

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2023

Commander Delpha called the meeting to order at 09:02 hours

Members Present: Commander Delpha and Ted Gillen

Members Absent: John McCann, Chief Kilcullen and Bradley LaFaso of Lafaso Electric

Guest's Present: Doug Todd, Elaine Mullan and Tom & Gaye Martin

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Request for the City to discuss the extremely overgrown bushes at the corner of Curtis Avenue & Muzzey Street with their owner and request that they trim them or remove them so that they don't cause an accident in this area – Elaine Mullan

Commander Delpha mentioned that he drove by this area to take a look at the bushes. He asked Elaine if they have been trimmed. She indicated that they hadn't been trimmed. She mentioned that you basically have to drive out into Curtis Avenue to be able to see if traffic is coming and that someday there's going to be a really bad accident there. A couple of years ago, she was in an accident there. She also mentioned that there is a hill to the left at this intersection, so you really need to be able to see before heading into traffic. Some time ago, our City Forester, Mr. Schneider went & talked to the owner of the overgrown bushes. Nothing has been done in referenced to trimming the bushes.

Ted Gillen mentioned that he and Jim Rotondo spoke about this. They would like to make contact with the owner and propose that they relocate the bushes. Commander Delpha asked if the City has setback. Ted indicated, No. He knows that the City Forester can trim shrubs, etc. Commander Delpha supported their idea to propose that the bushes be relocated. Ted also suggested that someone from the Police Department go with the City to talk with the Owner of the bushes. Commander Delpha mentioned that we're just looking to keep people safe. All members were not in favor of this request.

Overgrown Bushes at intersection of Temple Street and Deer Street

After Elaine Mullan gave us information regarding the history of these overgrown bushes, she indicated that she also noticed that where you come onto Temple Street from Deer Street, these bushes may also need to be trimmed.

Overgrown Bushes at intersection of Pierpoint Avenue, State Street and Columbian Avenue –

Elaine also mentioned that the bushes at the intersection of Pierpoint Avenue, State Street and Columbian Avenue also need to be trimmed. Ted mentioned that if they need to touch up pavement markings at locations, they take a look at the area and trim shrubs at that time.

Stop sign obstructed on Forest Street –

Gaye Martin mentioned that on Forest Street, the Stop Sign is obstructed. Ted Gillen mentioned that he also noticed this and he is on it. Ted's office will call the Forester and coordinate to have the bushes trimmed at the above locations.

Doug Todd from Todd Transportation mentioned that Ted Gillen and his crew had done a lot of work on Curtis Avenue. He indicated that this has caused a lot of Traffic Issues. They were told there'd be No Parking on the street. Yesterday, someone was parked up by the railroad tracks, not sure how the vehicle didn't get hit like 3 or 4 times. Commander Delpha asked if the work on Curtis Avenue is complete. Ted Gillen stated Yes. Ted had talked with Chief Kilcullen and was lobbying to get "No Parking" on one side of the street. They put up 5 or 6 "No Parking" signs. Todd's Transportation wanted to get clearance at their Exit and Loading Dock. A cone was put up. Doug mentioned that the "No Parking" signs need to be turned. It was mentioned that if people are parking beyond the sign towards the Railroad Tracks, that's not a good situation. They first put "No Parking" between the signs and thought it would prevent people from parking near the tracks. Ted mentioned that we may need to move these signs, so people aren't parking near the tracks.

Doug Todd mentioned that he's not sure why we took the parking away. Ted mentioned that we can't design every road to have 2 lanes of travel and allow parking. We would have had to have had 30 – 32 feet wide streets to accommodate this. It's unfortunate that we don't have Chief Kilcullen and my boss, Jim Rotondo here to talk further about why we set this street up this way.

Doug Todd indicated that they are having trouble with people parking in their tenants parking area. Ted suggested that we should all read through the Development Review Board Minutes from the November, 2019 meeting regarding the Salon. It clearly explains that they need to stripe all spots or private parking.

Commander Delpha asked if we could add an additional sign to prevent people from parking in Todd's Transportation's tenant's parking area. Doug Todd suggested that the City move the "No Parking" sign to the Railroad Tracks.

Tom Martin mentioned that people Zoom these tracks all the time. Gaye Martin asked if the City could approach the Railroad and ask if they would entertain a sign put in their right of way? Gaye mentioned that they are having trouble with people at the Salon parking on their property. Tom mentioned that the Salon was granted parking several years ago for where they had been parking, already. He mentioned that his trucks can get out. Elaine Mullan mentioned that people even go like 70 mph up Curtis Avenue over the Railroad tracks. Tom suggested that maybe a warning system, like a flashing light to say something is in the road ahead? They have a proximity warning there. Ted suggested that maybe expand the "No Parking" limits on the North side, push up towards the Railroad Tracks. Tom asked if the City paints curbs red where there is "No Parking"? He also mentioned that people have been parking in the Green space where there's no curbing. Ted stated that this area was left that way to allow for trucks to turn. Gaye mentioned that they are being forced to put up a fence. Doug Todd mentioned that they are looking to put up some "No Parking" signs on their property. Commander Delpha stated that we will keep working on this and provide these details to Chief Kilcullen. Elaine mentioned that it may help if the Chief goes and talks to the people at the Salon to see what is going on. That has been done and they indicate that they have a Variance regarding Parking. Ted stated that a Variance was not issued. Ted will send Nora the Application for Conditional Use Permit Findings and Decision, so she can share this information with Chief Kilcullen and the Traffic Safety Committee. Ted asked for Doug, Tom and Gaye to give us a crack at it.

Doug Todd stated that it's amazing in the past couple of years, just how fast people have been driving on this Road (Curtis Avenue). The noise from these cars, the loud, pop, pop, pop sounds. Elaine thanked the Traffic Safety Committee for having them at today's meeting.

Doug Todd mentioned that he's not sure they finished near the ramp. How about we get together and have a discussion on how we can make it better?

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Green strip parking – John McCann sent Nora an email to indicated he wouldn't be able to attend Today's meeting but asked her to share the following:

He is assuming that most of the fold on the Committee may have heard the conversation at the last BOA meeting about the green strip parking issue. At a prior Traffic Committee meeting, there was discussion about where that initiative had landed after Devon Neary had taken it from the Traffic Safety Committee to the BOA. It seems as though it got referred to the Charter and Ordinance Committee, but maybe didn't go anywhere after that.

Recently, the Planning Commission also wanted to see something done about parking in the green strips and asked John to raise the issue again at the BOA. He did so and hopes that the new Charter and Ordinance Committee chair will bring the issue up and make sure it gets resolved. If any members of the Traffic Committee would like to be a part of that discussion, they can reach out to John or to the Chair, Carrie Savage (or they can just keep an eye out for the meeting notice)

Commander Delpha mentioned that he thought Devon Neary was trying to get some rules set up regarding green spaces.

John also stated that if there are any issues from today's Traffic Safety Committee meeting that we need him to bring to the next BOA meeting, to let him know. It was stated that we should have him mention that the parking issue on Curtis Avenue was brought up at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Ted mentioned that he may talk to Tom & put "No Parking" sign outside of the right of way near the edge.

Meeting adjourned at 09:50 hours.

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk