

## ***TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES***

July 20, 2016

### **Attendance**

Russell Timmons, Police Captain & Chairman of Traffic Safety Committee; Jennifer Soldati, Mayor Representative; Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief Member at Large; Jenne Holmes, Member at Large;; Paul Robidas, Director of EMS; Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning & Community Development; Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director..

### **Absent**

Robert Belmore, City Manager; David Witham, City Councilor; Harold Guptil, Member at Large; Jeni Mosca; Superintendent of Schools.

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm.

### **I. Minutes**

Keith Hoyle motioned to accept minutes from June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting seconded by Jenne Holmes. All in favor, minutes accepted.

### **II. New Business**

- A. 56 Salmon Falls Road Signage Request for “Hidden Driveway”.** Email from resident at 56 Salmon Falls Rd. Paul Robidas thinks the more sign you have the less people pay attention and he doesn’t think it helps. Robidas stated that maybe he should put up one of those mirrors to assist when backing out. Director Bobinsky said maybe there needs to be some vegetation cleaned out to make it easier to see. Chief Hoyle said maybe we should put the Police radar speed trailer there. Robidas said can we look at when vegetation is cleared and we can come back at the next meeting to see if this helped. Captain Timmons will reach out to the resident to explain what we plan to do and see if they will put up a mirror to assist in backing out of the driveway.

Paul Robidas motion to table this until next meeting, Jenne Holmes seconded, all in favor.

- B. Request for Signage on Guy Street.** Don Ouellette requested adding a sign “Slow Children”, along guy Street. He was concerned with the neighborhood children and children and parents walking to the daycare center on Bartlett Ave Captain Timmons noted that there is the Children’s Learning Center on Bartlett Avenue, and parents may be frequenting the road as a cross over from Maple Street. Russ noted that 2 to 3 years ago a speeding issue was brought to the Police Department attention. After monitoring the area with an electronic speed collecting device he did not see a lot of speeding going on? Councilor Soldati asked what the speed limit there is. Paul Robidas thinks there is not a speed limit sign on Guy Street, maybe we need to look at Bartlett and reduce the speed limit.

Chief Hoyle thinks people are using Guy Street as a shortcut to go to the Learning Center. Director Saunders asked if there are sidewalks on Guy – Timmons said no. There are sidewalks on Bartlett. Director Bobinsky said Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) conducts annual traffic-speed counts on selected streets within the Tri City region. Data from those traffic and speed counts would be a helpful topic for a future agenda for the TS Committee. Director Saunders indicated that she would reach out to them to follow-up on the request for a future briefing by SRPC folks. Captain Timmons will also look at old data the PD has from that area. He also promised to collect additional data utilizing the single unit speed data collector.

Paul Robidas motioned to Table this until next meeting. Keith Hoyle seconded, all in favor.

- C. 1 Sunset Drive.** Resident is concerned about screeching tires, speeding, drivers not observing the stop sign. Captain Timmons checked records: 2014=1 accident; 2015 = 1 accident; 2016 = to date 2 accidents. Director indicated that 4 accidents for our population is a lot. Councilor asked about what was the time of the accidents, maybe we need a blinking light? Captain Timmons stated overhead lighting is costly. Director Bobinsky will look into cost and report back but thinks it is \$50,000-\$60,000. Director Saunders asked if we could get accident explanations. Captain Timmons will look at accident history and report back.

Paul Robidas motioned to table this, Director Saunders seconded, all in favor.

- D. High Street during Business Hours Commute (Main, Market, High) between 4-5:00pm.** Captain Timmons read a communication from a commuter expressing some concerns with the traffic flow along High Street. Specifically in the area of Market Street, Main Street and High Street intersection. Councilor Soldati said she travels that every Wednesday evening during that time and has never been there more than 5 minutes. Members think it is the Bridge and the Light that is creating the bottleneck. The communication explained that some drivers traveling north are delayed when vehicles merge from Main Street onto high Street to continue north. We will continue to monitor the matter. No suggestions or motions collected as the matter was offered as information only by the chairman.

#### **Miscellaneous Discussion.**

- Director Saunders wanted to give Committee members an update regarding the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP Grant) for sidewalks. Looking at High Street and Memorial, also on Cemetery Road and Maple Street. Will keep everyone up to date as to what transpires. Director Saunders thinks Somersworth is in a good position to get this Grant (80% Grant/20% City).
- Jenne Holmes shared an update to Committee members from Vision 2020. There are no signs directing commuters to the free parking areas in the

downtown. Other communities have free parking signs directing commuters to those open and free parking stalls. Councilor Soldati commented she has wanted this signage for a long time. Jenne Holmes hopes signs can be added Councilor Soldati stated that if you don't live in Somersworth you don't know there is free parking. Traffic Safety and Public Safety Committee will look into signs.

- Director Bobinsky informed Committee that striping will be done on July 21 in the Plaza Parking Lot.

Paul Robidas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Keith Hoyle. Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.***