

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2021

Attendance: Captain Russell Timmons, Chairman; Michelle Mears, Director of Planning & Community Development; Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director; Amber Ferland, City Engineer; George Kramlinger, Fire Chief; Paul Robidas, Member At-large; Jenne Holmes, Member At-large; Robert Belmore, City Manager; Ken Vincent, City Councilor Representative

Citizens: Emmett Soldati arrived at 2:00pm, Ed LeVasseur arrived at 2:18pm

Absent: Lori Lane, School Superintendent;

The Chairman called the Meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1. **Approval of June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Paul Robidas motioned to approve meeting minutes, 2nd by Michelle Mears. Ken Vincent abstained. Minutes Approved.

2. **Safety Logistic for On-Street Dining on High Street - Teatotaler**

Captain Timmons said we are here to present logistics that will make this safely work. Attached are pictures and a proposed draft of the placement of Jersey Barriers (JB). For safety concerns I am recommending using 3-parking spaces to adequately fit the JB to accommodate the angle barrier on each end. Reflective material should be added to these JB's.

Ken Vincent asked about signage, painting them. Timmons stated that is not Traffic Safety's (TS) issue to discuss and suggested that would be through Code Enforcement. Ken Vincent asked Emmett, what happens if you do this and you find out it doesn't work?

City Manager Belmore explained TS is here to look at the safety of the JB this has already been approved by City Council to allow the expansion of Teatotaler's permit for outdoor dining to include On-street parking. Further conversation specific to JB's continued. Timmons indicated angle barriers on both ends of JB's are safer than squaring off the ends.

Robidas said I have wrestled with this request. Council directed it to TS to find out the safest option. Also, in my opinion angle is better. Ken Vincent said none of us here are Engineers on safety. Belmore stated that Chapter 12 is being reviewed at Public Works today which has outside dining being reviewed. Ken Vincent said some of the locations we approved outside dining to are not in traffic areas like Teatotaler.

Robidas made motion to approve angled JB, Vincent second. Emmett said thank you to the Committee and said he does not want angled because it will take up 3 parking spots and he only wants 2. I cannot afford to pay for 8 JB to accommodate 3 parking spots. He asked again why angle JB? I don't see the risk. Timmons said you will need to provide your own JB's as the City is not providing them. Emmet asked if City owned JB's. Mike Bobinsky said yes, we do have them but we use them for trail and park closures. Timmons suggested maybe we look at this next year when more time is available; we are already almost through the summer. Emmett said the cost is high and I do not have a place to store them when season is over. Emmett suggested that 2 parking stalls would work. Ken Vincent commented that if the city bought JB's perhaps Emmett rents them from us, just a thought! We are trying to work with you.

Robidas said maybe only have angle coming from the Berwick side. Timmons said angle is better because it deflects. Amber commented that materials JB's come in all different sizes. The cap end could be smaller and pinned to the barricades. Timmons suggested that 2 spots were agreeable. Timmons offered additional recommendations for this project.

- The barriers will not intrude into the Bicycle Lane.
- A patron protective screen will be in place. This will be a lattice type structure designed to protect patrons from road debris or other such objects caused by vehicle traffic. The screen will be in place on 3 sides. The sidewalk side remains open.
- If a tent or canopy is used it will meet safety standards
- If umbrellas are in use, they will be anchored and stored properly at the close of business daily.
- Authorization for the outdoor dining on a public way is permitted April 15th through November 15th.

Robidas asked Emmett does this work? Emmett asked about artwork on JB's. Timmons said that the matter of artwork is not a Traffic Safety directive. Any artwork would go back to Code Enforcement. Robidas asked about condition of JB's used. Mike Bobinsky said I have a list of JB's companies. Michelle and Emmett agreed to meet tomorrow to discuss steps to move forward.

Motion: Paul Robidas motion to accept 2 parking spaces Ken Vincent seconded.

The Vote: All in favor

3. Request to Change Current Parking on Pleasant Street are of High Street (Old Business)

Captain Timmons said we brought this back to TS because Ed LeVasseur was not able to attend the June meeting. Citizen Ed LeVasseur lives on Pleasant Street and wants to change the current parking. The area in question is on the High Street end of Pleasant Street the south side. An ordinance prohibits parking on the south side of Pleasant Street, for a distance of 150 feet. Ed suggested allowing parking in that area. He also proposed to Captain Timmons that if this was not possible to consider seasonal parking there, with no winter parking allowed. Paul Robidas recalls "We said no last meeting for safety reasons". Mike Bobinsky stated snow plow would not be able to make that turn street is too narrow. Captain Timmons asked Committee members to make an effort to visit that area and consider the impact of the requested change as this is reconsidered. The Committee will meet again next month to discuss the request further.

***Motion: George Kramlinger motion Adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Paul Robidas:
All in favor Motion carries meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm***

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