asked if this block should be one way. Commander Geno did mention that there is congestion. He asked if it was to be one way,

which way? Jon asked if maybe make it a one way for 2 hours of the day. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that this could be a problem if we did it for 2 hours a day.

Sidewalk on Church Street beside school playground

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that he recently had a conversation with the Mayor regarding this sidewalk. They have received complaints about the plow not plowing this sidewalk. Should we rip the concrete out and remove this sidewalk and make angle parking to the fence? If we put in curbs, there wouldn't be parking or we could put a pedestrian walkway on the other side of the fence. We are trying to look at different ways to address this. He mentioned that he will talk to the school department.

Strongs Avenue project to Howe Center

Commander Geno asked what is going on with this project. Jeff Wennberg stated that they are applying for a grant and that we have almost \$200,000.00 in local money. The City received grant money for Killington Avenue but we paid for Killington Avenue out of operating funds. It would be next year, at earliest. We are sorting out design details.

Old Business:

1. Traffic Lights/crosswalk at Washington Street and Merchants Row intersection

Brad Lafaso mentioned that he received the pricing back for this intersection. Butch Shaw told him that there should be enough wiring in pole to put a box sign up at this location. If there isn't enough wiring, the cost will be an extra \$1,000.00. The price for putting up this box came in at \$19,118.00, without having to do a lot of wiring. If more wiring is needed, the price will be \$21,638.00.

Jeff Wennberg stated that we are currently over budget in regards to funding improvements at this location even before receiving the \$19,118.00 proposal. He mentioned that we may have to ask the Mayor to dip into the contingency fund, if we want to do these improvements, unless someone else has another solution.

Brad Lafaso mentioned that with the Bardwell incident where a pedestrian was struck while being in the crosswalk, it's a big topic out there. It's always brought up.

Ron Hemenway mentioned that people tend to push the pedestrian button, they don't look to see if traffic is coming and also don't wear reflective clothing.

Jeff asked Brad to send his this quote and he will ask if we could find the money from somewhere else.

Commander Geno mentioned that it might be better if we waited until the next fiscal year, that begins July 1, 2015.

2. Woodstock Avenue/Stratton Road sign box is difficult to see in the sunlight. Brad tried to clean the lenses. The price would be \$4,360.00 for 1 – no turn on red box LED light. There are two at this location.
3. We have 3 traffic lights on recall, in connection with the State of Vermont road project from last year. The City Police Department has called several times regarding this. These lights are for the following locations:

Washington Street/South Main Street, Deer Street intersection and Center Street

Washington Street/South Main Street intersection, heading east, the detection zones need to be moved over.

The problem that we are having at these intersections is due to the State using equipment that the software isn't reading.

Econo light services us. It's a free service. Jeff Wennberg asked Brad what he needed to maintain this. Brad stated that he needed the software, the wiring could stay and a new camera was needed. Brad will ask Tim Pockette if we could get the software. We can't program it. So far, it's still the State's responsibility.

4. Line striping

Jeff Wennberg told everyone that they are trying to get on a cycle, for the painting of crosswalks to be done in May or June. It has to be warm and it has to be dry for stop bars, crosswalks and parking space lines to be painted. He mentioned that he would have his crews do it on straight time, during the day. Some of the downtown parking spaces may be done at night, If we have to pay overtime, we will have to wait until after July. He would prefer to do this early and not late. We already have the paint.

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 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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