

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012 – 8:30AM  
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Chamber of Commerce Director Jerry Goldberg, Planning Director Rod Francis, Betsy Gentile from Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Rick Ethier and Bob Immler.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Others present: Matt Mann, Peter Putnam, Stuart McDermott and Amelia Farnum.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:33am in the Selectboard meeting room. Minutes from September 27 and October 25, 2011 meetings were presented.

**MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 25, 2011 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Traffic Lights – *Follow up discussion about mechanism to evaluate, monitor and adjust lights.* Sondag asked for a status on accessing the traffic lights via the internet. Rick Ethier said every control box would need to be accessed and it appeared to be cost-prohibitive. There was discussion about moving traffic lights out of the Committee's jurisdiction, being more pro-active and less reactive. Sondag asked Fire, Police and Public Works to arrive at a formal process as to who and when decisions would be made about the traffic lights, such as changing the lights to flashing around weather or train events. The three Departments were asked to report back to the Committee.

School Zone Sign on Guilford Street - *Follow up discussion.* Amelia Farnum, from Hilltop Montessori School, was present and said that the School has had complaints about speeding traffic on the hill going to the school. She said that the School was trying to be good neighbors and asked parents to drive slower when picking up or dropping off the students, but complaints were still being received. There was discussion about the School not being on a Town road, the posted speed limit, limitations around changing speed limits and installing traffic signs, bus stops in the area for students going to other schools and installing tubes over the road in the spring to determine the general speed of the traffic. Sondag said that the Town would work with the School but had limited authority. She suggested that the School continue to work with parents and provide the Police Department with a list of license plates on vehicles that were speeding. Police Captain Fitzgerald said that the Police Department could do an informative directive patrol and make courtesy calls to offenders.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Parking on Frost Street – Peter Putnam was present and discussed parking problems on Frost Street, especially with the tractor-trailers entering and exiting Brattleboro Kiln Dry. There was discussion about the current parking situation and the ordinance regarding parking on both sides of the street.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AND SECONDED BY JERRY GOLDBERG TO EXTEND NO PARKING ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF FROST STREET FROM THE ENTRANCE OF BRATTLEBORO KILN DRY TO ELM STREET.**

Rick Ethier also said that at the previous meeting the Committee discussed changing no parking on the northerly side of Frost Street from Elm Street 500 feet west. He offered a friendly amendment to the motion and Gentile and Goldberg accepted.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AND SECONDED BY JERRY GOLDBERG TO EXTEND THE NO PARKING ZONE ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF FROST STREET FROM THE ENTRANCE OF BRATTLEBORO KILN DRY TO ELM STREET AND ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF FROST STREET FROM ELM STREET 500 FEET TO THE WEST. AMENDED MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Crosswalks on Western Avenue – Sondag asked the Committee to discuss crosswalks on Western Avenue in light of the two recent accidents, including a fatality. There was much discussion about the location and condition of crosswalks, particular areas of concern, lighting near crosswalks, visibility for drivers and of pedestrians, proper signage, pedestrian signs where there are no crosswalks, ADA compliance and whether crosswalks were properly striped. Some areas of particular and immediate concern on Western Avenue were identified as Union Hill, near the Avenue Grocery, around I-91 ramps, the church west of I-91 and the covered bridge. Peter Putnam mentioned that a street light by Avenue Grocery was burned out and Sondag asked Ethier to follow up on the CVPS work order to fix it. Stuart McDermott, representing the West Brattleboro Association, discussed pedestrian safety in West Brattleboro and the Village green concept. He said that Monroe Whitaker and other West Brattleboro residents were willing to volunteer to do installment work addressing traffic safety and other volunteer work that may arise. He asked for a history of accidents on that stretch of road and said that he will contact Police Captain Fitzgerald for the information. There was further discussion about pedestrians crossing where no crosswalks existed and their lack of being dressed in reflective and visible clothing. Sondag suggested starting a campaign of awareness for drivers and pedestrians. The Committee discussed scheduling a site visit, splitting sections of the road to review and reporting back to the Committee with their findings. Rod Francis offered to prepare list of questions and criteria, such as the condition, location and lighting of sidewalks and crosswalks, and provide it to the Committee at the next meeting.

Other Business

Citizens Bridge – Sondag said that the Committee asked the Selectboard to authorize an engineering study regarding a slip lane at Citizens Bridge, but she reported that the Selectboard did not include funding for the study in the FY13 budget.

LED Street Lights – Sondag said she will send list to the Committee members of street lights that have been changed to LED lights. She said that the Town swapped out some of the bigger street lights to LED lights because of environmental and economic concerns. She said the Committee should discuss traffic safety issues around the amount of lighting provided by the new lights, as well as how people like the lights, the different types of lights and different wattages.

AARP Dan Burden One Day Workshop – Canal Street. Rod Francis said that, at the next meeting, the Planning Department would like to discuss the results that came from the one-day workshop on Canal Street.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AND SECONDED BY JERRY GOLDBERG AT 9:25AM TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**