MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

September 20, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Captain Matt Duval, Chairman; Council Representative Ken Vincent; Paul Robidas, Citizen At-large; Jenne Holmes, Citizen At-large; George Kramlinger, Fire Chief; Michelle Mears, Director of Development Services; Mike Bobinsky, Director of Public Works & Utilities; Amber Hall, City Engineer; Bob Belmore, City Manager; Jay Lilly, SAU56 Facilities Director (SAU56 Superintendent designee).

**Councilors/Staff Present:** Marty Pepin, Ward 1 City Councilor

 Richard, Michaud, Ward 5 City Councilor

Brenda Ann Breda, Executive Assistant to City Manager

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Chairman Duval called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approve Past Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022

***Paul Robidas made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mike Bobinsky. The Motion Carries.***

Handicap Parking Space/s at The Noble Pines Park

Mike Bobinsky stated they will be installing a handicap spot at the very end of the parking area.

COAST Bus Stop on High Street Near Bartlett Ave.

Captain Duval stated that moving the COAST stop would not work. Where the stop is now, the pole has a street light on it, making it well lit. Moving it South or North would be tough - with no sidewalks. Committee Members voted unanimously to not take any action. All in Favor.

Lord’s Court – No Parking Issue

Captain Duval stated this is an easy fix. We amend the parking Ordinance to restrict parking by posting no parking from November 15 – April 15. Lord’s Court is too narrow to have on-street parking during the winter months because of ambulance/fire access, due to plowing. The other months residents would be able to park. During the winter months residents would have to seek out City Parking spaces made available. Bob Belmore stated we would need an Ordinance change. Councilor Vincent said he would sponsor it. Captain Duval stated he would write-up a draft to present to Council. All in Favor.

Consideration for Summer Street to become a One-Way

Atty. Brain Barrington of the Coolidge Law Firm sent in a letter requesting this street to become a one-way. Amber Hall stated that a sign “Do not Enter” was taken down by the contractor, the sign needs to be put back up. Paul Robidas said this is already a one-way. Captain Duval will communicate to Coolidge that the One-way sign and do not enter sign will be reinstated.

Safety Concerns with the Intersection of Blackwater Road and Old Rochester Road

Captain Duval stated same traffic accident issues for years. There have been a multitude of accidents. A State DOT Road Audit was completed a couple of years ago. Old Rochester Road is a State Road. Some of the fixes have been trimming back the trees for sight line improvements as well as adding a solar mounted blinking red beacon on the stop signs. Majority of the accidents are during the day, with most of them being failing to stop at the stop signs. Mike Bobinsky said he will apply to the State to have it revisited. Ken Vincent asked again what the statistics since we last met on these safety audit improvement. Captain Duval said accidents have slowed down slightly. There have been 7 accidents since January 2023, again related to stop-sign error, driver distraction. Captain Duval thinks we should Table this until we get feedback from the State DOT. Paul Robidas made a motion to support to Table. The motion was second by Ken Vincent. All in Favor.

Road Safety Audit: West High St./Maple St./Sunset Drive

Mike Bobinsky stated all of these Roads are in Somersworth. Captain Duval stated this is a 5-way intersection. Mike Bobinsky stated the Audits start September 26 and a report will be generated. Paul Robidas asked if the State gives us recommendations and the City doesn’t follow does that put the City at risk? City Manager Bob Belmore said let’s wait for the safety audit reports to address this question. Committee motions to Table this until we get results back from the safety audit.

Miscellaneous

1. Pedestrian Safety Signage on Rocky Hill Road, Otis Road, Lily Pond Road

Captain Duval said there has always been a concern of speeding on these Roads. Doesn’t believe more signage is necessary. Captain said he will have Police conduct more patrols. Paul Robidas made a motion to not place pedestrian signs and allow the patrols to help address the concern. The motion was second by Ken Vincent. All in Favor.

1. Sign at High Street “No U Turn”

Captain Duval said we need to put the “No U Turn” up sign back up.

1. 2-Hour Parking on Main Street by where Aclara is (Former GE)

Committee asked do we really need 2-hour parking from 6am – 6pm? This was put up when GE was there. Paul Robidas made a motion to support an Ordinance to change this. The motion was second by Ken Vincent. Councilor Vincent said he would sponsor it. Captain Duval with handle moving a Draft parking Ordinance amendment forward. All in Favor.

Adjournment

Chairman Duval indicated he would reach out to the various residents who sent in their concerns.

***Paul Robidas made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

 Brenda Ann Breda, Executive Assistant