

**September 20, 2021**  
**Traffic Safety Committee**

Members present: Chair Michael Rozek, Councilors Lucie Remillard, Roland Theberge, and Russ Otis.

Others present: Deputy Chief of Police Dan Buteau and City Manager Jim Wheeler via Zoom;  
Community Development Director Pam Laflamme, Michael Eastman, Angela Collins, and Jun Jun Law-As.

Chair Rozek called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

**Minutes**

Councilor Remillard moved to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Traffic Safety Committee meeting; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor.

**Julia Brennan/John Tate – Blind driveway sign request – Western Ave.**

Councilor Remillard stated this item was referred to Traffic Safety on July 6, 2021. She would like to have the Police Dept. review this item as they're the ones who have looked at any items that appear to be dangerous. Councilor Theberge commented he drove by and the street is very narrow in that corner and putting a sign right there would get plowed out in winter. Councilor Remillard suggested having Public Works look at it also as it's good to get both the Police and Public Works' departments opinion on the situation. Chair Rozek addressed Deputy Chief Buteau requesting the Police Dept. reviews this request and will also ask Public Works Dept. to review as well. Deputy Chief Buteau commented it had been a while since the committee last met and was inquiring if a form was created for sign request reviews as he feels he would need more information. He did state he would go take a look at it. Chair Rozek questioned Mr. Wheeler if a form was established. Mr. Wheeler stated he didn't recall a form. Chair Rozek commented that some type of matrix form was discussed with the former City Engineer and probably fell through. Deputy Chief Buteau commented he thinks it was a checklist that was created. He stated he would look for the checklist as it was very helpful guide for the department as there are many requests for signs and delineated some of the rules per the MUTCD manual published by the FHWA. Mr. Wheeler commented he does remember a list that was put together with some proposed guidelines. He stated this could be found in past minutes. Councilor Remillard stated she does remember coming up with something that was provided by the former Public Works Director. Deputy Chief Buteau stated he would track down the checklist and use it moving forward. Councilor Remillard moved to forward this item to both the Police and Public Works depts. to review the request for signage by utilizing a matrix that was developed by the former City Engineer in developing the need for this; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor.

**Susan Genna – Request for left hand turn arrow signal on traffic lights on Glen Ave. to go over the bridge**

Councilor Remillard stated there is no left-hand turn arrow signal to turn onto the Mason Street bridge. She commented the problem with getting a light with a turning arrow is it's expensive and they're not always available. This was looked into a while back by former Public Works Director Mike Perreault. She suggested turning to Public Works for this and see if they can come up with one. Ms. Laflamme commented that this request was for the left-hand turn on Glen Ave. to go over the Cleveland bridge. Chair Rozek read the request. Councilor Remillard commented she thinks there should be left-hand turn arrow signals at both locations if able to obtain. Councilor Theberge commented on the many components of adding a turn arrow signal and the high expenses. Councilor Remillard stated it should be looked at and could also be added to the next budget's capital expenses. Councilor Otis commented

there are certain state laws with green arrows that need to be looked into. Mr. Wheeler commented that the work Councilor Remillard was referring to that Mike Perreault did was the City had a study done by a traffic intersection specialist, Stephen Pernaw back in 2013 and he had looked at both intersections mentioned above. He stated he looked back at the study report and it did not recommend a left turn arrow at that time as being needed. Mr. Wheeler stated we could ask Mr. Pernaw to take another look at it. Councilor Remillard questioned what would be the cost associated with having Mr. Pernaw look into it. Mr. Wheeler stated he could probably just have a phone conversation with Mr. Pernaw and decide from there if his presence would be required. He stated if Mr. Pernaw does have to come to Berlin, you'd be looking at approximately \$1,500. Councilor Remillard moved to forward this item to the City Manager to have a traffic specialist review it and get back to the traffic safety committee with potential price and also if there is a need; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor.

#### **Mt. Jasper concerns – Michael Eastman**

Chair Rozek explained that Mr. Eastman is present as he had multiple concerns in regards to Mt. Jasper to include; a cross on top of Mt. Jasper, graffiti on the walls inside the mine, rappelling anchors that were supposed to be cut and removed, the theft of gems and minerals from the site and also unleashed dog issues. Chair Rozek questioned Ms. Laflamme if the anchors had been removed. Ms. Laflamme stated she has been communicating with Sally Manikian and she is looking for someone to remove the anchors. It is something that is in progress. Chair Rozek questioned if the cross is still there. Ms. Laflamme and Mr. Eastman confirmed it has been removed. Chair Rozek invited Mr. Eastman to give an update or anything else that has changed. Mr. Eastman commented that the anchors are still there, the cross has been removed, the graffiti inside the mine is still there and this is something he doesn't know if it's even possible to remove without damaging the mine walls. He commented he can't tell if the dog situation has improved, but he advised he was up on the back side of the mountain going in from the cemetery and when he reached the summit, there were three well behaved dogs that were not on leashes. He mentioned the Police Dept. has been cooperating and have placed signs in the parking lot on the telephone pole and one on the entrance gate. He commented you can't miss these signs; the issue is people not abiding by state and local laws. He also stated he had sent Ms. Laflamme pictures of dog vomit found in the parking lot which had deer hair and hide in it. Councilor Remillard commented on Mr. Eastman's comment about the Police Dept. being cooperative and asked for an update from the Police Dept. Deputy Chief Buteau stated he doesn't have an update at this time and will need to review the records to see what was produced at the time. Councilor Remillard asked the City Manager to communicate the City Ordinance adopted in regards to Mt. Jasper from past discussions. Chair Rozek requested the Ordinance also be forwarded to the Police Dept. Mr. Eastman commented that there is still issues with ATV's using prohibited trails. Councilor Remillard moved to table this item, have it reviewed by the Police Dept. as well as obtaining the Ordinance from the City Manager who will also forward to the Police Dept.; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor.

Councilor Rozek asked that this item be added to the agenda of the next traffic Safety Committee meeting.

#### **Angela Collins – Autistic Child Area sign request – High Street**

Chair Rozek read the communication received from Angela Collins. Councilor Theberge questioned the street address as near the elementary school is a 15-mph zone. Ms. Collins advised it was 292 High street which is not in the 15-mph school zone. Mr. Law-As commented that high school kids also fly right through there every morning. Ms. Collins added it is worst on the weekend and just this past weekend a truck went by at 40-mph. She stated she's witnessed someone pass another vehicle. Chair

Rozek commented that putting up signage kind of blends with everything else and doesn't get the drivers attention. He suggested using the mini people fluorescent signs which seem to get better attention. He commented that they would need to be picked up every time. Mr. Law-As asked if they can place signs on the electrical post themselves. Councilor Remillard commented she would like to get the checklist that the City Manager is going to look for as it pertained to signs like this. Councilor Otis asked Deputy Chief Buteau if the speed cart could be placed in that area as that always seems to slow down traffic. Deputy Chief Buteau responded he would place the speed cart there. Chair Rozek asked for an answer to Mr. Law-As's question in regards to if they could place a sign on the pole themselves. Mr. Wheeler responded that the utility poles belong to Eversource or Fairpoint and they would not allow placing signs on their poles. Councilor Remillard moved to table this item till the next traffic and safety committee meeting and for the City Manager to forward the committee a list which he is going to obtain from the former City engineer's files in regards to the requirements for signage; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried by majority in favor.

### **Other**

Councilor Remillard stated she attended a Planning Board meeting this past week and an issue came up with Peavey Lane. The board has approved the casino moving into the old Hope building. Peavey Lane is apparently having a parking and traffic issue. Residents of Peavey Lane are concerned that people from the casino will park there. Councilor Remillard commented she doesn't feel there will be parking issues as it will be supervised. She asked Deputy Chief Buteau if the Police Dept. could check the area prior to the next traffic and safety committee meeting to see if abandoned unregistered vehicles are being left on the street and if any vehicles are parking in unauthorized areas. Chair Rozek questioned if this was at the end of Peavey Lane. Councilor Remillard commented it is right next door to the old Hope building. Chair Rozek requested that Councilor Remillard write a draft of her statement to stay within the requirements of the traffic and safety meeting and submit to the City Manager's Assistant so it could be placed on the agenda. Councilor Remillard confirmed she would be submitting a statement. Ms. Laflamme commented the Planning Board minutes can also be submitted where it reflects the concerns. Councilor Remillard commented she wanted the committee to address this item at the next traffic safety committee meeting.

Councilor Otis moved with a second from Councilor Theberge to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried by majority in favor. The meeting ended at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Rioux  
Executive Assistant

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