

Traffic Safety Committee, Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2026

Commander Whitehead called the meeting to order at 9:04 hours.

Members Present: Mayor Tom Donahue, Chief Matt Prouty, Commander Charles Whitehead, DPW Commissioner Bob Protivansky, Associate Engineer Soupie Dethlefsen

Guests Present: Planning Administrator Ed Bove, Highway Operations Supervisor Dan MacIntyre

Members Absent: Assistant Engineer Ted Gillen, Business Manager Kelsie Boudreau, Brad LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Winter Parking Ban

Mayor Donahue wanted to start the conversation about the practicability of the winter parking ban early, before winter starts. One reason this was brought up was due to people parking in the greenspace and on lawns. There was discussion about whether the Greenbelt ordinance had been passed, and the belief is that it has but not officially posted. Parking on sidewalks can be ticketed currently, but parking in the greenspace cannot be enforced until it is posted. There was discussion about enforcement responsibility, with Chief Prouty expressing a preference for the PD enforcing greenspace violations, as they do for sidewalks. The Mayor will confirm if the ordinance has passed, and if so, the consensus is to publicly post it and make it active.

The conversation returned to the topic of the winter parking ban. Commissioner Protivansky mentioned that since the last meeting DPW had consulted with other communities (Brattleboro, Keene, Concord, Burlington, and Barre) regarding their policies and how their alert systems work. Barre implemented a new notification system last year and although it was rough at first, it has been going well. They send out alerts through VT Alerts, Facebook, and message boards. They are drafting their policy and will send the DPW Commissioner a copy when it is complete. The current winter ban is generally effective, but if PD is only writing tickets when there is inclement weather and not throughout the entire time of the ban, then it will reduce compliance. The committee discussed the possibility of 72-hour or week-long notices, which was viewed favorably. However, Mayor Donahue emphasized that broader parking challenges needed to be addressed before the winter parking ban. Ed Bove noted that Act 181 limits the City's ability to require more than one parking space per unit. However, some new developments are built with less than one per unit. The Development Review Board is in charge of site plan review and municipal use review, and it would be worth having a conversation with that Board. No action will be taken in regard to the winter parking ban. Action items include the Mayor confirming the status of the Greenbelt Ordinance and initiating a conversation with the Development Review Board.

2. Evelyn Street Crosswalk (from park area to TD Bank) – Commander Whitehead

Commander Whitehead raised concerns about increased pedestrian traffic crossing between the park area and TD Bank, noting that pedestrians are not utilizing the existing crosswalks. Chief Prouty recommended that the Engineers evaluate the area to see if another crosswalk is warranted. Soupie will perform a site study and see what makes sense.

This discussion led to concerns about the crosswalk signal at Strongs and Washington, which cycles for pedestrians even when no one is present, including during overnight hours. Ed noted that the combination of the pedestrian signal and “No Turn on Red” signage can result in extended vehicle wait times. Commissioner Protivansky will contact Brad LaFaso to see if timing can be changed so there are flashing lights from 10-6 and the pedestrian crossing lights do not cycle. DPW will proceed with this review and make adjustments as appropriate; no further committee action is required.

3. Request to Install a Crosswalk on North Main Street in the vicinity of Vernon Street Intersection

The Committee quickly agreed this was not advisable due to limited site distance and potential safety risks. Instead, the committee discussed several other options for this area, as many pedestrians are crossing to get to the bus stop. Some of the suggestions included a stop on each side of the road, creating a bus cut-out in the area, and relocating the stop to an area with more visibility. It was mentioned that the Traffic Safety Committee can determine where the bus stop is. Mayor Donahue also noted that DPW has a lot of projects on their plate and this may need to be a long-term project. Soupie suggested that they do a site study, look for an appropriate location for crossing, and then bring back high-level concepts to the committee for consideration.

4. Main Street McDonald’s Crosswalk Light

A resident raised concerns about the crosswalk signal timing at this intersection, reporting a near-miss incident due to pedestrian signals changing simultaneously with traffic lights. Soupie mentioned that during the scoping study of North Main and Woodstock, one of the proposals was initiating a leading pedestrian interval to give pedestrians priority first to enter the intersection. Commissioner Protivansky will contact LaFaso Electric and determine the feasibility of implementing this change at this intersection as well as North Main and Woodstock and South Main and Curtis. The Commissioner believes it should not take much to reconfigure the lights.

OLD BUSINESS -

1. School Traffic Zones/Speed Limits

Dan MacIntyre reported that this is set to go, and DPW just needs to install the signs. Commander Whitehead reiterated that the City will evaluate whether reducing the speed limit to 25 MPH at all times is effective in slowing traffic. If not, then the City can look into designating school zones. Mayor Donahue noted that grant funding, such as Safe Routes to School, may be available to support school designation efforts.

2. Rutland City Public Schools Traffic Concerns

DPW has sent a letter to Superintendent Reed about traffic concerns and will await a response to schedule a meeting.

3. Forest Street Lights

Installation of the requested lighting has been completed. The Mayor received an email from the resident with positive feedback, indicating she is very happy with the solution and feels safer with the light in place.

4. Road Configuration at North Main Street and Crescent

DPW Commissioner Protivansky reported that this intersection will be upgraded to a four-head traffic light with a dedicated turn arrow and a flashing yellow for left turns.

5. Handicap Parking Space in Front of 20 Washington Street

This item was originally brought up in October 2025. DPW was waiting for the installation of a ramp to be completed. Soupie stated the ramp looks good, and DPW will designate one handicap parking space in front of the property. A sign will be installed, though no pavement markings are planned.

Other Old Business

Updates from DPW Engineer in regard to Old Business Items

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 hours.

Submitted by Desarie Stone-Feliciano, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police