

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2015

PRESENT: Commander Geno, James Rotondo and Jeffrey Wennberg

ABSENT: Brad Lafaso

GUEST(S): Gary Donahue and Frank Westcott

The meeting was called to order by Commander Geno at 9:10 A.M. Minutes from July 24, 2015 meeting were accepted as written and today's meeting agenda was approved.

New Business:

1. Speed bumps coming from Terrill Street to Sheldon Towers – Ron Hemenway

This item was discussed and it was decided that we won't be installing speed bumps at this location.

2. Crosswalk near Temple Court – Ron Hemenway

This item was discussed and it was decided that we won't be installing a crosswalk at this location based on there already being a crosswalk a short distance away at the intersection of Deer Street and Woodstock Avenue, in addition to the location of proposed crosswalk.

3. No parking this side signs removed on East Center Street

Four "no parking this side" signs were removed on East Center Street. Commander Geno had given permission to Joseph Giancola to remove some old signs that were directly in front of the old "Dana school", Mr. Giancola misunderstood which signs he was given permission to remove and removed the wrong ones. Three of the four signs have been reinstalled. It was mentioned that a couple signs need to be relocated, to cover the complete side of the road and that one more sign needs to be installed, to bring the signage back to where it was. DPW will talk with Ricky regarding this.

4. Park Street light cycle – Commander Geno

Gary Donahue stated that Tractor trailer trucks seem to be getting off highway in West Rutland, and quite possibly are following their directions from their gps and taking a right onto Evelyn Street. They really should be following to the bypass to Route 7 and then taking a left turn on Park Street. Gary mentioned that people are complaining to him regarding the stop light at the corner of Park Street and North Main Street. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that it would be great if the traffic engineer for Vtrans could come to our Traffic Safety Committee meeting and explain why things are set up the way that they are and ask if we can have certain things. Gary mentioned that he had to sit through 4 stop lights, before he could go. It is forcing people to break laws. People are making right turns on the red arrow there. It would be great to ask this engineer what can be done to provide some relief to those on Park Street.

5. Sign request for a Speed limit sign and a "Slow, Children Playing" sign on the east end of Hopkins Street

Commander Geno will take a look at this area to see what signage is currently there and make a determination of what may need to be put in for signage.

6. Bus stop sign at 69 Allen Street – Jeffrey Schroeder

This morning, Jeff mentioned that he took videos this morning on flat area before the crest. Anyone driving through there, would always see top of the bus. Would teach blind people to get off at Mussey Street. Commander Geno asked where he would stop the bus. Jeff mentioned that it would be headed westbound. If right at the NW corner, after driveway. He watched a couple get off the Bus at the Pines, 1 in a stroller walk on sidewalk, walk across driveway at 69 & 71 Allen Street. There is no sidewalk past the pines driveway.

Commander Geno asked if you can get from 71 to 69 Allen Street in the back by walking. Jeff mentioned that it is a steep hill. About 15 years ago, they were talking about stairs between the 2 properties. Commander Geno mentioned his concern with a bus stop there, over the brow of the hill. He is concerned about collisions that may occur. He would feel better if they can get out at 71 Allen Street and get to 69 Allen Street without crossing the road. Can bus get into 71 Allen Street? Jeff mentioned that the problem is that the hospital route takes a lot of people in wheelchairs. One day, they got 3 wheelchairs on the bus. At 69 Allen Street, we have 2 ENT practices, Community Dental practice. At Dr. Hartensteins, there aren't many driving cars but they would be trying to cross from Mussey Street or getting off at the Pines.

Jeff Wennberg mentioned that maybe we could extend the sidewalk down the street more. It may create issues but we could try. Then, maybe we could put the Bus stop in a safer location. This wouldn't be immediate. Maybe we could do it next year. Jeff Schroeder asked if traffic can see the top of the bus, why is the crest a problem. Commander Geno replied that the line of sight of full vehicle is important. The bus is westbound at 71 Allen Street. Commander Geno mentioned the need to have proper signage. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that it can't hurt. Maybe look at using some of right of way to create a pull off for bus to discharge passengers. Maybe something like this is doable. Might be cheaper than sidewalk and it's more direct. I can see why a lot of folks would be relying on the bus. James Rotondo will take a look into this. Commander Geno mentioned that James Rotondo will look into this and advise Traffic Safety Committee of his findings.

7. Request for handicap parking sign at 55 Morse Place – Christina McDonnell

There was a brief discussion regarding this. Jeffrey Wennberg will take a look at the area, will make a decision on this item and advise the committee of such decision.

8. Traffic issues on Crescent Street – Frank Westcott

Frank Westcott mentioned that there used to be a gross vehicle weight sign is missing. Road is coming apart at the top of this hill near Route 7. Within a 2 block area, there are 4 schools (NW Elementary School, Rutland Intermediate School, Rutland Middle School and the Rutland Area Christian School. Children have to cross on way to school. If City wants trucks on Crescent Street, I think it's a bad idea. Truck traffic is constant. We need to lower speed limit and replace the gross vehicle weight signs. It would add to quality of life here. I have seen traffic increase 5 fold since 1997. Diesel trucks give off gray puff of smoke. I can't have windows open at my house. They are using engine brakes. I am just hoping that a child doesn't get hit here.

Commander Geno mentioned that a lot of the trucks that are going through here right now are the ones from the old Lynda Lee fashions building on State Street. He mentioned that these trucks could use State and Grove Street. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that they have had Grove Street tied up with the project work being done there. Commander Geno also mentioned that he read the ordinance. James Rotondo mentioned that it was derated to 15 ton. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that we upgraded the bridge. Frank asked why the sign didn't go back up for the Gross weight. Jeff Wennberg stated that Crescent Street is a public road to collect and carry traffic. Anyone can use it. Pavement has

been a mess. We have some plumbing to do there. Have to dig up from Beer King property to Main Street next year. We will have to put sacrificial pavement down. Frank Westcott mentioned that the trucks coming through Crescent Street are fully loaded and wouldn't be able to stop for a child in the street. Jeff Wennberg stated that the posted speed here is 30. Frank asked if we could slow down traffic on the road. Commander Geno mentioned that he hasn't seen any excessive speeds through here. The biggest thing he saw was the dump truck traffic. Frank mentioned that for the past 4 months, the trucks run every 4 ½ minutes. He also stated that he has lost 2 summers in this neighborhood because of this truck traffic and this says that the City doesn't give a crap about this neighborhood. He would like this to be looked at. Jeff Wennberg stated that he can talk to the people who are taking loads from the Lynda Lee fashions building and ask them to use other routes of travel. Give it a few days and this work should be over.

James Rotondo mentioned that he called Dean at Kingsbury and asked them to stop using the jake brake. Frank mentioned that they have been really good about that now. Frank also asked what happened on North Street Extension with all of the stop signs and why the City doesn't lower the speed limit all through the city. Commander Geno mentioned that putting up stop signs won't always correct the problem. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that there was a traffic study done and it showed Temple Street as a bad location with a high percentage of people exceeding the speed limit. The first issue is enforcement. Commander Geno said that we could try some enforcement. Jeff Wennberg will find out how much more time it is going to take for them to get the pile out of Lynda Lee fashions property and see if we can shift them to State & Grove Street. Frank Westcott offered his porch for the Officers to use for enforcement of the speed limit. He said they would make a fortune off the people still talking on their cell phones while driving. His house is headed West, NE section, blue house with white fence. Jeff Wennberg mentioned that they will be paving Crescent Street today. James Rotondo will make a call to move the Lynda Lee truck onto State & Grove Streets. Frank extended his appreciation in listening to his concerns. Commander Geno thanked Frank for bringing his concerns to us.

9. Other new business

Old Business

1. Other old business

No old business was discussed

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 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nora J. Moore
Records Clerk

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

