

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 8:30AM
MINUTES**

Members present: Interim Town Manager Patrick Moreland, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Planning Director Rod Francis, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, School Representative Betsy Gentile, and Chamber of Commerce Representative Leo Schiff.

Selectboard representative present: David Gartenstein.

Other staff members present: Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah O'Connell and Police Captain Mark Carignan.

Others present: Dale Joy, Terry Carter, James Banslaben, Matt Mann (from Windham Regional Commission), and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Interim Town Manager Moreland called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

Approve Minutes – October 28, 2014.

MOTION BY BETSY GENTILE, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 28, 2014. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Participation – Terry Carter spoke in support of Patrick Moreland as Interim Town Manager.

Dale Joy discussed bicycle safety and suggested regulations for the legislation requiring bicyclists to be more visible.

Safe Streets Project – Update. *Katelin Brewer-Colie, Local Motion.* Moreland said that Jason Van Driesche and Katelin Brewer-Colie from Local Motion were participating by telephone and would provide a slide presentation regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety in Brattleboro. Van Driesche said that the project was funded through a Department of Health grant to focus on pedestrian/bike safety issues Town. Brewer-Colie provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed data, including crashes and fatalities in Town, that had been provided to VTTrans from 2008 – 2012 in order to identify “hot spots” in Town, help develop a matrix to determine possible safety interventions, focus resources on particular problems and areas, and identify and target solutions. Van Driesche discussed a second phase collaboration to create a walk/bike safety plan for the Town. He said that Local Motion secured a contract with VTTrans to work with five towns in the State over two years to develop walk/bike safety action plans, and to identify specific actions and goals to advance walk/bike safety. He said the opportunity would not cost the Town any money, and he offered to send materials to Moreland for dissemination to the Committee members about the project for further discussion at the next Traffic Safety Committee meeting. He said that he would also provide an update in March after reviewing best practices research.

There was much discussion by the Committee after the presentation about the data and its context and relevance, validity of the findings, age of people involved in the crashes, education and enforcement efforts, safety improvements made by the Town in the recent past, and how to move forward on this matter. Matt Mann said that the Town could use its crash data to formulate its own plan or procedure. It was generally agreed that the Committee would review the additional data to be provided by Van Driesche and discuss the matter further.

Safe Routes to Schools – Continue Discussion. The Committee agreed that no further discussion was necessary on this matter at this time.

Crosswalk Criteria - Matt Mann discussed crosswalk criteria and related information that he received from VTTrans. He noted that vehicular speed was the main criteria to consider when considering installation of a crosswalk, along with other information such as traffic volume, connection points for accessibility on either side, site distance, lighting, and amount of other crosswalks in close proximity. He said that some or all of the criteria could be utilized in installing crosswalks. Dale Joy noted that the

crosswalk at Stockwell Drive was not repainted after paving work on Western Avenue. Another unidentified speaker inquired about town standards for crosswalks and voiced safety concerns on Western Avenue. There was some discussion by the Committee.

Western Avenue – Interstate-91 to Melrose Bridge, Discussion. Moreland said that safety in the area between I-91 and the Melrose Bridge had been discussed at a recent Selectboard meeting and the Board requested that the matter be referred to the Committee. Barrett identified several safety concerns in the area and he asked the Committee to determine a procedure on how to identify and prioritize projects for future discussions. There was some discussion by the Committee about utilizing data in certain areas, accidents, traffic volume, and available funding. An unidentified speaker spoke about safety concerns near the Vermont Country Deli and the lack of passable sidewalks in that area. Dale Joy spoke of concerns about speeding traffic on Western Avenue. Barrett suggested that he and O’Connell review the Traffic Calming Plan and propose a method to develop a matrix of locations, and report back to the Committee to formalize a process.

Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Request Forms

(a) Parking on Canal Street by Dominos Pizza. O’Connell said that an employee at Dominos Pizza voiced concerns about the visibility while exiting the driveway at Dominos Pizza because cars parked in front of the business blocked the view. She provided photographs and information about parking in the area and noted that on-street parking was permitted in that area by ordinance. The photographs showed that the cars were parked in accordance with the ordinance setbacks. There was discussion by the Committee about whether any action was necessary. Barrett noted that the school representative on the committee, Betsy Gentile, was not present at the time of this discussion, and he suggested that she be included in any decision. It was suggested that the matter be tabled to the next meeting so that Gentile would have an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

MOTION BY ROD FRANCIS, AND SECONDED BY STEVE BARRETT, TO TABLE THE MATTER UNTIL THE NEXT TRAFFIC SAFETY MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Chief Fitzgerald reported that since October 15 there were no bicycle or pedestrian accidents. He said there were 8 vehicle-on-vehicle accidents with personal injuries, and 75 accidents with no personal injuries. There was a brief discussion.

Other Business – Chief Bucossi noted there was a letter from Mr. Grover included in the packets and asked that the matter be added to the next agenda for discussion.

There was no further business.

MOTION BY ROD FRANCIS, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO ADJOURN AT 10:00AM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.