

**February 10, 2020**  
**Traffic Safety Committee**

Members present: Chair Michael Rozek, Councilors Lucie Remillard, Denise Morgan, and Russ Otis

Others present: Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, Public Works Director Ben Hall, City Manager Jim Wheeler, Michelle Delafontaine, and Mike Shaink

**Minutes**

Councilor Otis moved to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2019 Traffic Safety Committee meeting; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

**Brown Street/Monty Road**

Chair Rozek reviewed the complaint of uncontrolled ATV speeding on Brown Street/Monty Road. Chief Morency added that there is an Air B & B on the street with people coming in and out and creating issues. Assistant Chief Buteau reported that the PD was called for hot tubs being emptied in the road, noting that the owner was given a copy of ordinance.

Chair Rozek encouraged Ms. Delafontaine to call police when the incidents occur. It has been quiet; however there may be a need to call police again when the trails re open. Assistant Chief Buteau noted that problems with the Air B & B are out of the PD wheelhouse; however they will respond to speeding or disorderly complaints.

Ms. Delafontaine asked about a Children at Play sign saying that there are several children on the street. Councilor Remillard stated that evidence has shown that signs are not effective. She said that the Air B & B issue is in discussion at the Planning Board. Chief Morency agreed that signage is not effective and it doesn't help law enforcement. He emphasized calling the police when there is an issue. Ms. Delafontaine confirmed that she could put up signs on her own property.

Councilor Otis moved to dispose of this issue since the communication has been addressed by the Police Department; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Delafontaine was again informed to call police with any events.

**Crosswalk School/Mason Street**

The request for a crosswalk at School/Mason Street was found to be very costly due to federal requirements. Mr. Wheeler noted that if we were to put in a crosswalk, it should be across from the parking lot rather than at the intersection. Chair Rozek noted that 25 miles per hour from the sidewalk seems fast.

Councilor Otis moved to dispose of this issue as it has been addressed and to send a letter to Mr. Rheaume. The City will continue to look for an opportunity to install an ADA compliant crosswalk when a potential location and cost can be included in future plans; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

**Traffic Patterns at the High School**

The traffic patterns at the high school seem to be working. There have not been any complaints from the area. Councilor Otis moved to dispose of the agenda item and to send a letter to Mrs. Gemmitti

informing her to reopen the issue if necessary; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **High Street School Street Intersection**

Mr. Hall reported that the lines at the intersection were repainted and there is a “No parking from here to intersection” sign on every corner. Councilor Otis moved to dispose of the issue and to send a letter explaining the action taken; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Street Light at Pinecrest Avenue**

Mike Shaink, of 5 Pinecrest Avenue wrote asking for a street light on Pinecrest Avenue. There is a light at the beginning of the street and at the end. Mr. Shaink contented that there should be a light in the middle. Mr. Hall had a map showing street lights. Councilor Remillard commented that the other streets in the neighborhood have more than two lights and it would be consistent to authorize the additional light.

Councilor Remillard moved to add another street light to Pinecrest Avenue; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Wheeler noted that we can get a light installed for consistency with the other street.

#### **Request for No Parking on Woodrow Street**

Robert Gehring of 1949 Riverside Drive asked in a letter for a No Parking restriction on Woodrow Street. Chief Morency reported that there are several people living in the neighboring property. Assistant Chief Buteau reported that the PD has been called with the most recent being in December and he did not think the problem is resolved. This is a neighbor issue. Though the police respond, no one is breaking the law when parking. Chair Rozek confirmed that adding a “no parking sign” would only benefit one individual. Councilor Remillard moved to deny the request; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried. A letter will be sent to Mr. Gehring advising him to call police if the problem persists.

#### **Speed Limit Sign on First Avenue**

Kathy and John Trumbull of 348 First Avenue wrote about vehicles travelling at excessive speed on First Avenue, especially between Mink Street and Coolidge Street. Mr. Wheeler noted that another letter will be read at the next Council meeting with regard to speed limit and lack of enforcement on First Avenue. Councilor Otis commented that First Avenue saw more traffic due to Western Avenue being closed. He stated that he went by at 21 mph and he was flagged to slow down.

Councilor Remillard moved to deny the request and to notify the Trumbull’s to call police every time there is a speeding issue; Councilor Otis seconded and the motion carried.

Assistant Chief Buteau indicated that the PD placed a radar cart and its data is not showing the excessive speed. In further discussion, it was determined that this is a police issue and not a sign issue.

#### **Repositioning of the Brown School Traffic Signs**

There had been some discussion about moving the blinking traffic signs from Brown School to Hillside Avenue, perhaps Hillside and High where there are a significant number of accidents. Councilor Remillard moved to allow the signs to be put up at the discretion of the Public Works Director and Police Chief on Hillside Avenue to benefit elementary school children; Councilor Morgan seconded and the motion carried.

Councilor Morgan moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Tremblay  
Administrative Assistant

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