

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

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Betsy Gentile from Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Jerry Goldberg from Chamber of Commerce, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi and Robert Immler.

Additional staff present: Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald and Town Planner Sue Fillion.

Media present: None.

Others present: Matt Mann, Paula Melton, Terry A. Carter, Douglas Cox, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Herb Eisenberg, Michael Bosworth, Ingrid Gordon, Frank Adams, Leon C. Boyd, Jr., and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 8:35am in the Selectboard meeting room. Minutes from the March 27, 2012 meeting were presented.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY ROBERT IMMLER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 27, 2012 MEETING. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety – Continue Discussion. Sondag reviewed changes and activities that were put in place since the last meeting, including meeting with Academy School representatives to discuss safety in the area, organizing a group of agencies to meet and utilize pedestrian safety audit tools on existing roads, working with Windham Regional Commission to perform additional safety studies at problem areas, promoting education and outreach programs through the schools, and mapping of crosswalks. She also noted that Rescue, Inc., in association with other agencies, was starting an educational program focusing on adults and seniors on safe walking practices. She also discussed the Walk Audit of Western Avenue scheduled on Saturday, May 12. Public Works Director Barrett discussed the recent painting of crosswalks and traffic lanes, placement of street lights and lighting fixtures, and installing and maintaining temporary bollards in various locations. He said that he would research speed plateaus and larger crosswalk striping. Police Chief Wrinn spoke of increased patrols in the Academy School area and of laws regarding pedestrians in crosswalks.

Several members of the public were present, including Terry Carter, Ingrid Gordon and Herb Eisenberg, who discussed their concerns and suggestions regarding pedestrian safety, crosswalks, the walking audit, trimming trees around signs, speed of traffic and increased usage of the Crowell Lot. Doug Cox, from the Arts Committee, offered the use of resources and assets of the Arts Committee to assist with pedestrian safety in creative ways, including painting creative intersections and signs with an artistic interest. There was discussion around the suggestion and Barrett asked for information on other Towns that have incorporated the artistic aspect with crosswalks and signs. Michael Bosworth, from West Brattleboro Association, discussed efforts by the Association around traffic concerns on Western Avenue. He said that the Association had identified certain problem areas and he invited the Traffic Safety Committee to walk with the Association during morning rush hour. There was much discussion by the Committee about the many concerns and suggestions offered during the meeting. **The Committee agreed to combine a walk on Western Avenue with West Brattleboro Association at its next Traffic Safety Committee meeting on May 22.**

AARP Dan Burden Active Living Workshop – Sue Fillion, Town Planner, and Liz McLoughlin discussed the walkability study of the Canal Street area and the resulting grant to the Town. McLoughlin said that two short-term actions/remedies were identified: (1) add a crosswalk and a pedestrian refuge island on Canal Street at the intersection of Belmont Street and Oak Grove Avenue, and (2) add a bike lane on Canal Street from the hospital to Price Chopper. She said that concept plans for both items were needed and asked the Committee for comments and recommendations. There was discussion about traffic concerns on the Canal Street hill, safety concerns/improvements around the turn lane in that area on Canal Street, logistics of the bike lane and funding for the engineering, construction and implementation

of the island and bike lane. Sondag asked that Planning Dept. and Public Works continue to work together on the project.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY JERRY GOLDBERG, TO RECOMMEND TO THE SELECTBOARD TO UTILIZE THE \$3,000 FROM THE ACTIVE LIVING WORKSHOP TO PROCURE A TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO DO A CONCEPT DESIGN AT BELMONT, OAK GROVE AND CANAL STREETS. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Other Business – Sondag said that Tim Wessell recently came to the Selectboard with concerns about the lack of notification regarding the parking ordinance change on Frost Street, and she asked if the Committee wanted to implement a policy regarding notification to property abutters when decisions were made about parking or crosswalks changes. There was a brief discussion about the responsibility of neighbors to communicate with each other, the administrative time and work that notification letters would entail, and the resulting delay in the requested action. **The Committee agreed to try a notification process to see how it would work and then decide whether to make necessary adjustments or to continue with notification.**

There was no further business.

MOTION BY JERRY GOLDBERG, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, AT 10:00AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.