

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2016

Attendance

Russell Timmons, Police Captain & Chairman of Traffic Safety Committee; David Witham, Director of Planning & Community Development; City Councilor; Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief ;Jeni Mosca, Superintendent of Schools; Member at Large; Jenne Holmes, Member at Large; Paul Robidas, Director of EMS; Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director.

Robert Belmore, City Manager arrived at 2:23 pm.

Absent

Jennifer Soldati, City Councilor, Harold Guptil, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm.

I. Minutes

Jeni Mosca motioned to accept minutes from January 20th, seconded by Paul Robidas. All in favor, minutes accepted.

II. New Business

A. Discussion “Crossing Light” High Street at Memorial Drive. Mayor Hilliard brought this Captain Timmons regarding his concern for pedestrian safety. Captain Timmons ran some stats over the last several years on accidents:

- 2016 (to-date) - 1 pedestrian accident
- 2015 - 2 pedestrian accidents
- 2014 - 2 pedestrian accidents (1 bicycle)
- 2013 – 3 pedestrian accidents (1 bicycle)
- 2012 – 3 pedestrian accidents

Jeni Mosca stated her concern from a school perspective that this is a high traffic area with kids. Accidents seem to happen at dusk. As far as she is concern 1 accident is too many. Paul Robidas and Dave Witham find the stats high. Dave noted we have a crossing guard there during high times before and after school, but it is after that time that the concern arises. Dave is surprised we have not had more accidents. Jeni mentioned the dip in the road creates momentum for cars arriving at the intersection and you do not see anyone until you are coming back up the road.

Dave Witham mention that we are in the process of doing some repaving projects in the City and maybe rolling out this “light installation” would be a good time.

Mike Bobinsky mentioned the “Hawks” lighting system. These systems are designed to stop traffic for pedestrian traffic only, once activated. Paul said he thought we had overhead lighting arms, previously used at AMR. He added that there should be an electric box that was used on the old setup. Paul believes the items may have been put at Public Works.

Paul Robidas said it is our duty as the Traffic Safety Committee to make this intersection safe. Jeni said this is the highest kid pedestrian area we have. Paul said let’s think of ROI (return on investment), can we eliminate the crossing guard if we do a new lighting system? Captain Timmons asked how much, Mike said he thinks hardware, signage and installation is approximately \$40,000, noting this is a 24/7 system.

Jeni Mosca motioned to send this to Council, Keith Hoyle seconded, all in favor. Captain Timmons will write a letter to Council stating the Committee’s recommendation for pedestrian safety improvements.

II. Old Business

A. Parking Issue Kings Lane. Captain Timmons noted the Ordinance was passed by Council and no parking signs on King’s Lane have been installed.

Miscellaneous Discussion. Dave Witham wanted to note again his concern about the parking distance being too close at Noble Pines, we need a sign “no parking here to corner”. Dave also said the intersection at Washington and High Street near the New England Pickers Store we need a “no parking here to corner”. Tractor trailers are having a hard time turning down Washington St. Mike will evaluate the need for signage to support the current ordinances in place specific to the mentioned areas.

Jenne Holmes said she thinks we should have “no parking from here to corner” where Main Street meets River Street. Mike to evaluate the concern and make recommendations to the committee.

Mike Bobinsky noted he has been working with Fire Chief Hoyle on the lights at the intersections, this is still ongoing.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th at 2:00 p.m.