

**September 23, 2019**  
**Traffic Safety Committee**

Members present: Chair Michael Rozek, Councilors Lucie Remillard, Denise Morgan, Russ Otis, Roland Theberge

Others present: Police Chief Pete Morency, Public Works Director Ben Hall, City Manager Jim Wheeler, Michelle Delafontaine, Michael Engelking

**Minutes**

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Traffic Safety Committee meeting; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

**Brown Street/Monty Road**

Chair Rozek noted that the PD was going to monitor the area and neighbors were going to call in when there were issues with ATV's and other traffic on the road. Chief Morency stated that Deputy Chief Buteau met with the neighbors. He added that the Air B&B rental on the street is also advertising that they are marijuana friendly which has caught the attention of the PD. Michelle Delafontaine asked if there could be a sign. Chief Morency confirmed that the PD is waiting for a statement regarding a child bitten by a dog. With regard to installing a sign, Chief Morency stated that signs lose their effect quickly. We need to hold the owner of the property responsible and for that, the PD needs to be called on every incident.

Mr. Michael Engelking, 128 Monty Road reported that people cut the corner when entering Monty Road; he suggested that it should be a one way. Chief Morency reiterated that all incidents should be reported to the PD so that there is a record. When there is documentation that an area needs extra patrol, it can be provided. Councilor Morgan asked if there have been any calls and Chief Morency indicated, that with the exception of the call regarding a dog bite, there have not been any calls. He added that a sign will not stop incidents from occurring but calls to the PD will be effective. He suggested that a post that monitors traffic flow and speeds on cars could be temporarily installed on the street.

Chief Morency agreed that a one way road may be a good idea. Committee members affirmed that the PD will continue to monitor the area and the neighbors will call in when incidents occur. Mr. Engelking and Ms. Delafontaine left the meeting at this time.

**Crosswalk School/Mason**

Chair Rozek noted that Mr. Rheaume had asked for a crosswalk at School and Mason Street. The Committee discussed that a crosswalk is more than just painting lines; it would need to be ADA compatible. Councilor Remillard noted that in the next three to five years, there could be reconstruction done in that area and crosswalks would be part of such a project. The committee reviewed traffic count information for the area and found that it is heavily travelled. Chief Morency encouraged calls to the PD when speeding cars or atvs are observed, as noted in Rheaume's letter.

**4 Way Stop at Park/Willard**

Chief Morency noted that there have not been any accidents in the last 12 months and there has been one accident in the last 3 years. Councilor Theberge indicated that he observed the intersection and noted that drivers tend to proceed carefully. There was concern that a 4 way stop would cause

problems during the winter because one of the stops would be on a hill. Councilor Remillard indicated that she spoke to Mr. Alander and he will report traffic issues to the PD.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the 4 way stop on Park/Willard Street; Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Alendar will receive a letter explaining that, based on studies, a 4 way stop is not found to be an effective way to slow traffic.

#### **Request for Handicap Parking at 376 High Street**

Councilor Theberge indicated that this is on a dead end street and parking could be attained in the driveway. Chair Rozek added that the topography in Berlin makes it difficult to put in Handicap parking that meets federal guidelines.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the request because of cost involved; topography and low traffic in the area; Councilor Morgan seconded. In discussion Mr. Wheeler stated that the City's obligation is to have 5% of parking on streets available for handicap and we have more than 5% available. We will come up with a standard letter for such requests. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### **Derrah and Lancaster Street Slow Children Sign**

Councilor Theberge said that the sign is rusted and worn and should just be replaced. Mr. Wheeler noted that this is an informational sign that people do not pay attention to; he encouraged a vote to have it removed. Councilor Otis moved to deny request and remove the sign; Councilor Morgan seconded. In discussion it was noted that the sign is mounted to telephone pole and should be on its own post if allowed to remain. Councilor Theberge stated that he did not see children in the area but he did see young people in the area. Councilor Remillard noted that this is the same situation as Monty Road and if there are cars speeding, the incidents should be reported to police. Councilor Otis amended his motion to remove the old sign; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried. More discussion regarding replacing the sign took place.

Chief Morency explained that a "slow children" sign gives a false sense of security. Councilor Remillard added that this is no different than the request for a sign on Monty. She asked if there have been any calls from Derrah and Lancaster. Chief Morency did not have that information at this time. Councilor Remillard called for more review and asked that a letter be sent encouraging calls to the PD if there is speeding in the neighborhood. Councilor Theberge noted that there is a park off of Hutchins and Columbia. Councilor Remillard moved to deny the request to replace the sign and to send a letter explaining the situation; adding the speeding should be handled with a call to the PD; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried

#### **Blind Driveway @ 21 Grandview**

Councilor Theberge stated that there are small white birches that could be obstructing the view at the end of the 100 foot driveway. There's no traffic and there are only ten homes on the street. Councilor Otis moved to deny the request; Councilor Theberge seconded. Councilor Morgan stated that there is a bend in the road and it may be difficult to see. Mr. Wheeler noted a letter could be sent recommending that the trees be taken down. In the vote, the motion carried. Chair Rozek stated that a letter to Ms. Meader should say that that the area is being reviewed by PWD and trees will be cut to help with visibility.

#### **Traffic Patterns at High School**

Chief Morency indicated that there have been no complaints. A letter from Lise Barrette was read and she had suggestions which will be considered for the future. Councilor Remillard moved to table the issue to allow the police department to further review; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Wheeler added that the traffic pattern was done as a trial and the parties involved, including the principal, will be contacted for their input.

#### **High Street/School St Intersection**

There are cars parked on School Street impeding the view of oncoming cars on High Street. Councilor Theberge noted that cars are parking too close to the corner. Councilor Remillard moved to have PWD paint the yellow lines; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

Whether a “no parking here to corner” sign may be needed will be reviewed further. Councilor Remillard moved to review the intersection once it has been repainted to determine whether a “no parking” sign is necessary; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Request for Strafford Street Lighting**

Mr. Hall noted that there are lights on either end which are placed in a deliberate pattern. Councilor Otis moved deny the request based on the review; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Otis moved to adjourn; Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant

\*Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the City Council by motion.