

November 21, 2022
Traffic Safety Committee

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

Others present: City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Captain Nathan Roy, Community Development Director Pam Laflamme, Jerry Milliken – Tri-County Cap, Ken Gordon – Coos County Family Health Services, Dick Huot - Northway Bank and Lisa Connell – Berlin Daily Sun.

Chair Morency called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Minutes of October 3, 2022

Councilor Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the October 3, 2022 Traffic Safety Committee meeting; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Letter from Danielle Warner re: Stop Sign at Grafton and Cheshire Streets. (received via mail 10/28/22)

Chair Morency advised that this was looked at by multiple departments. It is a complex intersection with all the inclines and differs from all the other intersections on Grafton. He doesn't see any other way to make it any safer. He commented NH Law is pretty clear, you yield to vehicles on the right. Councilor Remillard suggested sending a communication to Ms. Warner clarifying traffic yields on the right and the City will monitor the recent change throughout the Winter and revisit in the Spring if needed. Chair Morency advised there hasn't been any accident since the change took place. Councilor Remillard moved to send a communication to Ms. Warner. Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Letter from Deborah Haynes-Kenney re: Blind Driveway. (referred 11/7/22)

Chair Morency questioned if the fence was in accordance with zoning. Ms. Laflamme advised there are no setbacks on fences, as long as it's in or on your property line. Chair Morency discussed placing a mirror and questioned where this puts the City liability wise. Mr. Warren advised he has no issue with the neighbors working together and mutually agree to put up a mirror. The City has no duty and he recommend against the City putting up a mirror as nobody knows what the mirror is there for or what it does. Councilor Remillard moved to table this item and communicate to Ms. Haynes-Kenney and advise no actions will be taken as the neighbor is consistent with zoning. Councilor Theberge seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Letter from Gold House Restaurant re: Parking. (referred 11/7/22)

Ms. Laflamme thanked everyone that was involved and present. She commented in discussing with the owners of Gold House, it is clear they know there is no perfect solution. In her discussions with them, a few options were discussed including; changing the parking on Mechanic Street to 30-minute parking for loading and unloading; they discussed not having any accessible spaces in and around Mechanic and Pleasant Streets. They're acknowledging that there is no great answer, but were hoping in working with the surrounding owners and the City, they could come up with something that might alleviate the tension that comes up with their deliveries.

Councilor Remillard questioned if they showed interest in limited timed parking spots. Ms. Laflamme responded they did as long as it would be enforced and they don't want to be the ones monitoring the spots. Councilor Remillard commented if they know when their deliveries are coming they could place two cones in those spots for loading/unloading then remove them when the delivery is done. Councilor Theberge commented he noticed the owner parks his truck right in front of the restaurant on Mechanic Street and stays there all day. Mr. Huot of Northway Bank commented the bank is only concerned about staff parking. They're concerned with individuals parking in their lot all day long. They ask their staff to park either in the Main Street parking lot or in the municipal parking lot on Pleasant Street. He confirmed the owners park in front of the restaurant on Mechanic Street all day long. One of them in

front of the fire hydrant and the other at the corner on the yellow line. He showed pictures of one of their delivery trucks using the Northway Bank parking lot to unload. He advised Northway Bank ropes off three parking spots from their lot that are on the side of Mechanic Street from early morning to around noon to prevent from any bank employees or other businesses employees to park there. After noon, the spots are for the bank customers.

Mr. Warren mentioned making the spot the owner parks in a 15-minute loading/unloading zone. Chair Morency commented the 15-minute parking time limit would apply to everybody. He feels the owner's input is important in this decision as they need to know changing this will apply to everybody. Mr. Warren suggested starting with the use of cones when deliveries come in and if this doesn't work then consider the 15-minute loading/unloading zone.

Mr. Milliken of Tri-County Cap advised they work with their staff to have them park in designated parking. Mr. Gordon of Coos County Family Health Services stated that when the construction is done at their facility, there will be more parking spots available. Ms. Laflamme will discuss using cones with the Gold House owners and the Police Dept. will supply the cones. Councilor Morgan moved to allow Ms. Laflamme to address a pilot program with the owners of Gold House as it relates to temporary on street parking. Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

Other

Chair Morency commented the newly painted lines at the intersection on Pleasant Street do not align. Captain Roy commented they accidentally changed the lines and tried fixing them with black paint but it wore off. Mr. Warren advised he would have Mark from Public Works look at it and will suggest grinding the lines and repainting them.

Mr. Warren advised the single loop for the traffic light at the Cleveland bridge will not be repaired till the Spring as the parts are not in yet and the epoxy requires a certain temperature to set and it's already too cold.

Councilor Remillard moved with a second from Councilor Morgan to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

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