

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2014

PRESENT: Chief Baker, Lt. Geno, Evan Pilachowski, Jeffrey Wennberg and Jon Kiernan

ABSENT: Chief Schlachter, Butch Shaw and Jerry Hansen

GUESTS: Ron Hemenway

The meeting was called to order by Chief Baker.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Baker greeted everyone with Good morning. He asked if everyone knew each other.

1. Signage on Woodstock Avenue – Megan Robertson

Lt. Geno mentioned that there is a problem with lane markings on Woodstock Avenue showing 1 lane headed east. The lane markings are faded pretty bad. He also mentioned that he has had to ticket a few people at this location. Jon Kiernan talked about it being too cold for paving right now and asked about having bumps? Evan asked if there was a possibility to put bumps in, temporarily. Jeff stated that we might be able to. Chief Baker asked where this fits in with the work to be done on Woodstock Avenue? Evan stated that it comes down to painting. It has to be dry and pavement needs to be 40 degrees. Chief asked if we could agree to do temporary markings. Evan will do some investigation, exploring the possibility of this. Chief Baker asked Lt. Geno to call Megan Robertson regarding the signage issue.

2. Crosswalk by Beauchamp & O'Rourke – Linda Shelvey & Ron Hemenway

Ron Hemingway introduced himself. He stated that he lives in Sheldon Towers and uses the intersection of Woodstock Avenue & Deer Street. Chief Baker let Ron know that he isn't the first person to complain about issues at this intersection. Chief introduced Mr. Wennberg of Department of Public Works to Ron and let Ron know that we have a copy of his letter to the editor.

Chief asked Ron if he would like to talk about his concern. Ron stated that yesterday, he was crossing From Deer Street to Beauchamp and O'Rourke and he noticed on the right hand side going down Woodstock Avenue, the please stop here sign has 2 sunoco stickers on it, obstructing this sign. It might not take a lot to get these off. From sidewalk coming down Woodstock Avenue near Deer Street, without careful Observation, you may not see this sign. Chief replied to Ron that it sounds like you walk this everyday. Ron stated, pretty much. Chief asked Ron what he has seen happen here. Ron stated that when he's Crossing from Woodstock Avenue, coming from Godnick Center across, people couldn't see pedestrians Based on where the stop bar is. He said that it's disturbing, especially when people are making a left hand turn. Chief mentioned that this is when the light is green for them turning left, right? Ron stated that the light should never have people walking when traffic has green light. Chief mentioned that he had a situation on Washington Street when it was dusk and he had the green light and came across a pedestrian that was in dark clothes. Chief said that he never saw him. Ron also stated that it's not fair to drivers, too. You have to wonder what their intention is.

Evan stated that a fix has been designed for this intersection and is part of the Routes 4 & 7 project. This is a difficult intersection. Drivers sometime don't see. There have been some pedestrian accidents here. Part of the project would be installing new equipment with an all red cycle during pedestrian crossing cycle. Ron mentioned that this would be fantastic. Ron asked if there was a chance of it being delayed. Evan stated, no. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that the contractor has been hired to do the work. Evan said that he can't say when this portion will be done. It could be at any time from April to October. Jeff mentioned that the plan is all done and that we needed all traffic to stop for a dedicated pedestrian cycle at this location. Chief Baker stated that if it's alright with the Commissioner and Engineer, we will get this message out there and put it on our facebook page, being that we have heard that a fair amount of people

are concerned about this. Would this be helpful, Ron? Ron said that it would and asked if there was anything to do during interim? Chief Baker stated that we'll go out and look at the sign. We need to make everyone aware of being careful at this location during this time. Ron mentioned that he is concerned about the Senior Citizens that they don't have time to cross. Jeff asked if there will be a count down. Evan stated that there will be. Ron mentioned that he loves the ones down on Merchants Row. Hopefully, all the pedestrian lights, eventually will be changed. Evan mentioned that's the direction We're going. Ron mentioned that some only give you 10 or 15 seconds. Jeff stated that these work great and that flashing lights weren't terribly helpful. Chief Baker told Ron that he appreciates the fact of him following the process. Jeff mentioned that if any of the Senior Citizens have a concern, to let Laurie at the Godnick Center know. Chief mentioned that he could let the Senior Citizens know about the upcoming changes for the pedestrian crossing cycle at this location. Nora mentioned that the Seniors have an upcoming seminar at the Godnick Center on April 2nd. Chief Baker told Ron that he appreciates that he recognized both sides.

Jeff stated that the City has received the plan for the experimental temporary striping. The State has hired a PR consultant and are working with her and the project coordinator. He thinks that it would be useful to businesses, to know that this is coming and to get their feedback in a more structured fashion. Survey letter went out a couple of weeks ago. That has gotten the attention it deserves. Jeff mentioned that he had a long conversation with the DPW chair. There's a public safety meeting on Tuesday. The Board members sentiment is that this won't work, we shouldn't engage in experiment, it's unnecessary and an additional expense. Jeff explained rationale & logic and that we can end it sooner if it turns out to be major problem. Chief stated that the decision or authority of this taking place, doesn't fall on the Police Chief. State is strongly encouraging this. Gears are in motion. At the upcoming public safety meeting on Tuesday, folks who are the advocates, will be present. State's authority is the funding authority. There's still time to undo this. Evan mentioned that we would need to confirm with the State, that we wouldn't be subject to paying costs of design. Jeff mentioned that if there is to be a change, hopefully we could spread charges amongst us all. State is looking to experiment with what they believe to incorporate principals of complete streets to encompass bike riders, automobiles & pedestrians. We would look at if this is not safe, we would be shutting this project down. The traffic safety committee didn't authorized this project. Jeff stated that he would make this point at the public safety meeting on Tuesday. The Mayor is supporting this project, based on Board of Highway Commissioners approval.

Jon Kiernan explained that the reason the Alderman sent to committee, is that an Alderman wanted a Resolution to be signed by members of the Board of Alderman, stated they weren't in favor of this Project. Jon also mentioned that in Hartford, when they had a similar project, word was that it wasn't going to work. Now, its' like the "Model". Jon mentioned that we need continuous feedback for the test period. Chief Baker mentioned that he stressed to Vtrans, the importance of giving us a PR person. It's key for this person to be out there with the people, post updates on facebook, etc. Chief mentioned that the traffic in Manchester now flows well through there, with no problems.

3. School bus stop ahead sign on Granger Street needs to be moved

It was stated that the sign needs to head north. It's right at the school bus stop. Evan will put in a work order to have the sign moved. Evan asked if there was a particular spot that the sign should be moved to. Lt. Geno suggested that maybe down the street from the driveway, towards Forest Park. Chief mentioned that he hasn't heard anything more from Mrs. Warner regarding this sign.

4. Other new business

No other new business was discussed.

Old Business

1. Other old business
No other old business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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