

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 8:00AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell, and Chamber Representative Leo Schiff.

Selectboard Representative: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Police Captain Mark Carignan.

Others present: Terry A. Carter, Kathleen White, Georgia Morgan, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Approve Minutes – April 21, 2016

Moreland asked if anyone had corrections to the April 21 minutes. There was no discussion.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 21. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – None.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Fitzgerald reported that since the last meeting, there were 52 motor vehicle accidents, 48 with no personal injuries, 4 with minor personal injuries, no motor vehicle/pedestrian incidents, and no bicycle incidents. There was no discussion.

Monthly Report on Traffic Data Collection – None.

Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Items

- (a) *Sidewalk Condition – Various Locations*
- (b) *Harris Avenue / Route 5 Intersections*

(a) Sidewalk Condition – *Various Locations*. Georgia Morgan, who lives at 40 Belmont Avenue, spoke of her concerns about the unsafe condition of sidewalks, especially on Oak Grove Avenue and South Main Street. She said those sidewalks were particularly difficult to navigate by persons with strollers or canes. She also spoke about the broken and depressed condition of the sidewalk in front of her house and how it creates icy conditions in the winter. Moreland said that 38 miles of sidewalks exist and the Town had limited resources to repair and replace the sidewalks. Highway/Utilities Superintendent O'Connell spoke about the condition of the particular sidewalks reported by Morgan and said that those areas would be added to a list of areas to be repaired. She said that sidewalks are generally rated each year with the worst areas getting the first attention, but stated that they had not been rated for two years due to staffing changes. She also spoke of some sidewalks that will be considered for repair this year, including Estey Street, upper Main Street between the Library and Municipal Center and lower Main Street between Super Fresh and the Latchis Hotel, by Solar Hill on Western Avenue (in conjunction with a paving project), South Main Street, and Linden Street. She said that the Town's FY17 capital budget included \$50,000 for sidewalks and the general fund budget included \$10,000 for emergency sidewalk repairs. She said that a 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk with curbing would cost about \$100 per linear foot so \$50,000 would pay for 500 feet of sidewalk. She said that the Town was experimenting with asphalt paving on some sidewalks because it was less expensive, more resistant to winter salt, smoother for mobile devices, and easier to patch. Schiff spoke of concerns about the uneven surface on the sidewalk on the south side of Western Avenue crossing the Interstate. It was determined that that sidewalk was under State jurisdiction and Schiff asked for the name of a contact at the State level and for a link to the latest sidewalk rating by the Town. Kathleen White inquired about grant funding for sidewalks. There was much discussion by the Committee, including the rating system, liability issues, and funding.

Gartenstein asked O'Connell to contact the State and inquire whether line striping would be completed earlier than August this year.

(b) Harris Avenue / Route 5 Intersections – Terry Carter spoke about her continued concerns and requests for improvements to Putney Road from The Common to Vermont Avenue in order to improve pedestrian safety especially near the wide intersection with Harris Avenue. She suggested adding cross hatching or fog lines to create an illusion of a narrower roadway in order to slow traffic, similar to those markings used on Western Avenue near Academy School and the Union Hill intersection, which she believed made a difference in traffic calming. O'Connell said she researched the area and the average daily amount of traffic was almost 16,000 vehicles, that the posted speed limit was 25mph, the average speed was 31mph, and the 85th percentiles (Federal highway standard base for setting speed limits) was 38 mph. She explained the difference between fog lines and cross hatching/hash lines (regulatory use for no parking or fire lanes only), and discussed the regulatory requirement of lane widths. She suggested continued rotating use the of the mobile radar speed device in that area to slow the speed of traffic. She also suggested that the Town may apply for grant funds to conduct a scoping study by an engineer in connection with the Putney Road improvement project. Moreland thanked Carter for her continued interest and said that improvements had been made in that area due to her continued advocacy. There was some discussion by the Committee.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY MIKE BUCOSS, TO ENDORSE THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR A SCOPING STUDY ON PUTNEY ROAD FROM NORTH STREET TO THE TRANSITION TO STATE OWNERSHIP OF THE ROAD. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parking Ordinance Amendments – Canal Street, Oak Street, Public Turnarounds – O'Connell asked the Committee to support ordinance amendments in order to clear up the difference between signage and ordinances in three areas as set forth in her memo dated June 7. She said the first recommendation was to eliminate no parking signs in front of some houses on Canal Street between the two ends of Clark Street and north of Code 3. She said that a citizen on Canal Street requested that parking spaces be reinstated in front of those houses. She said there were conflicting parking ordinances in that area and that Public Works found no conflict in reinstating those parking spaces. She said that the second recommendation was to add a no parking ordinance for the easterly side of Oak Street from High Street to Chapin Street in accordance with the current practice and signage in that area. She said that the third recommendation was to create no parking areas in public turnarounds at the end of New England Drive, Hillwinds, Hillwinds North, Chestnut Street East, Chestnut Street West, Timber Lane and Meetinghouse Lane to allow clearance for turning by emergency vehicles, delivery trucks, and other traffic. There was a brief discussion by the Committee. Moreland said that any future parking ordinances would be initiated in a memo from Public Works to the Committee with informal language and then provide the Committee's recommendation to the Selectboard for consideration and specific ordinance language.

MOTION BY DAVID GARTENSTEIN, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO RECOMMEND DRAFTING AND PRESENTING TO THE SELECTBOARD THE AMENDMENTS TO THE PARKING ORDINANCES AS RECOMMENDED IN O'CONNELL'S JUNE 7 MEMO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

O'Connell said that the Department of Public Works intended to apply for three VTrans bicycle and pedestrian grants and to ask for the Selectboard's approval at its July 5 meeting. She said that the first grant was a follow-up on the scoping study performed on Western Avenue 2-3 years ago in order to implement some of the ideas presented in the study. She said that the Windham Regional Commission Transportation Committee was in full support of initiating a design from Greenleaf Street to Bonnyvale Road. She said that the other two grants were smaller implementation grants which may assist with installation of pedestrian push buttons on Western Avenue at the Union Hill intersection and Holton Home.

There was no further business.

MORELAND ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:04AM.