

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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 and Public Works Director Steve Barrett.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Staff present: Planner Sue Fillion, Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald and Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland.

Media present: Tim Johnson representing WTSA and Howard Weiss-Tisman representing the Brattleboro Reformer.

Others present: Matt Mann, Peter Putnam, Dick DeGray, Jennifer Smith, Kendall Gifford and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:37am in the Selectboard meeting room. Minutes from the January 24, 2012 meeting were presented.

**MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AND SECONDED BY JERRY GOLDBERG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 24, 2012 MEETING. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Sidewalk Plowing – Western Avenue. Jennifer Smith was present and asked if the Town would plow the sidewalk between her house and the nearest crosswalk. She said that she walks out of her way over unshoveled sidewalks to get to the nearest crosswalk and that it was unsafe to do so with her children. There was discussion about limitations on plowing sidewalks with only one sidewalk tractor and one person to plow, plowing around schools and the amount of sidewalks in town that are plowed. It was requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that Public Works Director Barrett bring copies of maps of the sidewalks that are plowed by the Town and information about the length of time it takes to plow them.

Traffic Lights - Follow up on formal decision process. Sondag said that at the last meeting representatives from Fire, Public Works and Police Departments were asked to formalize a process to determine when traffic lights were to be put on flash. Police Captain Fitzgerald said they determined that if Main Street was congested for reasons such as snow removal, plowing or accidents/events on I-91, the on-duty supervisor from Public Works, Police or Fire Departments would call Dispatch to order the lights be put on flash, and the supervisor would provide a reason why lights were to be put on flash and when lights went on/off of flash. The on-duty Police Department supervisor was responsible for making sure the lights did not remain on flash for any undue length of time. There was discussion about how complaints were routed to staff, the reduction in number of complaints, cost involved in installing call boxes and expected delays after winter due to rail work by the railroad. Sondag asked citizens to call Dispatch if the lights did not appear to be working or people were experiencing long delays.

Crosswalks on Western Avenue and Pedestrian Safety – Continue discussion, review criteria. Sondag said there was another pedestrian/vehicle accident last night on Western Avenue, which brought the six-month total to nine accidents. It was decided to combine agenda items about crosswalks on Western Avenue with pedestrian safety. Sondag said that she met with staff earlier to compile and review data for the past six months around pedestrian/vehicular accidents, which she then reviewed with the Committee. There was substantial discussion about possible factors contributing to the increased pedestrian accidents, crosswalks, jaywalking, crosswalk signs, distracted drivers and walkers and enforcing existing laws. There was discussion about changes previously made by the Town to increase crosswalk safety particularly in school areas. It was suggested to develop a plan to initiate a public safety campaign, including reaching out to schools and the Senior Center, and to look into County, State and Federal money that may be available. Matt Mann, from Windham Regional Commission, said he would look into

available State funds. Goldberg discussed possible funding from V-Trans and suggested inviting someone from the agency to visit one of the Committee meetings.

**MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO START PUBLIC EDUCATION AND REVIEW CROSSWALKS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR SAFETY AND EXPLORE THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING TO RAMP UP AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

LED Street Lights – Sondag asked for feedback on the LED lights that had been installed. Barrett said he was looking toward developing a policy to replace and remove lights and that he had been working with the Energy Community to do so. He discussed different levels and types of LED lights. There was discussion about the changing trend to LEDs. It was suggested having a broad dialog that involved the community in order to weigh different issues, such as public safety, crime, light pollution, quality of life and differences of opinions within neighborhoods.

AARP Dan Burden One Day Workshop – Canal Street, Planning Department. Rod Francis and Sue Fillion gave a presentation and provided suggestions contained in a report from the November walking audit and workshop conducted in a specific area on Canal Street. Fillion said that specific areas of focus were on speed, travel and traffic, and some resulting priorities were identified as constructing a crosswalk island at the intersection of Canal Street and Belmont Avenue, create a gateway feel in that area, education, reducing width of travel lanes, addition of bike lanes, traffic calming measures and enhancing streetscape. There was discussion about the suggestions that came from the workshop, as well as suggested improvements to Canal Street. Goldberg said that the West Brattleboro Association had substantial information about improving the roadway in its neighborhood and suggested including the Association and its findings in future discussions.

Other Business

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY JERRY GOLDBERG AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE AT 10:15AM TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**