

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014
8:30AM – SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Planning Director Rod Francis, Chamber of Commerce Representative Leo Schiff, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, and Citizen Representative Robert Immler.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell.

Others present: Matt Mann from Windham Regional Commission and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – *None.*

Union Hill Project – *Update.* Hannah O'Connell and Steve Barrett spoke about the Union Hill/Western Avenue/Cedar Street intersection and the long history of the improvement project. O'Connell said that the first local concerns meeting took place on April 10, and at the meeting the engineers, Holden Engineering, provided and discussed two conceptual plans for the project. She discussed the conceptual plans with the Committee, and spoke about some concerns and suggestions offered at the public meeting, including adding a four-way stop, making Union Hill one-way traffic, turning radiuses at the intersection, and redesigning pedestrian crosswalks. There was a lengthy discussion by the Committee and Matt Mann about the project, conceptual plans, concerns, budget constraints, traffic speed and volume, and the public's suggestions. There was a separate discussion about having the traffic flow on Union Street being one or two way. Barrett said that Holden Engineering would review the suggestions collected at the public meeting, and then meet with VTrans in order to move the project forward. O'Connell said that environmental, historical and architectural reviews were necessary parts of the project and the results were pending.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY GENE WRINN, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ENDORSES HOLDEN ENGINEERING ALTERNATIVE PLAN #2 FOR THE WESTERN AVENUE/UNION HILL/ CEDAR STREET INTERSECTION WITH ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION OF SQUARING UP THE RIGHT-HAND TURN OFF OF UNION HILL GOING EAST ON TO WESTERN AVENUE AND ALSO GIVING FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO SHIFTING THE SIDEWALK ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF WESTERN AVENUE NORTH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street List for Traffic Studies – *Develop Annual List of Streets for Windham Regional Commission, Traffic Calming Plan.* O'Connell said that the recently adopted Traffic Calming Plan provided that a list of streets be developed annually to start collecting data. She said that the streets being proposed at this time were: Putney Road between Main Street and Wantastiquet Drive, South Main Street, Pine Street near the small park, Fairview Street, Guilford Street near Living Memorial Park, Green Street, Western Avenue between Union Hill and I-91, Western Avenue between I-91 and South Street, Union Hill, and Canal Street on the hospital hill between Birge Street and Belmont Avenue. Barrett said that scientific data, including traffic counts and pedestrian counts, were critical in order to justify projects and receive grant money and other assistance. He suggested revisiting Green Street to determine whether the traffic calming devices were effective. Matt Mann suggested that Windham Regional Commission could assist with traffic counts during the summer depending on demand by other towns. There was discussion by the Committee about the proposed list of streets and areas, traffic counts, extending the focus on Putney

Road to Veterans Bridge, and obtaining traffic data from the State on Putney Road further north of the bridge.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ENDORSE THE LIST OF HIGHWAYS OR TRAFFIC COUNTS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AS AMENDED, WITH ANY PRIORITY BEING ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Request Forms – *None*.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Chief Wrinn reported that since the last Traffic Safety Committee meeting, forty motor vehicle crashes were investigated, plus three accidents involving injuries. He said there were two other incidents being investigated: (1) a report at the hospital by a woman who reported that a vehicle was backing out and she slapped the back hood but she was not injured, and (2) a vehicle intentionally hitting a pedestrian which was being investigated as a crime and not an accident. He said there were no reports of bicycle accidents. There was a discussion by the Committee about a possible bike accident at the roundabout reported in the newspaper. Wrinn said it would investigate why that incident was not reported in the Police Department statistics.

Other Business

Barrett said that the radar speed device on Green Street had been repaired by the Fire Department. However, it was reported that the device still was not working consistently. Schiff asked about the repair status of the pedestrian signal at The Junction. Barrett said that they were waiting for parts. There was a brief discussion.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY PATRICK MORELAND AT 9:35AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.