

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2016

Attendance

Russell Timmons, Police Captain & Chairman of Traffic Safety Committee; Robert Belmore, City Manager; Jennifer Soldati, Mayor Representative; Dave Witham, City Council Representative; Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief Member at Large; Jenne Holmes, Member at Large; Harold Guptill, Member at Large; Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning & Community Development; Mike Bobinsky, Public Works Director.

Absent

Paul Robidas, Director of EMS

Present in Audience

Police Chief Dave Kretschmar

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm.

I. Minutes

Jeni Mosca motioned to accept minutes from July 20th meeting seconded by Harold Guptill. All in favor, minutes accepted.

II. New Business

- A. Old Rochester Rd. (Rte. 16B) Request to Place “Blind Driveway” Signage and or to Reduce Speed Limit.** A resident expressed concern about the volume of traffic compounded by the speed of traffic along Old Rochester Rd. She felt it was a dangerous situation. She had suggested lowering the speed limit and placing a “Blind Driveway “ sign along the road, as she has difficulty leaving her driveway. The road is posted at 40 MPH. Russ conducted a 59 hour traffic survey. During that time 10,159 cars passed through the area of Old Rochester Rd just south of the Rochester City Line. A single highest speed of 67 mph was recorded, the lowest speed 11 mph. Russ provide data on how many accidents have occurred along that road. 2014 there were 8 accidents, 2015 there were 10 accidents, and 2016 there have been 4 accidents to date. Dave Witham thinks these statistics are not alarming and feels we should not do anything. Bob Belmore asked “when was the radar machine there”? Timmons informed it was in use and in place August 2 it was there for 59 hours. Mike Bobinsky said he doesn’t think the State will lower the speed limit, he thinks we need to have more enforcement. Timmons had discussed the matter with Walter Cornhoff of the State DOT. He indicated the State does not utilize “Blind Driveway” signage. When considering speed limit changes the 85th percentile is viewed as a critical component, by the State. The survey indicates that speed to be 48 MPH. Witham said Police should make additional patrols for enforcement purposes and we

should continue to monitor this matter. This was agreed to by the Committee.

B. Resident Concerns Specific to Guy Street Speed Limits and Sidewalks.

Resident called said she was planning on doing a petition regarding the heavy volume of vehicle traffic. She would like the current speed of 30 MPH lowered. Russ said the resident had hoped to be at this meeting, but has not present. Jeni Mosca, said she has not heard from this resident at the School. Timmons conducted a traffic survey monitoring this area for 59 hours, mid-week. He also stated there were no significant accidents to report. Jennifer Soldati feels there is no issue here. Dave Witham doesn't think sidewalks are needed. Timmons said we will continue to monitor and look at this later in the year.

C. Area of 278 Main Street-Prohibit Parking on the East Side of Main Street.

A complaint was received expressing a line of sight concern when you enter River Street onto Main Street. The line of sight is blocked due to vehicles parking on the east side of Main St just south of the River Street intersection onto Main Street. Russ stated looking up Main Street towards Rollinsford there are cars parked . Dave Witham said this is a tough line of site there. Harold Guptill asked how far to the hill? Timmons said roughly 125 feet. Jennifer Soldati thinks maybe no parking to the hill crest would be a good idea. Dave Witham said maybe it is an enforcement issue, as vehicles are prohibited from parking within 25 feet of the intersection. A no parking from here to corner sign was requested. This was referred to Mike Bobinski. The committee agreed to continue to monitor this matter.

D. Maple Street, an Area between Linden Street and Prospect Street

Intersection “No Parking”. Timmons state that there is a “narrow” street issue on Maple Street. The area of concern sits between Linden St and Prospect Street, on Maple Street. Emergency vehicles could have a tough time driving through, as Vehicles Park on both sides of the street. Timmons reported the travel width of the road is roughly 25 feet, with sidewalks on each side. Chief Kretschmar stated it seems that after 5:00pm there are vehicles parked there, creating the travel problem. Dave Witham said if we do anything there should be no parking on the left side (West Side). Chief Hoyle indicated this would make the fire hydrant in the area easily accessible if needed. Timmons stated that he will create an Ordinance change to give to Council. Motion made, All were in favor.

III. Old Business

B. West High Street and Maple Street Update Mike Bobinsky and Russ

Timmons. Mike Bobinsky is not sure a diagonal crosswalk is a good idea. Jeni Mosca stated a roundabout would slow traffic. Mike Bobinsky thinks maybe a flashing red light, solar powered, he estimates this cost to be in the \$20,000 range. Bob Belmore said maybe leave it alone for now, but think about a sign that states “dangerous intersection” adding one in both directions. Mike Bobinsky said he will look into signs available. Mike will discuss the matter with The State DOT as the state is responsible for West High Street up to the intersection with Maple

Street. Dave Witham moved to table this to the next meeting, Jeni Mosca second, all in favor.

Jeni Mosca motioned to adjourn, seconded by Harold Guptill. Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 19th at 2:00 p.m.