

July 11, 2022
Traffic Safety Committee

Members present: Chair Morency, Councilors Morgan, Remillard and Theberge.

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Chief of Police Dan Buteau, Police Captain Nathan Roy, Stephen Gregory and Paul Robitaille, Berlin Daily Sun.

Chair Morency called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. He advised Councilor Theberge requested to add an item under other to discuss signage at the intersection of East Mason Street and Burgess Street. Councilor Remillard moved to add the agenda item under other. Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Minutes of May 23, 2022

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2022 Traffic Safety Committee meetings; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Letter from Kristi O'Shea re: Portland and Lincoln Street Intersection (referred 6/6/22)

Captain Roy advised he reviewed records as far back as 2001 and there are no reportable accidents at this intersection. Councilor Theberge commented he drove to the intersection and he could see clearly down and up Portland Street to cross, he doesn't feel signs are needed. He commented this is a waste of money for the City as it will incur expenses for the signs and labor. Councilor Remillard commented this will be a minimal expense. The traffic in that area has increased and she feels signage should be put up for preventive safety giving Portland Street priority and Lincoln Street the yield. Councilor Remillard moved to place two yield signs on Lincoln Street which enter Portland Street. Councilor Morgan seconded and the motioned carried by majority in favor. Councilor Theberge opposed. Chief Buteau commented this will be an update to the City Ordinance as the streets will need to be listed under yield intersections.

Letter from Stephen Gregory re: Stop Sign at Grafton and Cheshire Street (referred 6/20/22)

Chair Morency advised Mr. Gregory he would not tolerate any outbursts and that he would be asked to leave if any. Mr. Gregory commented he did not have any outbursts and there is a YouTube video showing this. He stated Chair Morency is just upset as he called him names he didn't like at the last Council meeting. Chair Morency advised this item is being put off and moving on to the next item.

Letter to Traffic Safety Committee from Pam Bouchard (referred 7/5/22)

Councilor Remillard commented she drove down Willard Street and turned onto school Street bearing a right. She noticed there are no markings there and is wondering if this is where Pam is requesting yellow lines be added. Captain Roy commented Ms. Bouchard's request is to extend the grid that was painted on High Street per her last request. He commented that Ms. Bouchard believes the yellow line extended further than the grid and thinks the grid should go further. He commented he is still unsure which side of the street she is requesting the grid be extended. Councilor Remillard questioned what is the standard for the grids. Captain Roy responded the standard is 20 feet from the crosswalk. He measured this location and it's about 30 feet which is beyond what it's supposed to be by law. He stated there are certain intersections in the Ordinance where it's extended to 30 feet. Councilor Morgan commented she feels the committee should get more clarification from Ms. Bouchard. Councilor Remillard moved to table this item until further clarification is obtained from Ms. Bouchard. Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Chair Morency went back to the Stop Sign at Grafton and Cheshire Street request. He commented he would like the PD to look into this further as apparently the yield sign that is there now is not authorized

to start with. He would like more details in regards to when the sign was placed and what's happened at that intersection when the school was there.

Other

Councilor Theberge commented there used to be two signs stating no parking beyond this point on each side of East Mason Street and yellow lines on all four sides of the East Mason and Burgess Street intersection. All have been removed and he feels both signs should be put back up and yellow lines painted at all four corners. Councilor Remillard commented she would like for the PD to investigate as to what happened and why the signs and yellow lines were removed. Councilor Remillard moved to table item b. Letter from Stephen Gregory re: Stop Sign at Grafton and Cheshire Street and this new item for the signs and yellow lines at the East Mason and Burgess Street intersection until the next Traffic Safety meeting so additional information can be obtained. Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried by all in favor. Councilor Theberge asked if the PD could get records of all accidents at the East Mason and Burgess intersection. Chief Buteau advised he would research and obtain the information.

Chair Morency discussed items that were parked for further discussion.

Susan Genna - Request for left hand turn arrow signal on traffic lights on Glen Ave. to go over the bridge. (Ms. Laflamme advised she would have Vaillancourt Electric take a look at it as there is a sensor issue. From 4/25/22)

Mr. Warren advised he's been working with Public Works on this item and it was discovered there is a timing issue with the automated system and the loop in the road is broken, not working properly. He is working with Mark Lapointe, Assistant Public Works Director to install a new loop and Vaillancourt Electric will come in and tie it in. That will solve the problem as the loop is what triggers the turn. In the absence of the loop, the light goes into a time function. Councilor Morgan questioned the time frame in getting this done. Mr. Warren advised he is hoping this summer and will have an update at the next meeting.

Industrial Park Road – “No Pedestrian Traffic During the Day” signage request. (Tabled until further discussion. From 5/23/22)

Captain Roy advised he and Councilor Berthiaume spoke to Capone trying to come up with a solution and they didn't come up with anything. He commented the PD has been patrolling the area and there has been no issues. Councilor Remillard advised she spoke with North Country Growers and they are planning on putting in a walking path all around the land. This will be a better safer area for people to walk. Mr. Warren commented he drove through a few times and has not seen any vehicles parked along the road or people walking. He suggested maybe placing a preventive maintenance sign stating “Heavy Truck Traffic, Please Walk with Care”. Chair Morency suggested leaving the item parked for future review.

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried by all in favor. The meeting ended at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

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