

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2020

Attendance

Captain Russell Timmons, Chairman
Robert Belmore, City Manager (Non-Voting)
Ken Vincent, City Councilor Representative
Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director
George Kramlinger, Fire Chief
Gary Lemay, City Engineer
Robert Gadomski, School Superintendent
Jenne Holmes, Member At-large
Paul Robidas, Member At-large

Citizen attendance: Tim Dyer and Councilman Michaud

The Chairman called the Meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Review and Accept November 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Paul Robidas motioned to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Jenne Holmes. Bob Gadomski abstained. **Vote 6-0**, minutes accepted.

Old Business

- A. Review of Parking Ordinance Specific to “In-Town” Area.** Paul Robidas asked why we are considering this Ordinance change. Timmons states that there are overlapping issues in some Ordinances that need correcting. Timmons had indicated he wanted to discuss the suggested changes to the in-town area of the High Street corridor first. This area is between Constitutional Way and Market Street. There are other clarifications in the parking ordinances for future discussion relating to other Streets. The matter was sent to this committee by Counselor Witham. The request is to discuss removal of the “All Day Parking areas on High Street. Currently there are 2 hour sections on both sides of High Street in the described areas. Additionally there are areas designated for All Day Parking. The discussion ended with no clear indication of support or denial of the suggested change. Bob Belmore suggested some communities have 2 hours 7:00am – 5:00pm or other times during the day allowing overnight parking. Paul Robidas asked if anyone has talked to the Business owners for their thoughts. He also questioned if we have spoken to the Residents in the immediate area. Paul Robidas made the motion to Table this to next month. Ken Vincent seconded. **Vote 7-0 to Table.**
- B. Report on the School Zone Signs.** Ken Vincent said he brought this to Committee as he saw the Flashing lights were sporadic. One of the indicator lights had burnt out as well. Timmons noted that the issue of Flashers has been corrected and are now working properly.
- C. Signage at Railroad Crossing.** This was brought to Committee as a result of a car stopping in traffic straddling the tracks, when a train was approaching. Timmons noted that he contacted Railroad and they do not provide signage typically for this type of violation. Paul Robidas questioned the requirement for such signage. Timmons noted that there have not been any further instances reported. **No further Action taken.**
- D. Crosswalk Lighting, Bartlett Ave. at High Street.** Timmons noted that he has checked the illumination at this Crosswalk and described the lighting as adequate. **No further action taken**

New Business

- A. Recommended Handicapped Parking Stall Franklin Street at Board Street.** Timmons was contacted by a resident on behalf of a caregiver. The caregiver helps care for a client in that area and has difficulty locating parking. The discussion followed with the following motion. Vincent motion to deny. Bob Gadomski seconded. **Vote 7-0 to Deny Request.**
- B. Request for Signage for “Handicapped Child” on Drew Street.** Request to add signage on Drew Street. Timmons explained this is requested to notify traffic of a Hearing Impaired Child in that neighborhood. Discussion by the Committee. Paul Robidas motion to deny. Ken Vincent seconded. **Vote 7-0 to Deny Request.**
- C. Request Action at Intersection of Grand Street and Highland Street to add additional Stop Sign and other notification signage.** Discussion followed. Consensus of the board was to deny this request. Mike Bobinsky motion to deny, Bob Gadomski seconded. **Vote 7-0 to Deny Request.**
- D. Usage of Tractor Trailers on Indigo Hill Road.** A resident of Rita Road, Tim Dyer was concerned about child safety and road erosion with Tractor Trailers driving on Rita Road. He believes that Rita Road is being used for a shortcut to Berwick, Maine. After lengthy discussion there appears that no alternate routes would be any more maneuverable or less destructive for tractor trailer use. It will be hard for Tractor Trailers to turn if we create a Truck Route on Buffumsville Road. Paul Robidas motioned to Table to refer back to Police to do more research. Ken Vincent seconded. **Vote 7-0 to Table.**

Captain Timmons asked if there were additional matters to discuss from members of the Committee. Ken Vincent offered a concern with a “Crosswalk” sign on High Street that should be moved. This matter resolved between Vincent, Bobinski and Mr. Belmore. No committee action required.

Hearing no further comments a motion to adjourn was requested.

*Bob Gadomski motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jenne Holmes
Motion to adjourn at 2:50 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Brenda Ann Breda, Executive Assistant
to the City Manager