

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014
SITE VISIT AT LINDEN LODGE (PHOENIX HOUSE), LINDEN STREET – 8:00AM
REGULAR MEETING, SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 8:30AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Chamber of Commerce Representative Leo Schiff, Citizen Representative Robert Immler, and School Representative Betsy Gentile.

Selectboard representative present: None.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell and Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald.

Others present: David Schoales, Mark Truhan, Jill Stahl Tyler, Michael Bosworth, Anthony Girard, Adam Hubbard, Mollie Burke, Andy Paciulli, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:00am in front of Linden Lodge/Phoenix House on Linden Street.

Site Visit – Linden Lodge (Phoenix House), Linden Street. The Committee viewed and discussed the site where a bus stop had been proposed by Brattleboro Retreat and Stevens & Associates Engineering. Moreland said that the matter would be discussed later in the meeting when the meeting was reconvened at the Municipal Center.

Recess – Moreland recessed the meeting and asked committee members and participants to move to the Selectboard room at the Municipal Center where the meeting would be reconvened.

Reconvene Meeting – Selectboard Meeting Room, Municipal Center. Moreland reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:40am. He confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

Approve Minutes – May 27.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 27, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – None.

Bus Stop on Linden Street – Brattleboro Retreat and Stevens & Associates Engineering; Continue Discussion. Adam Hubbard (from Stevens & Associates Engineering) and Anthony Girard (from Brattleboro Retreat) were present and spoke in support of adding a bus stop on Linden Street near the Linden Lodge/Phoenix House and removing four parking spaces to do so. They also asked that the speed of vehicles on Linden Street be addressed. There was much discussion by the Committee about the location of the crosswalk, relocating or adding another crosswalk, safety concerns about pedestrians jaywalking across Linden Street from the proposed bus stop, relocating the bus stop onto Retreat property, and privacy concerns for patients and visitors of the Retreat. There was further discussion about signage to discourage jaywalking and decrease the speed of traffic, and other traffic calming measures.

MOTION BY STEVE BARRETT, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO ADD A BUS STOP ON LINDEN STREET ELIMINATING THE FOUR SOUTHERNMOST PARKING SPACES TO CREATE THE BUS STOP. MOTION DID NOT OBTAIN A MAJORITY AND FAILED ON A VOTE OF 3-3 (SCHIFF, IMMLER AND GENTILE OPPOSED).

At this time, the Committee agreed to adjust the agenda and move an agenda item up so as to accommodate scheduling conflicts for participants in the Western Avenue/Academy School discussion.

Western Avenue and Academy School – Discussion. Members from the Town School Board, Jill Stahl Tyler, David Schoales and Mark Truhan, and Academy School Principal Andy Paciulli, were present. They spoke about safety concerns on Western Avenue near Academy School, including speed of traffic, student and pedestrian safety, and crossing safety. They asked for measures to be taken to increase safety prior to the start of the upcoming school year. They indicated that the School District may have funds to assist with improvements. Barrett and O’Connell provided some history of safety projects around the schools and the intent and status of a Scoping Study currently underway for the Academy School area. There was substantial discussion between members of the School Board and the Committee about safety concerns, short-term and long-term alternatives, and costs of improvements. It was agreed that the Public Works Dept. would investigate the cost of flashing lights and portable radar devices, and speak with engineers performing the Scoping Study about possible immediate and short-term solutions. The School Board members agreed to meet with the full School Board to seek funds to pay for devices and improvements. Jill Stahl Tyler agreed to be the liaison for information from DPW and the School Board.

Parking on Depot Street – Clarification of No Parking Area; Amendment to Motion. Moreland said that the installation of additional parking on Depot Street had been anticipated, but that the motion passed at the last meeting (“Motion by David Gartenstein, and seconded by Robert Immler, that the Traffic Safety Committee recommend to the Selectboard to amend Brattleboro’s Code of Ordinances to provide that the eastern area of Depot Street and the entirety of the roundabout on Depot Street be ‘no parking’”) would prevent parking in the area where additional parking could be installed. He asked the Committee to revise the motion and recommendation to the Selectboard to remove the parking restriction from the “entirety of the roundabout” and include only the easterly side of Depot Street and easterly portion of the roundabout. There was some discussion about existing and future parking.

MOTION BY LEO SCHIFF, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, TO REVISE THE PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION TO SPECIFY THAT “NO PARKING ON DEPOT STREET” REFERS TO THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE ROUNDABOUT AND ROAD. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Open Meeting Law – Moreland said that a new Open Meeting Law would become effective on July 1, 2014, and that Town committees were asked to review the law. He distributed copies of the law and FAQs prepared by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. State Representative Mollie Burke said that any questions about the new law could be addressed to Senator Jeanette White.

Safe Streets – Update. Moreland said that a Safe Streets meeting was held last month with Alice Charkes and Jason Van Driesche (from Local Motion), who had partnered with Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition, in order to perform research in town on best practices for pedestrian safety. Representative Mollie Burke said that the group received an additional \$7,700 grant from the Department of Health to comprehensively look at the Town and discuss improvements that could be made for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. She said that another meeting with the Safe Streets Collaborative and Local Motion was scheduled on September 3 at 3:30pm.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Wrinn reported that since the last Traffic Safety Committee meeting 34 accidents were reported and none involved bicyclists or pedestrians,

Other Business – Moreland said that Chief Wrinn would be retiring prior to the next committee meeting and he thanked Chief Wrinn for his service over the past several years.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY GENE WRINN, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, AT 9:40AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.