

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
February 21, 2024 – 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Captain Duval, Chairman; Council Representative Ken Vincent; Jenne Holmes, Citizen At-large; Michelle Mears, Director of Planning and Community Development; Mike Bobinsky, Director of Public Works & Utilities; Amber Hall, City Engineer; Bob Belmore, City Manager; Jay Lilly, SAU56 Facilities Director (SAU56 Superintendent designee).

Committee Members Excused: Paul Robidas, Citizen At-large

Councilors/Staff Present: Anna Stockman, Planning Secretary

1. Approve Past Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2023
Vincent made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mears. The Motion Carried 7-0.

2. Additional Street Light for Crosswalk on Interstate Drive request by ContiTech
Bobinsky stated the street light would provide additional lighting for employees of an existing business. He noted the location of existing street lights in proximity to the area. It was noted that ContiTech employees cross the road to get to their two facilities during Evening shifts and it is very dark in the crosswalk area.

Bobinsky made a motion to table this item until the price of an additional light is determined. The motion was seconded by Holmes. The Motion Carried 7-0.

3. Speed Limit Change from 30 to 20 mph on Noble Street
Duval stated there have not been any recorded accidents or incidents in the location of Noble Pines Park and he is unsure if dropping the speed limit would be a productive solution.

Belmore noted an engineering study of the area would need to be conducted and he believed there is a requirement under the RSA to identify traffic accidents and fatalities to justify any lowering of the speed limit.

Mears asked whether park signage that alerts vehicles of the adjacent park and playground could be used to slow traffic.

Duval stated the Police Department will use their digital sign enforcement trailer in the Spring to make vehicles aware of the park.

Vincent made a motion to deny the request with the exception that the Police Department will use their digital sign enforcement trailer. The motion was seconded by Mears. The Motion Carried 7-0.

4. Change of Parking Ordinance on Main Street from Indigo Hill Road to Wiggins Court to 1 or 2 hours

There was a discussion about what changing the Parking Ordinance would entail. Captain Duval mentioned that the repair garage uses the street to park cars and sometimes to repair them while parked on the street. Belmore stated he had suggested the request to assist with this code issue, however upon reflection we realized the repair shop would not be penalized rather it would be the car owner. There was a consensus that it would be best to not make the requested amendments to the Parking Ordinance.

Vincent made a motion to deny the proposal. The motion was seconded by Duval. The Motion Carried 7-0.

5. Additional street lights on Francoeur Drive

Duval provided a summary of the request. He noted the area of Francoeur Drive is rural. He stated it has been three years since the Somersworth PD has received a call to service on Francoeur Drive.

Bobinsky stated in preparation for the meeting, he and Hall conducted an inventory of the existing street lights on Francoeur Drive and on streets in the surrounding area. He noted there are seven-to-eight existing lights in the area, including three street lights on Francoeur Drive.

Duval noted the proposal for additional street lights was the request of one homeowner and it may not be reflective of the entire neighborhood's desires.

Holmes made a motion to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Mears. The Motion Carried 7-0.

6. Miscellaneous

Belmore noted patrol is needed at the intersection of Washington Street, High Street and West High Street, as the intersection is blocked by cars due to traffic congestion along High Street all the way to the Berwick bridge. He asked that the Police Department check this issue out during these peak times.

Duval stated the need for alternating traffic lights at West High Street and Indigo Hill Road will be fixed. Bobinsky noted he would look into it and that this improvement is an interim fix as it is part of the ten-year DOT plan to widen and modify the intersection.

Vincent made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Holmes. The meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Stockman, Planning Secretary