

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

Members present: Town Manager Barbara Sondag, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Planning Services Director Rod Francis, Betsy Gentile as School Representative, and Citizen Representative Robert Immler.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell and Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland.

Others present: Matt Mann (Windham Regional Commission), Mark Truhan, Eva Shelby, Rick Neumann, Liza King, Ainsley Gilligan, Richard Evers, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:37am. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 25, 2013. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – Mark Truhan voiced his concerns about safety on Upper Dummerston Road due to speeding traffic, inattentive drivers, and other mischievous incidents. He said that such matters will be exacerbated when construction begins on the I-91 bridge project. He then, as a School Board member, spoke about safety concerns in front of Academy School with the anticipated increased amount of traffic when the I-91 bridge construction begins. There was a brief discussion by the Committee about the I-91 bridge construction project, the public meeting scheduled at BUHS later in the day, and increasing police patrols on Upper Dummerston Road.

Several residents from Strand Avenue – Eva Shelby, Rick Neumann, Liza King, Ainslie Gilligan, and Richard Evers – were present and discussed their concerns on Strand Avenue when the construction of the retaining walls was complete, including safety, widening of the road, lack of a sidewalk, the past process, communication with Public Works, and clarity about the plans. They also discussed concerns about faster traffic and possibly installing speed bumps, a yield to uphill traffic sign, and blinking light at the top of the hill. They suggested that the Committee be proactive in anticipating possible problems.

There was discussion by the Committee about the condition of the road before and after construction, assumptions being made by residents, and improvement in communication. It was suggested that representatives from Public Works meet with the residents and that the Committee review the Strand Avenue plans at the next meeting with the engineer present.

Traffic Calming Plan – *Review suggested edits, list of past traffic studies.* Highway/Utilities Superintendent O'Connell said that Gartenstein had requested changes to the Traffic Calming Plan (TCP) and that she summarized the proposed changes in a memo which had been distributed to the Committee. There was some discussion about the requested changes. Gartenstein was not present for the discussion and the Committee agreed it needed further clarification from him before making final changes to the TCP. There was further discussion about having limited traffic count data and the tools necessary to obtain additional traffic data. Sondag suggested utilizing existing information, such as combining traffic data from Windham Regional Commission (WRC) with crash data from Police Department and/or the State and then compiling a list with particular areas of concern, prioritizing the list and systematically reviewing the areas of concern. It was agreed to add the matter to the next agenda and that O'Connell would provide a summary of the changes discussed at this meeting. Sondag also said that Gartenstein requested that the Town Attorney review the TCP, report on liability matters, and rewrite a legal disclaimer before the Committee finalizes the Plan.

Radar Sign/Data Collection Trailer – O’Connell said that a vendor loaned a demo speed trailer to the Town to collect traffic data on Western Avenue near Academy School, and that she was waiting for a report from the vendor with the data that was collected. Barrett said that the trailer collected data before and after the speed of oncoming cars was displayed, so the report would contain information on the difference in driver’s reactions after seeing the speed of their vehicle. He said he was also collecting information on the cost of renting or purchasing the equipment. It was agreed to add the matter to next month’s agenda.

Parking Meters on Linden Street – Moreland said that the Town, State, and Brattleboro Retreat previously agreed to a temporary installation of parking meters on Linden Street while renovations were being made to the State building on Main Street. He said that the State would soon move its operation back to the State building, and he asked the Committee to make a recommendation to the Selectboard to remove the parking meters on Linden Street per the agreement. There was discussion about the meters on Linden Street and whether to also remove the parking meters from Park Place which were installed at the same time as Linden Street but not part of the agreement. The Committee agreed to recommend removal of the Linden Street parking meters and address at a later time whether meters on Park Place should be removed.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY GENE WRINN, TO GO WITH THE PLAN TO REMOVE THE PARKING METERS IN FRONT OF LINDEN LODGE AND NOT REMOVE THE METERS ON PARK PLACE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Putney Road Lane Striping – *Letter to VTrans, Mollie Burke.* There was some discussion by the Committee about the State not repainting the line stripes on Putney Road in a timely manner. Assistant Town Manager Moreland said that he would prepare a letter to the State and bring it to the Committee for review at the next meeting.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AT 9:50AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.