

**Traffic Safety Committee**  
**October 22, 2018**

Present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Theberge and Morgan Allain (5:41).

Others present: City Manager Jim Wheeler, Deputy Chief Dan Buteau, City Clerk Shelli Fortin, Public Works Director Eric Grenier, Claire Stiles, Paul Nault, Wilfred Baillargeon, Roger Pelletier, Leo Robichaud, John Ryan, Ray Bourbeau, Marcel Belanger, Bob Lafrance, Justin Lessard, Matthew Chernicki, and Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*.

Chair Rozek opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

**Minutes**

This item was passed over, as the committee did not yet have a quorum.

**High School Traffic Issue – Mrs. Gemmetti**

Chair Rozek advised that Mrs. Gemmetti has been having a problem during school hours with her driveway being blocked by cars parking in the area. Eric Grenier advised that he reviewed the issue and found that the signage could be improved and that many of the teachers were making a left hand turn onto Willard Street, despite the sign that it was one-way and they should be turning right and looping around to Madison Avenue. Deputy Chief Buteau advised that they have increased enforcement in the area, but it is not feasible for them to be there all the time. Deputy Chief Buteau also advised that there have not been any additional complaints made since last December. Chair Rozek asked Eric Grenier to see what signs would be needed for the area, and suggested that the teachers be reminded of the one-way street.

**Request for Autistic Child Sign on Marble Street**

Deputy Chief Buteau advised that there is a “Slow Children at Play” sign already near the residence, and that it is a short section of street that is not very busy. Chair Rozek mentioned that many of these signs get placed, and then forgotten about long after the person it was needed for is gone. Chair Rozek requested that Eric Grenier look into a way to track signs for people with special needs and after 5-10 years it could come down if no longer needed. It was suggested that the Children at Play sign be replaced with the Autistic Child sign.

**Request for Handicap Parking at 345 Willard Street**

Eric Grenier advised that he took a look at the area and noticed that the residence at 305 Willard Street has exactly what 345 Willard Street is looking for. Grenier stated that parking during school is a problem, and that 305 Willard is closer to the school area than 345 Willard Street. Chair Rozek requested that Grenier observe the area during school times. City Manager Wheeler suggested that they draft a written criteria for Safety Committee consideration. Justin Lessard addressed the committee about the concern for the resident being able to access their home safely, especially during the winter months.

**Request for a Street Light on Hampshire Street**

Eric Grenier advised he would add this to his list to take a look at.

### **Claire Stiles Letter Regarding ATV Traffic on City Streets**

Chair Rozek read the letter from Claire Stiles in reference to ATV traffic on city streets. Stiles advised that she does not have a problem with the ATV traffic herself, as her neighborhood is not drastically affected and she has not felt unsafe on the roadways with the ATV's, but she feels that the public should have an opportunity to share their views, positive or negative. Matthew Chenicki shared that he feels the Council has done a good job of balancing the economic benefits for the revitalization of the City with concern for the residents who live here. Stiles suggested that if the ATV traffic was not allowed on the city streets, the owners could drive to local businesses or restaurants and transport their ATV's. Roger Pelletier disagreed, stating that he works as a guide in the summer, and riders want to use the ATV's to drive directly to the gas stations and restaurants. Marcel Belanger stated that they see plenty of traffic by his home on Wight Street, but since the Sheriff's Department has increased patrols, there has been a big improvement. Councilor Theberge advised that when the ordinance was created, there was a sunset clause included so that it could be reviewed in one year. At that time, the sunset clause was extended for another year and the ordinance was reviewed again. Councilor Theberge stated that public hearings were held, and people are always welcome to voice their opinion. Deputy Chief Buteau advised that he has been involved since the inception of the Ordinance, about a decade, and that any specific complaints have been and continue to be addressed. Buteau advised that there have been few accidents on the roadways with ATV's. City Manager Wheeler stated that Stiles had mentioned safety in her letter, which belongs with this Committee, but that other issues such as quality of life would be addressed with the Council or Planning Board. Chair Rozek stated that at the time this ordinance was passed, the Council was trying to promote business of any type, as the city was going through, and is continuing to face tough economic times. Chair Rozek pointed out that they redid the Noise Ordinance a couple of years ago, and that Fish and Game has strict guidelines on exhaust noise. Chair Rozek advised that they could review the issue from a safety standpoint and asked Deputy Chief Buteau to research if there was any way that safety on the streets with ATV's could be improved upon.

**Councilor Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain to leave the ATV Ordinance as it is and allow the Police Department to do a safety audit. So moved, the motion carried.**

### **Minutes**

**Councilor Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain, to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. So moved, the motion carried.**

**Councilor Theberge moved, with a second from Councilor Morgan Allain, to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelli Fortin  
City Clerk

Minutes are not final until they have been approved by the Committee at a future meeting.