

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2024

Commander Whitehead called the meeting to order at 9:02 hours

Members Present: Commander Whitehead and Ted Gillen

Guest's Present: Steve Waite,

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for a Stop sign to be installed at the intersection of High St. and Bellevue Avenue - DPW

Ted Gillen stated that he supports this. It is on the list from when we requested for 30 signs, through a grant that we were approved for. The Grant agreement hasn't been sent to us, yet. We are trying to concentrate on T intersections, such as this one. There are a few more on Bellevue Avenue that should have signs as well. Commander Whitehead asked what kind of time frame are we looking at, for this to be done? Ted stated that they could have it installed next week.

Other Old Business

1. Horton Street

"No Parking Here to Corner" sign was installed on Horton Street.

2. Wood Avenue / Pearl Street

Stop sign was installed at this intersection

3. Merchant's Row Crossing Pilot

This was discussed at last month's Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Ted mentioned how they started laying out a couple of options. One of those to be extending Merchants Row pedestrian island 20 feet in both directions. Steve Waite mentioned that people just seem to pop up out of there. Ted mentioned how what they had up during this pilot was temporary. We'll put up bollards. Steve Waite mentioned how on Merchants Row, that left turn can really back up, up the hill. Not sure what they're doing on Center Street. He asked if there was a way we could look at the flow on West Street. It doesn't work well. Ted indicated that the pavement will be painted a dedicated left turn lane. Commander Whitehead stated that they don't wait, anyways, they go around. We will lose a parking spot in front of the West Street Grille. Not sure if we will be losing a spot on the other side. Ted said the other side will mirror the initial side we discussed, where we'll be losing a parking spot.

4. Steve Waite mentioned that Chief Kilcullen talked with him after the March meeting and he hinted he was OK with going to 9 pm flashing for the traffic lights. Commander Whitehead stated that we can talk about it at the next meeting if you want but 9 pm might be too early. Maybe during the week, it wouldn't be a big deal. There are some intersections that don't make sense where you can't go right on red. (the technology and the railroad) Ted said that maybe we could have a no turn on red signal that comes on at a certain time of day. Steve mentioned that you're past the train and then you have parking lot at Southside, too. Steve mentioned that he lives on East Center Street, he's walking, light is like 1 ½ minutes and we're frustrating people when they get to Center Street and have to wait to cross, just to try to get to downtown. Ted Gillen mentioned how there will be traffic light improvements coming through with the Vtrans project. Maybe after all this is done, we can take a look at it. Commander Whitehead mentioned that there was a glitch at East Center Street light where he sat through 2 cycles, then it didn't signal to take left, then went through red, green, yellow quickly. Think it reset itself.
5. Steve asked if coming North from Wallingford at Lavalley's, is it Rutland Town logic? Ted stated that it's the State, then turns to City. Steve asked if it's possible to set a speed, if you drive 35 mph, that you'll be able to coast through lights? (gateway light, it's all set on) Steve also mentioned that when they go to Chicago, it actually looks like they base their traffic on pedestrians. He mentioned that his goal in coming here to Traffic Safety Committee meetings is for traffic safety, are drivers enjoying their trip going through Rutland. Just want it to be enjoyable. Ted will send a note to people at Vtrans to see if they can look at timing. Steve asked about the whole re-do on Vtrans project, asked when everything is being made public. Ted mentioned that he started typing up a Press Release. He said he's been waiting for schedule and that we're like 2 – 3 weeks away and that he's been getting anxious, himself. Starting May 6th, they will be working on Woodstock Avenue.

Ted mentioned that he knows that Washington Street is an intersection we'd like to take a look at that, too. He mentioned that the lights don't all go green at once.

Meeting adjourned at 09:24 Hours.

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk