

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012  
8:00AM SITE VISIT, RECONVENE AFTER SITE VISIT  
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald, Planning Director Rod Francis, Leo Schiff as Chamber of Commerce Representative, and Betsy Gentile as School Representative.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Others present: Trudy Fleming, Marie Tattersall, Susan Avery, Matt Mann, Jim Curtis, Ed Smith, Dave Corey, Joanne Corey, Kelly Price, Stewart McDermet, Terry Carter, Donna (did not provide last name), and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:02am during site visits at the intersections of Williams Street and Whetstone Drive, and Crosby Street and Williams Street. The Committee viewed the areas and agreed to recess in order to reconvene the meeting and continue the discussion at the Municipal Center.

Town Manager Sondag reconvened the meeting in the Selectboard meeting room. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned. Minutes from the August 28, 2012 meeting were presented. There was a brief discussion.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 28, 2012 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (GENTILE ABSTAINED).**

Public Participation – Stewart McDermet, representing West Brattleboro Association, said that he had concerns about the FEET Association (Flat Street, Elliot Street, Elm Street Triangle), but that he spoke with Public Works Director Barrett before the meeting and did not need to discuss it further with the Committee.

Update – Sondag provided an update on matters previously discussed by the Committee. She said that a planning grant had been submitted for engineering studies in the areas of Academy School and Greenleaf Street. She also said that Local Motion, a group from Burlington to support pedestrian/safety projects, received a grant to expand its program into other areas which will include Brattleboro. She said that an initial meeting with Jason Van Driesche from Local Motion would be scheduled and the matter would be brought before the Committee at a later date to discuss plans. Sondag also said that a grant had been submitted for bike racks to be located at various locations. There was a brief discussion about status the Safe Routes to School grant.

Whetstone Drive and Crosby Street Intersections at Williams Street – Continue discussion. The Committee met earlier for a site visit at the intersection of Whetstone Drive and Williams Street, and then moved to the intersection of Crosby and Williams Streets. There was substantial discussion about the dangers at those intersections, the need to obtain a preliminary engineering study to identify possible short-term and long-term solutions, the number of variables contributing to the problem, cost of engineering studies, installation of stop signs/light or other traffic calming devices and measures, and reviewing Town easements near Crosby Street to determine if the brush could be removed to improve the line of site. There was also discussion about the timeline to move forward and asking Windham Regional Commission to research whether State or Federal highway funds were available.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, THAT BY THE NEXT MEETING STAFF ASKS WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO ANYTHING THAT HAD BEEN DONE BY THE STATE ON WILLIAMS STREET, TO ASK JON KAPLAN FROM VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW THE MATTER THIS FALL AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, AND TO ASK TOWN ATTORNEY ROBERT FISHER TO**

**LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING THE TREE AND BRUSH ON THE CORNER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program – *Continue discussion.* Sondag asked the Committee to discuss whether it agreed if there was merit for the development of a town-wide program to identify, evaluate, prioritize, recommend funding for areas in Town with traffic concerns, and to formalize a process by which items come before the Committee and solutions may be evaluated. She referred to the program developed by Town of Greenwich, a copy of which was provided to the Committee. There was considerable discussion by the Committee. Terry Carter voiced concerns about safety in areas of Putney Road and using police officers to direct traffic. It was suggested by a committee member to form a subcommittee to review the Greenwich program and compare it to the needs of Brattleboro and possibly tailor a program for the Town. Sondag suggested that the subcommittee could be made up of Gary King from Public Works, Matt Mann from Windham Regional Commission, Steve Barrett from Public Works, and a non-staff person.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, SECONDED BY GENE WRINN, TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THE GREENWICH NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM TO SEE WHAT APPLIED OR WAS RELEVANT TO BRATTLEBORO PURPOSES, CREATE A PLAN, AND TO REPORT PROGRESS AT THE NEXT MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***OTHER BUSINESS***

Gentile discussed concerns about pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Canal Street and Fairground Road during heavy school volume crossing when traffic lights were blinking. There was a brief discussion. Gentile agreed to contact the school to ask the safety officer (SRO) to assist at the intersection.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**