

Traffic Safety Committee
June 10, 2019

Present were: Chair Rozek, Council Members Theberge, Remillard, Otis (5:36) and Morgan Allain

Others present: City Manager James Wheeler, Public Works Director Eric Grenier, Assistant Police Chief Dan Buteau, Normand Rheaume, Michelle Delafontaine

Chair Rozek called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2019 Traffic Safety Committee meeting; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Gemmiti & School Turn Around

Mr. Grenier explained that there is an intent for Public Works to paint an arrow sign indicating “right turn only” on the roadway at the boundary of Ms. Gemmiti’s property on Willard Street. Due to graduation, the work was delayed but will be done next week. Mr. Grenier also suggested adding flashing lights that will be removed from Brown School to put some visibility on the issue. The lights use solar power and can be programmed to accommodate the need.

Proposed Ground Rules for ADA Parking

Mr. Wheeler reported that at the last meeting, there was discussion about what an ADA handicap placard means. The placard indicates that the space has been engineered to be handicap accessible. Simply painting the placard on the ground is not enough. The Committee agreed with Title II, that states a municipality is supposed to provide 5% parking for the disabled. The intent is that the Ground Rules would be tabled indefinitely. Councilor Rozek added that the topography in Berlin makes it challenging to meet ADA specifications.

Brown St/ Monty Road

Chair Rozek read the letter from Ms. Nancy Delafontaine that reported a concern for several children who live on Brown Street. Ms. Delafontaine’s daughter Michelle was present at the meeting. She stated that there is an Air B & B on her street and ATV’s and cars drive up and down the street very fast. She thought a “Slow Children” sign might help with the speeding on the street. Mr. Grenier said that he pulled information from the Federal Highway Administration that states the long term effectiveness of such signage is diminished over time. Chair Rozek confirmed with Assistant Chief Buteau that every intersection has an obligation to yield, though there may not be a sign; the yield is required by law.

Chair Rozek stated that if there is an issue with traffic, then the neighbors have a right to call the police so that PD can monitor the intersection. Assistant Chief Buteau agreed saying they should keep calling the police if there are problems. The police can tackle the issue, get a presence there, and contact the owner. The B & B is at 8 Brown Street and there have been problems with speed since the business was opened.

Assistant Chief Buteau said that it is important to call when the disturbance is happening. Councilor Rozek asked if the building meets occupancy standards. Ms. Delafontaine's daughter stated that she wrote letters to Zoning about the Air B & B and it has not been addressed. The PD will review and have information at the next meeting. It is important to call the police so that they can enforce the law and put the offenders on notice. Councilor Rozek added that it is critical to establish a good communication source so that the PD can respond.

Crosswalk at Mason Street

Norman Rheaume was present at the meeting. He expressed the need for a crosswalk on Mason Street. He would like to see four crosswalks and a speed limit sign on Mason Street. Councilor Remillard agreed that the street is busy and there is no crosswalk going across Mason. Mr. Grenier stated that the group has discussed that it would be dangerous to cross Mason Street and he asked if we really want to put in a crosswalk. He added that any time a new crosswalk is added, it has to meet code which includes tip downs and a metal plate for the visually impaired. He estimated that it would cost about \$7,500 for the time and materials for the crosswalk

There was discussion about where to put a crosswalk, noting that the City allows parking on the side of the street and a crosswalk would mean removing some of the parking to have clear visibility. The next opportunity for an existing crosswalk is to go to York Street. A crosswalk at Oak Street may be a safer; since it's less congested in that area. Mr. Wheeler stated that the North Country Council does traffic counts in the City and we could check to see if there is one for Mason Street. Councilor Rozek suggested that Mr. Rheaume call the PD and that the request will be under review.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to have Mason Street under review and to see if NCC would have or conduct a traffic count on Mason Street. So moved, the motion carried.

4 Way Stop Signs

Chair Rozek read a communication from Nathan Alander requesting a 4 way stop at Park and Willard Streets. Mr. Grenier stated that Federal Highways have traffic and safety guidelines answering questions they get from the public. Information gives criteria for what to consider for a 4 way stop. Councilor Remillard suggested tabling the issue for further review. Mr. Grenier made the point that a Stop sign on Park Street would prevent making the hill in the winter. Councilor Rozek encouraged a call to the PD if there are speeding issues.

Councilor Remillard moved to table and to have the PD review the area for a recommendation; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilor Theberge moved to adjourn; Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Tremblay

Administrative Assistant

Minutes are unofficial until they have been accepted by the Traffic Safety Committee by motion.