

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2026

Commander Whitehead called the meeting to order at 09:04 hours

Members Present: Commander Whitehead, Ted Gillen, Soupie Dethlefsen and Tom Donahue

Members Absent: Interim Chief Matthew Prouty and Brad LaFaso of Lafaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Request for a warning sign of a Stop sign around the corner – Dorr Drive

This would be South bound coming from the College to River Street. A lot of people are running the Stop sign, here. It's a tough corner. Easy fix. Stop ahead. We would advocate for this @ blind spot, where you come around the corner real quick. The Stop sign is even off the curb line. (maybe by the Church property) so you can see it from a long distance. A Stop ahead sign will be put up.

2. Request to address the concern of visibility at the Red Brick furniture store – Ripley Road

It's actually Old Brick Furniture Store at Ripley Road. They are plowing the snow up to the East side of the parking lot which is then blocking the view of people coming off of Ripley Road, turning left or turning right. It was said that it's more than just snow banks. Cars can park real close to the intersection. Ted drove through here the other day coming off of Ripley looking to turn right and you look left and cars are stacked to the full extent of the pavement. You need to stop at the stop bar and you need to inch your way up and you're still trying to creep out into oncoming traffic. It's very hard to see. We have a sight ordinance we highlighted for State & Pierpoint we used once. It basically says if you have an intersection like this and some property boundaries like this and where the two properties intersect, you need to have a little triangle without any obstructions. There is a long pull off on the shoulder of the road where the snow piles up. We would suggest stopping by to set up an appointment and talk to somebody. We could even do the work for them. First, find property boundary, which we think is really tight to the building. We could mark this out and start with a minimum with 2, 15 foot legs. Definitely tell them they need to find a different spot to put snow. The building is real long, cars park across the front and there's a worn-out space behind the building. Walk the whole sight with them & try to get them to move the snow out of the parking area and green space. Guessing plow guy is doing it, owner probably not thinking about it. We have some authority to enforce some improvements. On Ripley, there's a couple of utility poles, a fire hydrant. It was asked if we've had any incidents here. We may have had a couple of crashes, near the intersection but not at the intersection. People pull out all the time from the gas station and Dunkin Donuts. We will get them to move the snow right away.

OLD BUSINESS -

Updates from DPW Engineer in regards to Old Business Items

School zones –

A diagram was handed out

yellow dot – School sign

25 blue dots – where speed gets reduced

30 red dots – where you can bump speed back up

Wouldn't do right off the bat. Install all poles, a little taller than typical to install Speed limit signs. We can atleast put School placard signs in place, can enforce 25 mph speed. We just want to slow people down in this

targeted area. Just need to be clear that we wouldn't be calling it a School Zone if we are only changing the Speed limit right now. This School is utilized a lot, gets a lot of after-hours traffic so would be good to lower the speed at all times, not just times when Children are present. Commander Whitehead mentioned that if we can't just do a School, 25 mph zone, he would just recommend instead of just doing when children are present to do during School hours, add a time. This would achieve what the crossing guards were looking for. Ted will send proposed charter change for School zones to outside Counsel. Tom Donahue will present to Committee.

Sharon Davis had brought up to Tom Donahue the issue with people parking in Green Space as part of the Winter Ban and people not being given tickets. It was mentioned that across the City, people have been parking their vehicles directly on sidewalks, across driveways, green spaces, leaving a safety issue for all pedestrians as it is necessary to get across the roadway and these obstructed areas. We are addressing the Winter Ban and issuing tickets. It hasn't been a huge issue now. The overall conversation is that we need to fix this Parking ban in order to fix the Green Belt. It was mentioned that the new Green Belt ordinance hasn't been passed because it needs to be warned in the newspaper and isn't enforceable. Commander Whitehead will mention the parking in the green belt and ticketing to the Officer's and asked that Desirie send the Proposed Ordinance on the Green Belt to all of them. It was asked if we wanted Ted to instruct someone to warn this new Proposed Ordinance or revisit the language. It has to be enforceable. Tom Donahue will refer this back to Charter & Ordinance.

No right turn on red at N. Main Street/Woodstock Avenue – If we can't do the electronic sign, could we do a highlighted yellow and remove the white & black sign. Ted Gillen thinks Bob had asked Lafaso Electric for a price for the electronic piece of this. He will look into this and let Commander Whitehead know.

Meeting was adjourned at 09:55 hours.

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk