

**BRATTLEBORO TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012 – 8:30AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Barb Sondag, Betsy Gentile from Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Robert Immler, Police Chief Gene Wrinn, and Leo Schiff from Chamber of Commerce.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Others present: Terry A. Carter, Stewart McDermet, Bob Rottenberg, 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. She confirmed that the meeting was properly warned. She welcomed Leo Schiff, new committee member and representative from the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce. Minutes from the May 22, 2012 meeting were presented.

MOTION BY ROBERT IMMLER, AND SECONDED BY BETSY GENTILE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 22, 2012 MEETING. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety – Update and Discussion. Sondag provided an update on efforts made to increase safety in the area in front of Academy School. She said that that a goal would be to shorten crosswalks, that the width of the road would always a factor and an engineer may be hired to determine other options. She distributed information about Local Motion, a non-profit agency from Burlington, whose focus is to make streets safer in variety of ways for a variety of users. She said that Local Motion recently applied for a Governor's Highway Safety grant and would be looking to partner with Brattleboro who would commit to using staff and committee resources in order to improve safety. She said the group would conduct site visits in the fall to identify and prioritize issues, then develop a strategic plan to launch the campaign. She also discussed the Energy Committee's work with Green Mountain Power in changing street lights to LED lights. There was discussion by the Committee about various matters, including getting information to the public regarding the street light conversion, the status of State work regarding installing crosswalks by Westgate and painting bike lines painting lines on Putney Road, and Rescue's presentation to the community as part of an education campaign.

Terry Carter spoke of her concerns about traffic safety on Putney Road in the area of Harris Avenue. There was discussion about adding crosswalks and striping/fog lines in the area. The committee agreed to look at the area to see if there is room for a crosswalk between the church and bridge and discuss it at the next meeting.

An unidentified speaker discussed his concerns about Bullock Street. He said there are no sidewalks, that a substantial number of pedestrians and children use the street, that drivers speed down the street, that trucks (particularly UPS) and buses use the street even though it is posted for no truck use, and drivers often drive the wrong way on the one-way street. He suggested adding speed bumps or other measures to slow the traffic. Sondag said that Whipple Street should be added to the discussion because it has the same problems. There was discussion by the Committee about the concerns. It was suggested that UPS and Connecticut River Transit be contacted and advised not to use the street as a cut-through. Some residents agreed to get license plate numbers of the UPS trucks that were using the street for a cut-through. There was also discussion about asking Windham Regional Commission to conduct speed studies on both streets. The Committee agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

Living Memorial Park/Citizens' Bridge – Traffic Control. Gartenstein proposed moving the stop signs from the end of Citizens' Bridge to the intersection at the entrance of the Living Memorial Park which would create a 3-way stop at the park intersection. There was discussion by the Committee about the suggestion, as well as additional signage that would be necessary, and notice to the public alerting them to the change in the traffic pattern. Sondag said it would require an ordinance change and suggested

utilizing the emergency ordinance change which would remain in effect for thirty days and give time for the Committee to see how the change was working. Gartenstein said he would present the suggestion to the Selectboard at its August 7 meeting. Chief Bucossi expressed his concerns about installing a stop sign in the middle of the traveled roadway.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE TO RECOMMEND TO THE SELECTBOARD AS AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE CHANGE TO TAKE THE STOP SIGN AWAY FROM THE END OF THE BRIDGE AND PUT IT AT THE ENTRANCE OF MEMORIAL PARK AND GET ANOTHER STOP SIGN FOR THE THIRD STOP SIGN AT MEMORIAL PARK AND KEEP THE STOP SIGN AT THE PARKING LOT ACROSS FROM THE BRIDGE. MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY (BUCOSSİ OPPOSED).

Other Business

Gartenstein discussed his concerns regarding the dangerous situation for pedestrians at the entrance to the Co-Op parking lot. He said with the new store open, customers enter and exit the store in the driveway near the intersection at Main Street and there are no lights or lines to alert drivers or pedestrians. There was discussion by the Committee. Sondag agreed to speak with a Co-Op representative. There was also discussion about adding a stop bar (painted line) by the Holstein building in front of the driveway and about adding no parking signs on Canal Street. Gartenstein asked about a pavement painting project proposed on Cedar and Maple Streets. There was discussion by the Committee and it was determined that more information about the project was needed.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE AT 9:47AM TO ADJOURN. MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.