

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2022

Members in Attendance: Captain Matt Duval, Chairman; Richard Michaud, Council Representative; Michelle Mears, Director of Planning & Community Development; Paul Robidas, Member At-large; Fire Chief, George Kramlinger, Amber Hall, City Engineer; Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

Excused Members: Lori Lane, School Superintendent; Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director, Jenne Holmes; Ken Vincent, Council Representative

Staff in Attendance: Dana Crossley Planning Secretary

The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM

Councilor Michaud was in attendance as a temporary replacement appointed by the Mayor for Councilor Vincent, who could not make the meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2022

MOTION: Robidas moved to approve the 8/17/2022 meeting minutes.

The MOTION is SECONDED by Mears. The MOTION CARRIES 4-0-2 (Michaud and Hall abstained)

2. Review of Resident Requests:

a. To make Down Street a One-Way

Duval stated this request was submitted by resident David Carette. Resident had a Ring Door Bell installed and counted 198 vehicles traversing Down Street. The request is have Down Street, from Indigo Hill Road to Buffumsville Rd, be a one way with the do not enter sign at the Indigo Hill side because of excessive amounts of traffic and people using it for a cut through.

Robidas inquired if they could put a traffic counter out for that portion of the street.

Duval stated he researched the accident reports for this area and found that the accidents were not in result of heavy traffic volume. Noted that by altering this traffic pattern it would just put a burden on another street.

Hall stated this area was all reconstructed around the same time and designed to handle a certain level of traffic and does not see the benefit to re-routing traffic.

There was a brief discussion regarding resident only or local traffic only signs.

Robidas stated he was not inclined to alter the traffic for this area.

There was a brief discussion regarding traffic counters.

Belmore noted that along with DOT, SRPC also has traffic counters. Inquired if other than traffic volume if there were any other safety concerns from Fire, Police or Ambulance access if those changes were done.

Kramlinger stated he is in favor of keeping it as a two-way traffic for Fire response.

Hall noted that even knowing what the traffic volume is on the street may not give enough information to make a decision to change the traffic flow.

MOTION: Robidas stated I move to leave Down Street as is with two-way traffic.
The MOTION is SECONDED by Kramlinger. The MOTION CARRIES 6-0.

b. For Safety Improvements at Indigo Hill Road and Main Street Intersection

Duval stated this request was submitted by resident Simone Dubay. Resident is requesting review of the 4-way intersection of Indigo Hill Road and Main Street with concern for pedestrian crossing and travel through the intersection.

Duval stated this request falls into Police Department enforcement. Action can be taken by increasing patrols in this area and address violators. This is a common issue at 4-way intersections but this intersection is well lit. He will distribute communication through his Department to have the Officers spend some time in the area on patrol to monitor this intersection as a Directed Patrol.

The Committee was favorable to this action plan.

c. For Blind Driveway Sign at 22 Grove Street

Duval stated they received a request from a resident on Grove Street for a Blind Driveway sign because of a concern that when they back out of their driveway into the street due to the crest in the road he almost gets hit often and feels the installation of a blind driveway sign would create a safer situation.

Belmore stated they have received requests similar to his over the years, in traffic publications such as the MUTCD and T² they advise against putting up traffic warning signs because it gives a false sense of security.

Hall noted this area does not allow for much room to have additional signage installed.

Kramlinger stated his concern with adding more signage is the impact to City vehicles more of a chance for plow trucks or fire engine mirrors to get knocked.

MOTION: Robidas stated I move that there be no new blind driveway signage installed.
The MOTION is SECONDED by Kramlinger. The MOTION CARRIES 6-0.

d. For Deer Crossing Signs on Green Street

Duval stated this request was submitted by resident Melinda McLaughlin. The resident's concern is that there are a lot of deer strikes in this area and feels there should be signage installed for deer crossing on Green Street.

Duval stated this portion of Green Street is a State Road and is under the jurisdiction of DOT. Noted there are a lot of deer strikes this time of year and historically for this area there have been 6 deer strike accidents reported over 5 years. Stated they have seen more on Route 108 in one year. Suggested they can provide correspondence to DOT.

Kramlinger stated he does not think it would be a good idea to install the signage due to the same reasons discussed in the prior request.

Duval stated he would share the contact information for DOT with the resident as this portion of Green Street is under their jurisdiction.

3. Miscellaneous

There was a brief discussion regarding the plan to deter right turns onto Station Street from the Library. It was determined that there would be a left turn arrow painted likely after winter.

MOTION: Robidas moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 PM.

The MOTION is SECONDED by Councilor Michaud. The MOTION CARRIES 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dana Crossley
Planning Secretary