

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012 – 10:00AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Jerry Goldberg from Chamber of Commerce, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Planning Director Rod Francis and Robert Immler.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Additional staff present: Police Captain Mike Fitzgerald, Recreation & Parks Director Carol Lolatte and Paul Ethier.

Media present: Howard Weiss-Tisman representing the Brattleboro Reformer.

Others present: Marcos Miller, Jon Kaplan, Matt Mann and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Sondag called the meeting to order at 10:05am in the Selectboard meeting room. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned.

Pedestrian, Vehicular and Bicycle Safety – Barb Sondag introduced State Agency of Transportation representatives, Marcos Miller, Traffic Safety Technician with Traffic Operations, and Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager with Program Development Division, and said that they were invited to discuss pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle safety in specific areas of Route 5/Putney Road, Route 30 near the West River Park and Route 9 in West Brattleboro. She said that the Town had recently experienced increased incidents of vehicular and pedestrian accidents. The Traffic Safety Committee suggested meeting with VTrans representatives to identify areas of concern, receive input from the State and discuss possible improvements and solutions. There was discussion about the patterns and locations of the accidents, locations of crosswalks and street lights, traffic speed, infrastructure and subsequent outreach efforts and programs to citizens and schools.

The discussion then turned to Putney Road, including the condition and maintenance of bike lanes, traffic signals, traffic speed, foot traffic on the shoulders, pedestrians trying to cross the road, limited number of crosswalks, different colors of line striping and the status of the State's Putney Road improvement project. There was further discussion about requesting the State's involvement in reducing the speed limit, modifying the traffic light by Hannaford's to include a pedestrian phase, requesting engineering and speed studies and adding sidewalks. Miller suggested sending specific requests to him and he would forward the requests to his supervisor, Amy Gamble, who was the contact person for crosswalks, no parking zones and reduction of speed limits.

The discussion then turned to Route 30 near the West River Park. There was discussion about maintaining safety in the area when the park opens, increased amount of traffic, speed of traffic, traffic flow, traffic patterns, turn lanes, signage, flashing lights, rumble strips, cross-hatching, and prohibiting parking on both sides of Route 30. Miller and Kaplan suggested having a strong signage campaign, police presence, cones on the center line and portable message signs particularly during opening events and early in the season. Sondag asked about reducing the speed limit in the area and Miller responded that the State would not likely do so unless and until it was proven that speed was a problem in the area. He suggested continuing with the proposed plans and to let him know if and when it proved to be a problem.

The discussion then focused on Route 9 (Putney Road). Many concerns were identified including the large amount of foot traffic, school bus activity, unconnected sections of sidewalks, bike lanes and lack of crosswalks. Sondag asked about installing a crosswalk in the Westgate/Mountain Home Park area. Miller suggested providing him with specific requests, which may also include initiating a crosswalk study.

There was further general discussion about the statewide trend around vehicular/pedestrian accidents, the upcoming walking audit, initiating a Safe Streets Collaborative as was done in Burlington, an

education campaign for pedestrians and bicyclists, maintaining a buffer near crosswalks and using in-street devices. Kaplan said that the State may have funding sources, such as the Safe Routes to School Program and Our State Bike and Pedestrian Program that may assist with funding for projects, including feasibility studies, identifying particular projects, addressing permit issues and sidewalk projects.

There was no further business.

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