

## **Traffic Safety Committee**

### **July 17, 2017**

Present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Morgan Allain, and Theberge; Councilor Remillard was absent. Others present were Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Public Works Director Mike Perreault, Mr. Fortier; Mr. & Mrs. Vaillancourt

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

#### **Minutes**

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Update on Proposed Flashing Yellow Light at Hillside & Route 110**

Chief Morency explained that he poled the members prior to year-end to be sure he had support to go forward with lighted pedestrian crossing signs for Hillside and Route 110. There is no change needed to the existing ordinance for these signs. Funding will come from the PD's crossing guard account and the project has the support of the Police Commission.

There were three bids received with the lowest being \$7,930 from a company that is based in Maine. They provide the signs around Dartmouth. There are two types of signs, one that is activated by the pedestrian and another that is motion sensitive. The signs are self-contained, solar powered and come with a 3 year warranty. It was decided that the pedestrian activated sign would be best for the intersection

Councilor Rozek asked if there is the ability to make the sign motion activated if the pedestrian activated does not work and Chief Morency noted that a choice had to be made. Councilor Theberge agreed with the choice saying that motion sensors are often activated by wind.

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the proposal to put two pedestrian activated, solar powered signs at Hillside and Route 110 as presented; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chair Rozek asked Chief Morency to explain the proposal at the Council meeting.

#### **First Avenue Plowing Request**

Chair Rozek stated that Mr. Fortier is asking the PWD to plow the sidewalk in front of his house on a regular basis. The plow route is about 50' short. Mr. Fortier explained that there is no ambulance access to his property except from the front door. Mr. Perreault noted that plowing the sidewalk may narrow the road in front of the house. Councilor Morgan Allain questioned whether the next house will then ask for plowing as well.

Chair Rozek asked if the driveway is plowed and Mr. Fortier stated that he clears the snow with his snowblower; however he may not be able to do this forever. He added that if an ambulance needs to come to the house, and the sidewalk is plowed, they could park in the driveway and go on the sidewalk to access the house. Chair Rozek indicated that every time there is a change in the policy, there is a

snowball effect. Councilor Morgan Allain asked if there are family members who could clear the snow and Mr. Fortier stated that there are none.

Councilor Theberge moved to table the issue for further study; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried.

### **Request for Blind Person Sign**

Chair Rozek informed the group that Mrs. Vaillancourt had originally asked for a crosswalk across Route 16 and the committee turned down the request due to the speed of traffic as well as visibility. There is now a request for a "blind person" sign on Route 16. Chair Rozek asked Mrs. Vaillancourt how having signs posted will make the situation safer. Mrs. Vaillancourt replied that she hopes drivers will pay attention to the possibility of a blind pedestrian in the area.

Chief Morency stated that the fear is that a sign becomes something that drivers pass every day and do not pay attention to. As an ADA issue, cities and towns need to take reasonable steps but we don't know if a reasonable step is a sign, a crosswalk or bringing the sidewalk to the location. He suggested conferring with the City Attorney. Mrs. Vaillancourt indicated that she's asked the State for a crosswalk before and the response was that a crosswalk has to meet a sidewalk; it cannot be a crosswalk to nowhere. Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to table the issue so that it can be reviewed with the city attorney. So moved, the motion carried. Mr. & Mrs. Vaillancourt left the meeting at this time.

### **Other**

Councilor Theberge asked if people are allowed snakes and lizards asking if it is a concern for safety. Chief Morency noted that no animals are allowed during events on Main Street or in City parks.

### **Street Lighting Hutchins to Turcotte**

Chair Rozek noted that this was an issue that remained unresolved. He asked that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. If there is funding left from Route 16, perhaps lighting could be provided.

### **Adjourn**

Councilor Theberge moved with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. So moved, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant