

Town of Brattleboro
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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To: Jan Anderson, Executive Secretary
Town Manager's Office
From: Stephen Barrett, Director of Public Works
Date: October 24, 2012
Subject: Traffic Safety Meeting Minutes



Members present: Steve Barrett, Gene Wrinn, Mike Bucossi, Rod Francis,
Leo Schiff and Betsy Gentile

Selectboard Rep: David Gartenstein

Others present: Terry Carter, Susan Avery, Matt Mann and Jason Van Driesche

Steve Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

Minutes from the September 25, 2012 meeting were read.

Motion by Mike Bucossi and seconded by Gene Wrinn to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

Terry Carter discussed her concerns about pedestrian safety on Putney Road. She said she was not present when the Safety Committee discussed the possibility of installing a crosswalk in the area of Putney Road and Harris Avenue. She also had concerns about pedestrian safety on the State maintained section of Putney Road. She understands that the Safety Committee did not support adding a crosswalk at Putney Road and Harris Avenue but would like the Committee to continue discussions on pedestrian safety south of the North Bridge on Putney Road. Steve Barrett commented that the Town had met with the State to discuss safety concerns on the State's portion of Putney Road. The Traffic Safety Committee is currently working on a town-wide plan and Putney Road will be taken into consideration.

Another concern under public participation was the crosswalk on Main Street near the Post Office. There was discussion about removing parking near the southern crosswalk to increase visibility. Traffic Safety Committee members requested that we discuss the Post Office crosswalk at the next meeting. Rod Francis suggested that the Committee also look at other crosswalks in the downtown area that may need to have parking spaces removed. Committee members were encouraged to review the crosswalks in the downtown area before the next meeting.

Whetstone Drive

Steve Barrett reported that the trees and some brush on Crosby and Williams Streets were removed by DPW to increase visibility at the Crosby and Williams Street intersection. DPW also researched the Town's ROW for maintenance. Steve handed out a map of the ROW and it appears that the visibility could be improved at Crosby Street and possibly Whetstone Drive by reshaping the bank in the Town's ROW. DPW will continue to explore this option.

Matt Mann reported that he discussed the Williams Street Bridge with the State Highway and Federal Aid Highway. Federal Aid Highway doesn't have any funds available for improvements to the Bridge or roadway. The State may be able to assist; Matt will be setting up a meeting to discuss the issues with a rep from AOT. Matt reported that the Town can request that the State revisit the Bridge improvement after 10 years. Funds may be available for improvements. (*Bridge was upgraded 8 years ago.*)

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

Steve said the Committee had nothing to report at this time.

Sidewalk Plowing

The Traffic Safety Committee received a request from Jennifer Smith last March to plow the sidewalk on the south side of Western Avenue between Brookside and Melrose Bridge. The Committee requested information on the sidewalk plowing from DPW. Steve provided a map of the snow plowing route and discussed the history of the operation and the associated costs. Mike Bucossi expressed concerns about adding more miles to the sidewalk plowing route. The Selectboard had reduced staff and equipment to make the reductions and Mike felt that we should not add more to the list. Gene Wrinn agreed and said he didn't feel we should add to the list. Betsy Gentile felt we should consider adding the sidewalk on Western Avenue and other streets like Cedar Street. More people are walking and it is safer for kids going to school. If we need to hire a person and more equipment we should. Steve Barrett commented that the Traffic Safety Committee was here to make safety recommendations to the Selectboard for review; the Board makes the decision on the level of service and funding. Dave Gartenstein proposed two separate motions:

Motion by Gartenstein and seconded by Betsy Gentile to recommend that the Selectboard consider adding the section of sidewalk on the south side of Western Avenue between Brookside and the Melrose Bridge to the sidewalk plow list.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Gartenstein and seconded by Gentile to recommend adding equipment and manpower for sidewalk snow removal.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Jason Van Driesche, Director of Advocacy & Education for Local Motion talked about his program and his interest in working with Brattleboro.

Leon Boyd came in near the end of the meeting and he was concerned about skateboarding near St. Michael's Cemetery. He also said he was concerned about pedestrians wearing dark clothing and crossing South Main Street at night.

Motion by Gentile and seconded by Bucossi to adjourn; motion unanimously approved @ 9:35 a.m.