

City Council Traffic Safety Committee Meeting October 24, 2016

Committee members present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Theberge, Morgan Allain, and Councilor Otis sat in for Councilor Remillard who was absent.

Others present included: Assistant Police Chief Dan Buteau, and Public Works Director Michael Perreault

Minutes

Chair Rozek opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Councilor Otis moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Request for Street Lights Hutchins Street, East Milan Road

Chair Rozek indicated that there is no sidewalk and there is no lighting on Hutchins from Page Hill to White Mountain Lumber. Mr. Perreault stated that taking the lights down from Route 110 will cost \$6200. He suggested looking at LED lighting. Chair Rozek established that all will be dependent on cost and it would be helpful to have those costs available including the cost of the equipment, the cost of operating and to tie in. The Council will need this comparison for proposed lighting to make a decision.

Chair Rozek commented that if temporary lighting is installed between Turcotte and Napert Streets, the lighting could be taken down when funding is available for the optimal lighting. Councilor Theberge asked if there is an exchange from Eversource to get a refund when lighting is changed out. Mr. Perreault confirmed that there are 13 lights from Route 110 and he assumes they can be used and installed on Hutchins Street from Page Hill to White Mountain Lumber. Chair Rozek determined that it is important to know if we own the lights on Route 110.

Councilor Theberge made the point that Hutchins Street (Turcotte to Napert) is not as dangerous for walkers since there is a sidewalk. He felt it is more important to have lighting from Page Hill to White Mountain Lumber for safety. It was suggested that lighting could be stopped at the trailer park.

Councilor Morgan Allain asked if lighting (Page Hill to White Mtn. Lumber) would be encouraging people to walk in an area that has no sidewalks. Councilor Theberge affirmed that there has been an increase in traffic in the area due to people coming and going from the prisons.

Chair Rozek asked for pricing for both areas and he asked that the item be carried over to the next agenda. Councilor Otis asked that the cost of an LED package be included as well, for consideration.

Request for Stop Sign at Madison Ave & Memorial Lane

Mr. Perreault reported that he reviewed the area and recommends two stop signs, one in each direction. He presented video of the intersection in question. Chair Rozek asked if there had been any accidents and Assistant Chief Buteau said that he does not recall any but he did not have the official report. He added that the other intersections along Madison Avenue have a Stop sign.

Councilor Morgan Allain was concerned about a stop sign on the hill in the winter and Chair Rozek suggested a Yield sign on Memorial. Assistant Chief Buteau stated that a Stop would be consistent with the other streets. He added that he agrees with adding stop signs and would not disagree with a Yield sign. The item was deferred to the next meeting. Councilor Morgan Allain asked that the intersection be recorded again once the construction on Willow Street has ended.

Other

OHRV Questions – Chair Rozek asked if a 14 year old with a learner's permit could ride on city streets and Assistant Chief Buteau indicated that he could if accompanied by a licensed adult. He added that the intent of making changes to the OHRV ordinance is to make it easier and consistent throughout the city. One of the problems is that young drivers are overseeing young people.

Noise caused by an altered exhaust also needs to be addressed. Chair Rozek stated that a modified exhaust can be identified with a stick tool that is inserted into the exhaust.

Clarification is also being sought for riders with a valid driver's license who want to take their machine to work when trails are open. Chair Rozek asked how old a driver should be and Assistant Chief Buteau noted that someone with a valid driver's license has some semblance of knowing the rules of the road and that would be consistent with state law. Driving the OHRV would follow the youth operator statute.

With regard to riding hours, closing the trails at 9:30 p.m. has been suggested. Chair Rozek established that a meeting to review OHRV regulations will be held in January. He asked that the major OHRV issues be highlighted on future agendas to keep them in mind. Assistant Chief Buteau affirmed that those are: noise, age restrictions, closing time, exhaust, and impounding OHRV's.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14 with street lights and the Madison/Memorial Lane issues on the agenda.

There being no further business, Councilor Otis moved to adjourn; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant