

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, July 19, 2024

Chief Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 9:00 hours

Members Present: Commander Whitehead, Ted Gillen and John McCann

Guests Present: Nick Santoro

Members Absent: Bradley LaFaso of LaFaso Electric and Chief Brian Kilcullen

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to discuss speeding, traffic and children's safety on Maple Street – Mr. Santoro

Mr. Santoro stated that he believes from the way old days that Maple Street is considered a highway. He knows it's a multi-use street. Street, though it was a mechanics delight, was wider. Due to budgetary constraints, street is now narrow. None of you have been in a fatal accident. He stated that post covid, there were a lot of truck deliveries. With completion of the Hale apartments, mean's he is familiar with the street and behaviors of children. With the owners at 126 Maple Street, they have many children learning to play in the street with their battery operated cars. He is concerned with new 5-8 residents, may be at 120 Maple Street, that care that people on the street take care of the children. Might be that the people are in a hurry to live their lives, not paying attention. He doesn't feel there is a need for speed bumps. We had an issue with animals. That is now Over. Not sure of relationship that 126 Maple Street has with our Office. These people sometimes supervise their children from the porch. It's not marijuana, there. Can't prove it, won't say much more. Even Matt, the supervisor at the project has seen people zipping by at 50-55 mph. It's rather synchronistic, his older brother that lived was 10 when his 3 year old brother died. He said that at 126 Maple Street, that they have a 10 yr. old caring for the other kid.

Commander Whitehead stated that Chief Kilcullen relies heavy on data. We'll put up a speed cart and see what the data is here. I think if data reflects high speeds, maybe we talk about other calming behavior. We will start with this. He said he knows that speed bumps in the Winter would have to be pulled up to plow.

Ted Gillen said that we will get the data. In some critical areas, we'd have to make some changes.

Nick Santoro stated that he knows that it's not our job to talk to the Parents. Commander Whitehead said this is important, though. He mentioned that his Stepson said that other children were removed from the home where he's concerned about the children. He has seen the behaviors and it concerns him because of his history. He said that he lives here and it would just be a bad thing if a child was killed.

Ted Gillen stated that he has spent a lot of time down in that area and Maple Street does have a lot of kids. He said that he totally agrees with Mr. Santoro about being concerned for the kids.

Mr. Santoro thanked the committee for listening and that he didn't have to say anymore. Mr. Santoro questioned, "Those machines can come up with speed?" Commander Whitehead said yes. Mr. Santoro thanked us for our time, again.

John McCann stated that he thinks that he's mentioned this before. Speed carts act as a deterrent. I think we're recording speeds that are lower. How much is average or max because we're somewhat altering their speed. John stated that he had talked with Sgt. Williams regarding this.

Ted Gillen wonders if there is a spike in the beginning. The area that Mr. Santoro is talking about is Pine and Baxter Streets. If it's not safe to play in the streets, parents will need to let children know. Ted also mentioned

that he knows that Mr. Santoro is passionate about the neighborhood. Ted wants to see if we can split the data in both directions.

John McCann stated that it may need to be better parenting. Road is public space, Children playing, people walking dogs. Neighborhood traffic should be lower. Commander Whitehead stated that it's where people are delivering to businesses. Baxter Street park is right there. They're not going to always be able to play in the street based on the dynamics in the neighborhood. Maybe put up a couple reflective, children at play signs. Ted said that he just wants to be careful if we were to put up speed bumps, that it's necessary.

Old Business – NONE

Ted Gillen mentioned that we were approved for a Grant to do work by the Rutland Intermediate School. (The block of Seabury/Church Street) Shoulder will be gone. He stated that he wasn't sure what Commander Whitehead's position was with this. He stated that they have planted the seed with the Facilities Director that this is coming and they need to come up with parking. It was asked if it would be possible to park from Seabury down to beginning of parking lot? Ted said that he'd be hesitant to do that. He's just looking for everyone's opinion. Maybe collectively get a letter together to let the school know to get working on finding parking solutions. He mentioned that North of here on Crescent Street, there are 2 crosswalks that cross Crescent Street. Both have signs "School Crossing". They lead into back parking lot. Ted also mentioned wanting to see some changes at the Beer King area. It has a large curb cut. Should be center island, ada ramp. He asked Chuck if we've had any incidents there with pedestrians. No.

John McCann stated that the whole intersection there is bothersome. He knows it would be tough to take back City property. Commander Whitehead said that he is all for making it safer. John asked with the repavement project work being done at night, if we were seeing continued frustration. Ted said, Yes. There have been a coupled of instances when we got heavy rain, at Route 7 & East Washington and Route 7 & Crescent Street, with popped tires. DPW filled the holes in. Ted said that the lane reconfiguration on Woodstock Avenue, new paint, signage and signalization should be done by mid August.

Meeting adjourned at 09:46 Hours.

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk