

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018, 8:00AM
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, School Representative Alice Charkes, Chamber of Commerce Representative Leo Schiff, and Citizen Representative Louise Zak.

Selectboard Representative: Tim Wessel.

Other staff members present: None.

Others present: None.

Town Manager Elwell called the meeting to order at 8:01am.

Approve Minutes – March 15, 2018

MOTION BY LEO SCHIFF, AND SECONDED BY LOUISE ZAK, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2018. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation

None.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Fitzgerald reported that last month there were 46 motor vehicle accidents, 41 of which had no personal injuries, 5 with personal injuries, and 1 involved a pedestrian. He said that the pedestrian accident occurred yesterday evening at 8:30pm at The Junction (intersections of Canal Street, Main Street, Route 142, Route 119, and the Co-Op entrance). He said that a 59 year-old female was crossing in the crosswalk and was hit by a vehicle driven by an 82 year-old male. He stressed that the investigation was very preliminary and, as yet, no citations had been issued. He said that the pedestrian was taken to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and then moved to Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital. He said that stories from witnesses and other operators were conflicting so the facts were still unclear but it may have been that the pedestrian was not crossing with the proper pedestrian light. There was a brief discussion.

Monthly Report on Traffic Data Collection – Public Works Director Barrett said that the speed of vehicles was recently monitored on Western Avenue in West Brattleboro near the Academy School. He reported that the speed limit in that area was posted at 30 mph, and that the westbound traffic travelled at an average speed of 28 mph, the 85th percentile was 34 mph, and the total volume was 42,548. He reported that the eastbound traffic travelled at an average speed of 27 mph, the 85th percentile was 32 mph, and the total volume was 47,954. He said that the data was consistent with other studies performed in that area.

Street and Sidewalk Safety Policy Safety Action Requests –

- (a) *Meetinghouse Lane, Blind Person Crossing - Discussion*
- (b) *Maple Street, “Blind Drive” Sign – Discussion*

Town Manager Elwell said that two Safety Action Requests had been received and were being brought to the Committee for informational purposes, but that no action was required. Public Works Director said that a request had been received to install “blind person crossing” signs on Orchard Street and nearby on Western Avenue to accommodate a new resident on Meetinghouse Lane who wanted to walk in that area. He said that such signs in those locations were appropriate and he recommended installation of the signs. There was no discussion by the Committee.

Barrett said that a request to install a “blind drive” sign had been received from a resident whose driveway exited onto Maple Street at the Winter Street intersection. He said that the driveway was difficult to see

because of the dip and curve of the road, and that the speed and volume of traffic using Maple Street as a cut-off from the Citizens' Bridge to the high school made it a safety concern, particularly during the morning school traffic hours. He recommended installation of the sign. There was some discussion about that particular intersection, the past practice to avoid over-signage, and placement of the sign. The Committee generally agreed that installation of the sign was appropriate and requested that the mobile radar speed device be placed in that location soon to measure the speed of traffic.

Update on Use of RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons) Devices. Elwell said that the Federal patent dispute had been resolved and towns were now able to use the RRFBs. He said that the two RRFBs that had previously been approved could be installed by Public Works and additional devices would be considered for purchase and installation. Barrett confirmed that a device would be installed near the Holton Home, and said there were unresolved constraints at the Union Hill location. He said that another device was in-line for the Putney Road location near North Street, and after that installation RRFB devices will have been installed at each one of the major entrances into town – Canal Street at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Western Avenue, Route 30, and Route 5. There was a brief discussion by the Committee.

No Meeting on May 17 – Next Meeting is June 21 at 8:00am. Elwell announced that the May meeting would be cancelled. He said that he would not be available but, more importantly, with the departure of Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah Tyler, the committee's agenda and schedule would have to be managed differently. Elwell wished Tyler well on her new position as Public Works Director in Hartford, Vermont, and said that her departure would affect Public Works in a number of ways, including her extensive work on matters brought to this Committee. He said that the meeting schedule during the summer may have to be every-other-month unless urgent matters arose between meetings. He invited Committee members to bring any urgent matters to the Town Manager or Public Works Director.

Other Business

Schiff inquired about the schedule for crosswalk markings and line striping. Barrett responded that the water mains would be flushed first and then line striping would be scheduled, assuming that the weather was permissible. Charkes inquired about new striping on Cedar Street and Maple Street. Barrett said that the lines on Cedar Street from Route 30 to Sycamore Street could be altered so as to make the vehicular travel lane narrower and provide a wider pedestrian/bike path. He said that altering the lines on Maple Street would be more difficult and would require more research. Zak inquired about the use of yellow paint. Barrett said that it did not meet the traffic code standard and that the colors throughout the town must be consistent. He noted that the white paint contained glass beads which gave it a reflective action

Adjournment

There was no further business.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:27AM.