

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2023

Chief Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M

Members Present: Chief Kilcullen, Jim Rotondo and Officer Rosario

Members Absent: Ted Gillen, Devon Neary and Bradley LaFaso of Lafaso Electric

Guest Present: John McCann

NEW BUSINESS

1. Obstruction of City Sidewalk on Royce Street at Greg's Auto – Dave Searles

Chief Kilcullen mentioned that we have had a number of complaints for this location. Officer Rosario mentioned that he believed it started a year ago. A concerned citizen asked him to take a look at this situation. Officer Rosario talked with the Owner. A couple of weeks later, it was happening again. He ticketed a few vehicles. Chief of Police has also spoken with the owner. Then, some time later, it happened again. Chief asked if it was employee cars or work cars. Officer Rosario stated that it was both. He's not sure what the fix is, here. Jim Rotondo showed some photos that he had the Street department take the other day. Cars are on both sides of the sidewalk. Officer Rosario was told for the short term, just keep ticketing as you're doing. It was stated that we need to change the ordinance on green belts. Jim also took a look at Google maps from 2019 and showed us some photos of this location. Jim Rotondo mentioned that they're going to repave Strongs Avenue this year. How about we continue onto Royce Street and all curbs, like we have been doing when streets are getting repaved? Chief asked Officer Rosario to look and see if there are any violations with these cars? Check with Mike Brookman. Maybe we can stop in again. Chief stated that he will go with Officer Rosario if he wants him to. Jim mentioned that maybe with future developments and redevelopments, we could set a regulation to set back their parking lot. We can't have paved surface right up to our sidewalk.

Jim Rotondo mentioned that he wasn't sure if the Ordinance regarding green belts is still with the Board of Alderman. We need an ordinance update. John McCann asked what the ordinance says and what updates need to be done. Chief Kilcullen stated that it started on Forest Street with trailers. The street is travelled portion of the road. Ordinance was modified awhile ago that vehicles couldn't be parked in the "green belt" space for 48 hours. There wasn't an appetite at that time to change ordinance. When repaving started on Forest Street, it was brought back up. Jim Rotondo and Ted Gillen did a great job with talking with residents and giving them parking on the street. Jim will see what we need to do to get it back to the City.

Other old business

Columbian Avenue / Pierpoint Avenue intersection –

Jim Rotondo mentioned he wasn't here at last month's meeting. Ted came. We want to shift existing signs into the green belt, move further from the intersection. Some signs are on the other side of the street.

A "left turn yield to oncoming traffic" sign will be installed below an existing sign at this location.

Lincoln Avenue stop sign request –

Jim Rotondo did research on this. He looked at the MUTCD manual. This came up on Temple Street awhile ago. According to the MUTCD manual, Yield or Stop signs should not be used for speed control. We can't stop people from using streets. It's based on average daily traffic. Besides being a cut through and the concern regarding Speed, it doesn't rise to the level where a stop sign should be installed, unless there was accident data, which I don't believe there was any of. Chief stated No.

John McCann said that he appreciates that Jim looked into this. He asked Jim if what he provided today included cyclists and pedestrian traffic? Jim stated that he didn't believe so. John mentioned that he noticed that there are Stop signs at the Williams Street/Church Street intersection and the Williams Street/Elm Street intersection. Do they have the amount of traffic that Lincoln Avenue has? Jim Rotondo mentioned that we're trying to look at the intersections. Some have Yield signs but should have Stop signs. We will address them when we get to them. Wherever we upgrade a Street, we evaluate the signs. A few days after last month's Traffic Safety Committee Meeting, there was a T-bone crash at the Lincoln Avenue intersection and a few other intersections. I'm not sure if road conditions were the cause. John mentioned that he didn't come here today just for the stop sign request.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:33 A.M.