

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013  
8:30AM – SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM  
MINUTES**

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Planning Services Director Rod Francis, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald, 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 from Windham Regional Commission, Terry Carter, David Chappell, Susan Avery, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:34am.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Participation - Susan Avery reported that the traffic on Williams Street appeared to have slowed somewhat and she thanked the Town and Committee for its efforts. She asked about the process to bring ongoing safety concerns on Williams Street to the Committee after the Traffic Calming Plan had been approved and implemented. She also discussed her safety concerns on South Street and requested the results from a recent speed study. Steve Barrett said that the matter would be on the agenda next month.

1205 Western Avenue – Guardrail and Improvements Discussion. Moreland reviewed the previous request by David Chappell for the installation of a guardrail at 1205 Western Avenue, and he asked the Committee members to comment on their observations of the area. Gentile, Immler, Gartenstein, Bucossi, and Moreland spoke of their opinions about the roadway and curve. The Committee generally agreed that the area did not warrant the installation of a guardrail. David Chappell stated that traffic did not adhere to the speed limit in the area, the roadway had a negative pitch at the corner, and that many unreported incidents had occurred in front of his house over the years. He said that if his request for a guardrail was not approved, he may install some type of barrier on his property between the house and roadway. Barrett offered to assist him with the determination of the boundary of the Town's right of way. There was some discussion by the Committee, including that the stone near the roadway had been removed by the Town after Chappell's previous request.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY ROD FRANCIS, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE INSTALLATION OF A GUARDRAIL AT 1205 WESTERN AVENUE. MOTION FAILED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

Other Traffic Safety Improvements Near Harris Avenue – Discussion. Moreland reviewed previous requests by Terry Carter for traffic safety improvements to Putney Road in the area of the Harris Avenue intersection. Barrett spoke about the possible use of an electronic sign or radar device and the cost to purchase such a device. There was discussion by the Committee about the planning efforts and cost that would be required for a major reconstruction of the area, the speed of traffic in the area, existing crosswalks, enhancing existing crosswalks, and the cost and utilization of a portable battery operated speed radar. There was also discussion about using the Traffic Calming Plan when it was adopted. Terry Carter expressed her ongoing safety concerns in the area and asked that the Committee determine a creative way to draw attention to motorists, such as line striping, or stenciling, or installing a portable speed device. Moreland noted that discussions about using portable speed devices had come up repeatedly in a number of discussions about safety in various areas around Town, and he asked if the Committee would support making a request to the Selectboard to apportion some funds for the safety devices.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO RECOMMEND TO THE SELECTBOARD THAT STEVE BARRETT INVESTIGATE THE PURCHASE A PORTABLE DEVICE THAT CAN BE USED AROUND TOWN TO MONITOR SPEED AND COLLECT DATA.**

There was further discussion about establishing a minimum amount of funds to be available for future purchases of safety devices, the need for ongoing funds for upgrades, and whether to request a one-time only request or ongoing line item to the general budget. Gentile agreed to amend her motion.

**AMENDED MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY MIKE BUCOSSI, TO ESTABLISH A \$5,000 LINE ITEM FOR SMALL TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT IN THE FIRST YEAR THE FUNDS BE USED TO ACQUIRE A PORTABLE RADAR SPEED SIGN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Traffic Safety Improvements on Putney Road – Discussion. Moreland asked for discussion about suggested traffic safety improvements for Putney Road north of Veterans Bridge. Barrett suggested that the Town Manager's office send a letter to VTrans with recommendations from the Committee. He said that in the State's Putney Road Improvement Plan, no consideration was being given to the area south of Veterans Bridge to Vermont Avenue, so he suggested asking the State to include that area in the overall project. There was further discussion by the Committee about plans for widening Putney Road north of Veterans Bridge, traffic patterns, pedestrian and bicycle safety in the roundabout, and installing a pedestrian crossing at Hannaford's prior to the commencement of the project. Gartenstein asked that the letter to the State also reinforce the previous request to paint bike lanes and pedestrian crosswalks in the spring. Matt Mann suggested including a specific request for a countdown phase crosswalk light with the crosswalk request at Hannaford's. Terry Carter spoke in favor of collaboration between the State and Town.

An unidentified speaker spoke on an unrelated matter about his concerns around speeding traffic on South Main Street from Pine Street to Cottonmill Hill. He said seven years ago, the South Main Street Association asked for assistance and the speed of traffic was then measured as high as 60 miles per hour. He said that the police have been helpful but they cannot maintain a constant presence in the area, and he suggested that a stop sign be installed on South Main Street to prevent traffic from accelerating on the roadway. Moreland asked the speaker to send a written request to the Town Manager's office in order for the matter to be added to a future Traffic Safety agenda. Captain Fitzgerald asked the speaker to meet with him later to discuss the matter further.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY ROD FRANCIS, THAT THE INTERIM TOWN MANAGER SEND A LETTER TO VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION REQUESTING IMPROVEMENTS TO PUTNEY ROAD AS DISCUSSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Traffic Calming Plan – Adoption of Plan. Hannah O'Connell said that all of the previously requested changes had been incorporated into the Traffic Calming Plan dated September 26, 2013. There was no further discussion.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ADOPT THE TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN AND FORWARD IT TO THE SELECTBOARD FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Citizens' Bridge Intersection – Route 9 and Guilford Street, Safety Issues and Improvements. Matt Mann requested that this matter be added to the agenda because of a recent accident between a bicyclist and a vehicle at the intersection. Mann said that the traffic volume using Guilford Street has increased since construction of the bridge, and that safety at the intersection has worsened. He suggested revisiting the intersection because of some issues that are now clear but were not anticipated during the preconstruction discussions. He also suggested contacting VTrans and asking for a review the intersection post-construction and to discuss potential options for improvements. He said that State funds may be available to assist. Barrett provided a history of past discussions and considerations around the Citizens' Bridge project, including having a traffic light, right turn slip lane onto Western Avenue, dedicated left turn lane from Western Avenue, concerns by the neighbors, traffic to/from Living Memorial Park, reducing complicated maneuvers at the intersection, and installing stop signs at both ends of the bridge to reduce speed.

Susan Avery suggested that the intersection was better during the time that the Creamery Bridge was used. She asked about a comparison of traffic data for the period prior to construction and now. Terry Carter stated she chose to avoid the intersection during certain times of the day and week and on holidays.

There was discussion by the Committee about the intersection, increased traffic flow, backed up traffic, turning lanes, other safety concerns in the general area, traffic patterns, and financial considerations.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, THAT THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ENDORSE COMMUNICATION WITH VTRANS BY WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO DETERMINE IF VTRANS CAN ASSIST WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO THAT INTERSECTION. MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE. BARRETT OPPOSED.**

Transportation Projects and Available Grants – Matching Potential Projects with Existing Grants. Matt Mann said that many grants were available from the State and he suggested that the Town line its lists of projects to potential State grants, and to make the project list available to the general public. There was discussion about current projects, sidewalk improvements, the long-term capital plan, and Bike/Ped Grant program.

Other Business – None.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY PATRICK MORELAND AT 10:00AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**