

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013  
8:30AM – SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM  
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barbara Sondag, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Planning Director Rod Francis, and Leo Schiff as Chamber of Commerce Representative.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell, Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald.

Others present: Terry Carter, Susan Avery, Donna Zhao, David Corey, Joanne Corey, Jim Curtis, James Bansleben, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:34am. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

Sondag presented minutes from the February 26, 2013 meeting and asked if there were any changes requested. Terry Carter said that she had voiced her concerns about the Harris Avenue and Putney Road intersection for the past year, but alleged that her statements were not included in previous minutes. She specifically requested that the minutes show that she has voiced her concerns about the Harris Avenue and Putney Road intersection for over a year. Sondag said that the minutes would include her concerns. There was no discussion by the Committee, except to clarify the location of the intersection.

**MOTION BY GENE WRINN, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 26, 2013. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Participation – Terry Carter spoke of her ongoing safety issue at the intersections of Harris Avenue, Vermont Avenue, and Putney Road, as well as Putney Road in general.

Street Markings – *Continue discussion, inventory of crosswalk conditions, line striping.* Steve Barrett provided information about the current condition of line-striping in the streets and at crosswalks. He said that side streets with less traffic had less wear through the winter and the streets with heavy traffic had considerable more wear. He also discussed wear caused by use of the grader. There was discussion about wear of street markings, around pavement scoring, and on the crosswalk at Green Street School. There was also discussion about costs and maintenance around raised and lighted crosswalks, and improving crosswalks in specific areas.

Whetstone Home Owners Association – Petition. Susan Avery from Whetstone Home Owners Association spoke about the home owners' ongoing safety concerns at the intersection of Williams Street and Whetstone Drive. She discussed the petition filed by the home owners and asked if a temporary action could be taken, such as limiting Williams Street to local traffic only, until a permanent solution could be determined. Hannah O'Connell said she spoke with a State representative previously who indicated that no State funding was available to lower the bridge guardrail because the bridge was not a structural concern and that the guardrail specifications were set for pedestrian safety, although the Town could bear the cost of finding alternatives within Federal standards. Gartenstein discussed the series of interests to be balanced, including home owners' concerns, initial concerns regarding access to the development identified by the Town at the outset of construction of the development, safety concerns exacerbated by the State's installation of guardrails, and increased traffic.

There was discussion about the safety concerns in the general area, guardrail standards, limiting the road to local traffic only, speed of traffic, identifying speeding vehicles, enforcement of speed limits, and the street designation as a Federal Aid Highway.

Sondag suggested identifying and providing the necessary information and documents for review at one time in order to determine a plan to move forward and possibly make a recommendation, including

information from the guardrail company and information from Windham Regional Commission around its discussions with the State about the road and bridge. She asked Public Works Director Steve Barrett to investigate an easement at Crosby Street to improve visibility in that area. She asked Planning Director Rod Francis for copies of the Development Agreement and DRB information. She asked Police Chief Wrinn to discuss with the Town Attorney the possible designation and enforcement of the road being limited to local traffic only. She asked Hannah O'Connell, Matt Mann and Rod Francis to look into the Federal Aid Highway designation. She asked members of the neighborhood to identify particular vehicles that were speeding and times of the day that speeding was a problem.

Terry Carter asked for clarification about a Federal Aid Highway and whether that designation would allow a restriction for only local traffic. James Banslaben spoke of a problem he witnessed with a skateboarder and voiced concerns for child safety on Williams Street and the surrounding area.

Sondag said that the Committee would discuss this matter further when the requested information was available.

#### Ongoing Projects – Updates

(1) Traffic Calming Plan – O'Connell said that the draft Traffic Calming Plan was being revised and that it needed to be reviewed by the Department Heads. She discussed some of the difficulties in determining and prioritizing existing concerns and citizen concerns. There was discussion by the Committee about the Plan and the prioritization needing to be fluid in order to fit with other priority lists such as paving, sidewalk repair, utility replacements, and the capital improvement plan. Leo Schiff said that a balance was needed between being proactive and reactive. Sondag asked that a draft Plan be provided to the Traffic Safety Committee for discussion at the May 28 meeting.

(2) Western Avenue Grant Agreements (2) – Sondag said that the grant agreements had been signed and that O'Connell would be the local project manager for those projects. There was a brief discussion.

(3) Ad Hoc Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee – *Local Motion, Update*. Sondag said that a draft Brattleboro Safe Streets Plan was being finalized for implementation in the spring. She discussed several strategies contained in the plan, including distribution of additional reflective leg bands, holding safety workshops for seniors, distribution of Rules of the Road to walkers, riders and drivers, stenciling walking and bike safety messages on sidewalks, and additional awareness campaign measures.

(4) Paint-the-Pavement Project – Sondag said that representatives of the Cedar and Myrtle Streets neighborhood would be meeting with the Selectboard and seeking approval for the paint-the-pavement project in that neighborhood. She said that a street blocking permit would be requested so that the design could be painted. There was some discussion about diverting traffic, notifying drivers of the street closure, and the type of paint being used. Sondag said that the neighborhood would be working with Public Works Department around the street closure and paint.

#### Other Business

Gartenstein asked for a report at the May or June meeting about any traffic safety concerns at West River Park on Route 30 since the park would be opening soon. Chief Wrinn said that additional patrols were scheduled and electronic signs would be installed for the opening day on May 18.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY GENE WRINN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, AT 9:37 AM TO ADJOURN.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**