

(DRAFT) Traffic Safety Committee  
August 1, 2016

Members present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Otis, Morgan Allain and Theberge.

Others present included City Manager Jim Wheeler, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Public Works Director Mike Perreault, Don Valliere, Richard King, Steve Kinney, Pierre Bonnan, Linda Vaillancourt (5:30), and public

Chair Rozek explained that the delay in hearing the requests is because they were sent to the Police Department and Public Works Department for review prior to this meeting. Once decisions are made, letters will be sent to those who wrote in and copied to the Council.

Chair Rozek called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

#### Minutes

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Otis to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2015 Traffic Safety Committee meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

#### Request for Street Lights on East Milan Road from 12th Street to White Mountain Lumber

The request made by Don Valliere of 25 Pinecrest Avenue was reviewed by the Committee. The findings of the Police and Public Works Departments were that traffic density has increased in the area due to there being two prisons and activity at the industrial park. There would be significant cost to installing lights and maintaining the electric costs. Chair Rozek asked for the typical costs for street lights including installations and monthly costs.

Councilor Theberge encouraged seeking DRED money to increase lighting. Councilor Otis commented that lights are coming down on route 110 and those could be repurposed to Hutchins Street. Mr. Wheeler noted there would be an argument to put up led lights for energy efficiency. He added that we have to confirm the number of poles; cost out LED lighting including the purchase, installation and electrical cost to then have the information to make a decision.

Chair Rozek asked if it is a safety issue and Assistant Chief Buteau acknowledged that it is due to the increased traffic. Councilor Morgan-Allain moved to refer the issue to the City Manager for cost estimates; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried.

#### Request for Crosswalk at Morning Lane

The request made by Linda Vaillancourt was considered by the Committee. Mr. Wheeler reported that this issue went to a Council meeting recently because if there were to be a sidewalk at Morning Lane, the contractor for the Route 16 project would need to have been informed prior to beginning his work. The Committee has discussed and received options for a sidewalk/crosswalk from HEB. At this juncture, Martha Laflamme was contacted at the College and after reviewing with staff, she indicated that the status quo is preferable.

Mr. Perreault added that the college is reviewing a suggestion to put in a path at Twitchell Lane that would go to the existing crosswalk. Chief Morency noted that the PD's concern was for visibility of pedestrians in the proposed crosswalk. Councilor Theberge asked whether the college is considered a school zone and Chief Morency was fairly certain that colleges are not considered as school zones.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the crosswalk at Morning Lane; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

#### Vision Impaired Sign at 473 Grafton Street

The request for a sign was made by Danielle Warner. Chair Rozek stated that signs that pertain to individuals are hard to track for accuracy. Years go by and people move away and the sign is still there. Chief Morency suggested adding the information on a tax card to review if there is a transfer of property.

Mr. Wheeler informed the group that PWD is working on a complete inventory of all signs in the City and they will be able to periodically review for accuracy. Chief Morency suggested that the homeowner be asked to notify the city if the sign is no longer needed. Councilor Morgan Allain confirmed that the property is owned by Ms. Warner.

Councilor Otis moved with a second by Councilor Morgan Allain to install a Visually Impaired Sign at 473 Grafton Street. So moved the motion carried.

#### Request for Children at Play and an Additional Speed Limit Sign

The request was made by Scott and Alaina Huot. Chief Morency stated that the speed limit throughout the City is 25 miles per hour. Chair Rozek questioned whether a "Children at Play" sign will slow the traffic or make people stop at a stop sign. Chief Morency stated that we could post everywhere in the city and posting will not change how people drive. There are traffic problems in the area and it falls on the PD to enforce. He encouraged the neighbors to talk and identify the people who are breaking the rules. He said that he will make sure that complaints are responded to. Councilor Rozek asked if there should be a threshold of criteria to meet before signs are installed which could apply in all residential areas.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the "children at play" sign; there was not second to the motion. Councilor Morgan Allain asked if the speed trailer could be set up in the area to deter speed.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the Children at Play sign and to monitor speed in the area with the police radar cart adding enforcement as necessitated by the findings; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

#### Request for Jericho Road Speed Limit Change

Rich and Ellen King requested a change in the speed limit. Assistant Chief Buteau reported that the location of the 40 mile per hour speed limit on Jericho Road is outside the city compact. Councilor Theberge indicated that noise is also a problem. Chief Morency indicated that the PD is purchasing a decibel meter and they will be training with it soon.

Richard King of 107 Jericho Road commented problems are with noise and bikes going by driven by underage drivers with no helmets, racing up and down the road. He has called the PD and has seen three wide racing. He stated that he would hate to see a little kid under tractor trailer. He added that the Police Department has had a good presence on Jericho Road and he thanked them. He said that there are safety problems and lighting on Jericho Road is not the greatest especially with some bikes having no lights.

Chair Rozek summarized that the PD will be acquiring a decibel meter so the officers can start testing exhaust systems that are apparently loud. Chief Morency expressed a need to go to the media with a plea to stop the problem behavior. Chair Rozek reasoned that these are the problems we see as we go through growth. Councilor Otis moved to refer the issue of speed on Jericho Road to the Police Department; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and them motion carried.

#### Request for "No Parking" at the South Entrance to the Industrial Park

The request was made by Capone Iron Corp. Steve Kinney of 30 Sunrise Drive Shelburne reported that there are cars that park hindering the ability for trucks to make a wide turn. There is no parking on the north side already and "no parking" for 150 feet into the curb cut would facilitate necessary truck traffic.

Councilor Theberge moved to introduce an ordinance prohibiting parking at the southern entrance to Capone Iron Corp for 150 feet; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

#### Request for Two Lanes at Hutchins/Mason Streets

The request came to the Committee from Councilor Peter Higbee. Chair Rozek reviewed the recommendation from the PD and Public Works who stated that there have been no issues that merit a change. Assistant Chief Buteau added that people use the road as two lanes but it is not delineated that way. Chair Rozek added that a heavy truck would not be able to manipulate the turn. Chief Morency could not see an advantage to making a change.

Councilor Otis moved to deny the request due to the feasibility of the intersection; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

#### Oak St Request for Handicap Sign

The request was made by Mary Lavoie. Pierre Bonnan representing Ms. Lavoie stated that there is a handicap space on Willard Street; however due to heavy use in the area, it is usually occupied. Ms. Lavoie is requesting an additional space on Oak Street. The space would be available for anyone with a handicap plate. Councilor Morgan Allain determined that Ms. Lavoie does not own the property; however she has been there ten years. Mr. Bonnan reported that people with no handicap placards are parked in the handicap spot making it impossible for the bus to pick up Ms. Lavoie. Ms. Bonnan noted that if Ms. Lavoie were no longer there, the additional parking spot would help Community Services as well. Councilor Morgan Allain commented that the additional spot may be better on Willard Street.

Councilor Otis moved to refer the item to the Public Works Director to determine the distance from the fire hydrant and confer with Mr. Bonnan; Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried.

#### OHRV Ordinance Review

Chief Morency reported that there is a need to review the City's OHRV ordinance. Trail access as stated in the ordinance, is to get to local businesses or services. Should we include riding an OHRV to work? Though the PD has not bothered anyone, it would be good to have clarification.

Mr. Wheeler noted that we had the language for the Connector trail prior to opening the streets. Chief Morency noted that the problems are with underage drivers. He also needs something in the ordinance to impound vehicles for inspection. He reviewed the calls for service saying that of 98 calls for service, 34 were for advice, there were 62 complaints that dealt loud pipes, cookies in the road and most of those involved juveniles. There is a need to get the kids off the street. It is a mistake for a juvenile to have free reign with someone who is 18. Driving by a juvenile should be allowed only with a licensed responsible adult or parent. The city's ordinance could be tightened to get juveniles off the street. Suggestions were to allow with a valid driver's license or legal guardian or adult 21 years of age or older.

Chair Rozek asked committee members to meet with the Police Chief and work on language to propose at the next Traffic Safety Meeting September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

#### Other

Mr. King offered to help if needed.

#### Adjournment

Councilor Otis moved to adjourn; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant.