

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012 – 8:00AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Betsy Gentile from Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, Planning Director Rod Francis and Robert Immler.

Additional staff present: Assistant Fire Chief Pete Lynch.

Others present: Stewart McDermet, Michael Bosworth, Paula Melton, David Houghton, Jordes Melton-Houghton, Ada Melton-Houghton, Isaac Melton-Houghton, Matt Mann, Andy Paciulli, Margaret Atkinson, Julie Potter and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Public Works Director Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:06am in the West Brattleboro Fire Station. Minutes from the April 24, 2012 and May 10, 2012 meeting were presented.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2012 MEETING. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 10, 2012 SPECIAL MEETING. MOTION WAS APPROVED (GENTILE ABSTAINED).

Academy School – Sondag thanked West Brattleboro Association for inviting the Committee on a walk-about on Western Avenue which preceded the meeting. She said that the Committee was asked to discuss ways to make the area around Academy School safer for students, pedestrians, bicycles and vehicular traffic. There was much discussion about the area surrounding the school including the width of the street, length of crosswalks, speed of traffic, design of bike lanes, traffic flow confusion, school bus activity, parental drop-off and pick-up routines and police presence.

There was further discussion about changes that could be made to increase safety in the area on a short-term and long-term basis including installing new bollards, making the street by the church a one-way street, adding an island or a pedestrian refuge in the middle of Western Avenue, decreasing the size of the road by adding green space, installing traffic lights, reducing posted traffic speed, expanding West Brattleboro Village Green and purchasing roadway devices.

There was additional discussion about hiring an engineer to review traffic patterns on the street, in the parking lot, around the church, and West Brattleboro Village Green, and also review the existing location of crosswalks. Timing of the engineering study was discussed in order to include school activity rather than studying the area during the summer break. There was discussion about making the street in front of the church one-way during certain hours on a temporary emergency basis. Barrett said that the school agreed to set up and remove signs daily on a temporary basis. It was also decided that a Committee member would speak with church officials to give the church a voice in any suggested changes, either temporarily or permanently, and to accommodate church activities. A representative from Academy School agreed to speak with Andy Paciulli or Jim Kane to clarify traffic plans around entering/exiting the parking lot to clarify permitted traffic flow.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO INVESTIGATE MAKING THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH ONE-WAY EITHER DURING PICK-UP AND/OR DROP-OFF TIMES, OR ON A PERMANENT BASIS. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Other Business – An unidentified person asked for information about the AARP and Dan Burden workshop on Canal Street. There was a brief discussion.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED, AT 9:50AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.