

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018, 8:00AM
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Planning Director Sue Fillion, School Representative Alice Charkes, and Citizen Representative Louise Zak.

Selectboard Representative: None.

Other staff members present: None.

Others present: Mike Hoffman, Kathleen White, and possibly others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Elwell called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Approve Minutes – June 21, 2018

MOTION BY STEVE BARRETT, AND SECONDED BY MIKE FITZGERALD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 21 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation

None.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Fitzgerald reported that since the last meeting, a total of 57 motor vehicle accidents had occurred, with 47 of them having no personal injuries, 10 having personal injuries, and 1 that involved a pedestrian. He said that the pedestrian accident took place on Saturday, August 11 at 4:00pm, at the intersection of Elm and Elliot Streets. He reported that the weather was wet and rainy. He said that as the vehicle came up Elm Street to the Elliot Street intersection, the operator was distracted by her grandson in the back seat so turned around to attend to him. When she turned back, she took her foot off the brake and hit the accelerator. The pedestrian was in the crosswalk and put his hand onto hood and inadvertently got his finger caught in the grill of the vehicle. The pedestrian did not require medical attention and the driver was issued a citation. There was no discussion by the committee.

Monthly Report on Traffic Data Collection – Public Works Director Barrett said that the Department of Public Works collected data on Western Avenue (eastbound traffic near Highlawn Road and near Academy School) and on Orchard Street (northbound traffic near Macintosh Lane and southbound traffic near Meeting House Lane). He discussed the speed and volume of traffic as set forth in his memo dated August 10, 2018. Barrett said that Windham Regional Commission also performed traffic counts on Guilford Street (between Blanche Moyses Way and Maple Street) and on Maple Street (east of the I-91 overpass and near Thompson House). He discussed the WRC data also set forth in his August 10 memo. There was much discussion about the data. Charkes suggested responding to the residents on Maple Street who often voiced concerns, suggested launching an educational campaign through the Recreation & Parks Department for drivers to be aware of their speed, and consider changing the line-striping as a speed deterrent. Elwell said that he would contact the Maple Street resident and the Recreation & Parks Department. Zak suggested installing the mobile radar device on Maple Street more frequently. There was also discussion about speed bumps and speed plateaus.

Street and Sidewalk Safety Policy Safety Action Requests

- (a) *Request for Crosswalk at Harris Avenue and Putney Road*
- (b) *Concern About Speeding on Upper Dummerston Road*

Elwell suggested addressing the two matters in the reverse order so as to accommodate Mike Hoffman, a resident on Upper Dummerston Road, who submitted the request and was present at the meeting.

(b) *Concern About Speeding on Upper Dummerston Road* – Mike Hoffman, a relatively new resident on Upper Dummerston Road, spoke of his efforts to create a small farm on his property and bring people to the area to enjoy the farm and scenery. He said that the neighborhood contained elderly residents, children, and animals. He spoke of his concerns about the speeding traffic and resulting safety issues. He suggested increasing speed enforcement efforts and lowering the speed limit to 25mph. He also asked about neighbors posting speed signs on their property. Elwell responded that traffic data was currently being collected for Upper Dummerston Road and would be discussed at the September 20 Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Chief Fitzgerald said that police enforcement had been increased. Barrett said that residents could post signs on their property so long as they were 25' from the centerline. There was no further discussion by the committee.

(a) *Request for Crosswalk at Harris Avenue and Putney Road* – Elwell acknowledged that the Harris Avenue/Wantastiquet Drive neighborhood regularly had a number of people walking through and consequently this type of request was of a recurring nature. He said that the Harris Avenue intersection was not a proper location to install a crosswalk because of the requirement to connect crosswalks with sidewalks and there was no existing sidewalk at that spot. He noted that restriping of the street had been done in that area to narrow and square-up the intersection so that drivers would slow to navigate the new configuration. Charkes proposed building a small, minimal sidewalk and adding the funds into next year's budget. Barrett said he thought that Southern Vermont Engineering had previously submitted an engineering report indicating the line of sight distance at Harris Avenue was inadequate for drivers coming toward town on Putney Road to react to pedestrians in the roadway. He also noted the height differences on both side of the street and said they may not meet ADA slope requirements. Elwell asked Barrett to bring the SVE report and any other pertinent information to the next meeting so the matter could be further discussed at that time.

Continued Consideration of Bike/Pedestrian Safety Issues on Putney Road – Charkes said that she sent an e-mail in early August to VTrans (and other people) regarding some inadequacies in the recent line-striping on Putney Road. She said that request #3 in her e-mail (reflectors at the "goat path") had been resolved. She said that she hoped that VTrans would return this fall to re-stripe the bike lane in front of Black Mountain Square (#1). She then noted that the line-striping near the goat path had not been moved away from the path and closer to the center of the road (#2). Elwell said that he notified the committee in the spring that VTrans could not move the striping in that area because of the drop-off at the east edge of the road and the overall narrow roadway. He said that larger improvements would be made when the Putney Road Improvement Project was implemented.

Downtown Bicycle Parking

- (a) Day Use of Bike Lockers at the Transportation Center
- (b) Installation of "Parklet" and Other Bike Racks\

Elwell announced that the 3 remaining bike lockers at the Transportation Center would be removed and replaced with bike racks. He then said that the installation of the "parklet" (representative photograph in the back-up materials) would be installed in a parking space on the west side of Main Street at the intersection with Elliot Street in front of the bank. He said that the parklet contained bike racks and was specifically to be used for bike parking. He said if additional bike parking was still necessary, another parklet may be considered next year for installation on the east side Main Street. Barrett said that the parklet would be removed when the winter parking ban went into effect. Elwell noted that the winter parking ban was consistent with other New England municipalities. There was a brief discussion.

Other Business

Elwell confirmed that the committee would meet next on September 20. There was no further business.

Adjournment

ELWELL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:10AM.