

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

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Interim Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Planning Director Rod Francis, Citizen Representative Robert Immler, and School Representative Betsy Gentile.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

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

Others present: Matt Mann (Windham Regional Commission), Prudence MacKinney, Stewart McDermet, Peter Richards, Nancy Brosz, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

Approve Minutes – June 24.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY MIKE FITZGERALD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 24, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – Prudence MacKinney was present and said that she had previously been asked by the committee to review and follow up on issues around safe sidewalks. She said that she intended to meet with representatives from Public Works and Matt Mann from Windham Regional Commission and report back to the committee soon.

Nancy Brosz, President of Tri-Park Board of Directors, asked the committee to address and enforce the speed limit on Route 9 near the mobile home park. She suggested installing a solar speed sign similar to the one on Green Street and she voiced concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing Western Avenue near Dunkin Donuts.

Traffic Counts – (1) *Putney Road at Harris Place*, (2) *South Main Street*. Highway/Utilities Superintendent O'Connell presented and reviewed reports from Windham Regional Commission (WRC) regarding traffic counts on Putney Road north of Bradley Avenue and on South Main Street. She said that speed tubes would be installed at several other locations in the near future. There was discussion by the committee about the data in the reports, speed of traffic, and suitability of speed limits and crosswalks in those areas. Matt Mann from WRC spoke about the reports, appropriate speed limits, use of traffic calming methods, and other factors around traffic speed. It was agreed by the Committee to continue to gather traffic counts from other locations and when all of the data had been collected to review speed limits and pedestrian crossings and to prioritize problem areas.

Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Request Forms

(a) *Meadowbrook Road [Pleasant Valley Road] Signage* – O'Connell said that a Safety Action Request form was received from Peter Richards regarding Pleasant Valley Road (from Meadowbrook Road to the Dummerston Town line). Peter Richards was present and said that the road was posted with only one 25 mile per hour speed limit sign at the junction of Pleasant Valley Road and Meadowbrook Road but the traffic traveled much faster. He said that the road and surrounding trail area were used by children, pedestrians, bicyclists, and horseback riders, and the rural nature of the neighborhood was changing. He requested that another speed limit sign and/or a "watch for children" sign be posted on the road. There was discussion by the Committee about the posted speed limit, effect of signs, and whether the actual speed limit beyond the sign was greater by ordinance or statute.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO PUT UP A SIGN. THERE WAS NO SECOND TO THE MOTION. NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.

(b) Marlboro Road (various requests) – O’Connell said that Michael Bosworth submitted a Safety Action Request form with concerns about the speed of vehicles on Marlboro Road between Edward Heights and Sunset Lake Road, and he requested that current traffic data be collected and that installation of a crosswalk be considered in the vicinity of Westgate. Stewart McDermet, from West Brattleboro Association, spoke to Bosworth’s requests. He said that traffic studies had not been performed in that area since 2008, that the concerns had been voiced previously, and that no improvements had been made. He asked that the Town consider making requests to the State for safety improvements to that section of road, and suggested installing bulbouts or other reconfigurations of the road in order to reduce the speed of traffic. There was discussion by the Committee about the road being a State road westerly of Edward Heights, about previous requests and discussions with VTrans, and the State’s response to the previous requests. Matt Mann said that the Town could make a request to VTrans to change the speed limit and install a crosswalk, and the State may conduct traffic counts in response to the request. There was discussion about the appropriateness of reducing the speed limit on that section of road and installing a crosswalk in a 40 mile per hour zone. It was noted that the Committee previously discussed lowering the speed limit and installing a crosswalk in that area, that the Committee decided not to act on the requests, and that no significant changes to the land use or pattern behavior warranted changes at this time. The Committee agreed not to take action on the present request.

Safe Streets – Update. Moreland said that Alice Charkes (from Safe Streets) was not able to come to the meeting so he would ask her and Jason Van Driesche (from Local Motion) to come to the next meeting.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Interim Police Chief Fitzgerald reported that in the last 30 days, there were a total of 43 motor vehicle accidents, 5 of which reported personal injuries, and 2 of which involved bicycles. He said that one bicycle incident was on Putney Road where the bicyclist was passing on the right and the driver made a right turn. The second incident involved a teenager riding his bicycle down the hill from Ledgewood Heights and ran a stop sign and hit the side of a car. He said that no serious injuries were reported with either incident and both bicyclists were cited for violation of traffic laws.

Other Business – None.

There was no further business.

PATRICK MORELAND CALLED FOR ADJOURNMENT AT 9:38AM.