

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TSC)

January 25, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Dave Wheeler, Chairman
Gary Daniels, BOS representative
Gil Archambault
Jason Plourde
Rick Riendeau, Director of Public Works Department
Chief Mike Viola, Police Chief
Captain Craig Frye
Tina Philbrick

Absent: Lincoln Daley, Director of Community Development

Chairman Wheeler opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

He then addressed the Old Business on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2015: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Gary, and was seconded by Jason. All were in favor with the exception of Tina who was absent for the last meeting and therefore abstained.

New Business:

1. Crosswalk Concerns at 71 Elm Street as requested by Shelley Silverman: An article from Mark Bender on Orange flags was distributed to each member. Captain Frye led off with the results of Directed Patrols done in the area. Directed Patrols were conducted at target times; 6:30-7:00 AM and 2:00-3:00PM. Two hours of patrols were held in the morning and three and a half hours in the afternoon. They observed a total of 6 people with no violations observed. In pulling the accident statistics in the area from 2011 to present; there were 2 accidents involving the crosswalks, one in 2014 and one in 2015. Both were involving cars pulling out of Columbus Ave. making a left turn, heading west. Both also involved people waving the entering cars out into the street where they hit people entering the crosswalk. Measurements between the existing crosswalks are; center of Elms to center of Smith & Heald, 200 ft. Center of Elms to Center of Crosswalk at Xtra mart (West St.) 306 ft. Rick also looked at the area and noted that there are many crosswalks in a small distance. West Street to Keyes entrance there are 4 crossings in 867 ft. The MUTCD recommends at least 300 ft. between crosswalks. There are issues with stopping distances. A lot of the problems come with the cars entering the street near the crosswalk. It is the same situation at the Library. There are also a lot of distractions in the area. The in street

signs seem to be a target to be run over or moves. The Share office and the Ambulance have added to the amount of traffic in the area. The committee should actually look at removing the crosswalk. All were in agreement. Rick asked is some of the parking there should be eliminated also. Jason added that maybe the committee should look at all the crosswalks globally and eliminate the low usage and the dangerous ones. A motion was made to **recommend eliminating the crosswalk in front of 71 Elm Street and remove the crosswalk sign associated with it and further to have the Traffic Safety Committee study the Crosswalks Town wide** by Gary. The motion was seconded by Jason. All were in favor.

2. Committee members' comments on items not on the agenda.

- a. Gil brought up that he was in favor of the entire Traffic Safety Committee voting on the issues coming before the committee. Since the TSC inception in 2005, all members were voting members until the Prospect Street/Ledgewood problems surfaced. Then the members voted, with approval from the Selectmen, that the Department Heads attending would serve as Advisory Members only. He would like to have all the members have voting rights. Chief Viola spoke that he felt that the Committee better served the public having the Department Heads as advisory only as they can bring their studies and recommendations and then let the civilian members vote solely based on the information received from all parties. Rick concurred. Jason felt that if any of the advisory members asked to be able to vote, he would support it, but he felt that the advisory members were happy with the way things were. Gil then suggested that no one vote, which Tina pointed out made the Committee ineffective as a whole. Gary noted that voting on the recommendation provided a well thought out solution to be provided to the Selectmen. Gil said he would bring it up again next time.
- b. Gil also asked if the Police Department was continuing their program to have snow cleared from car/truck roofs. Captain Frye assured him that it was ongoing and that we enforce the law by stopping and suggesting that people clear off their cars. Chief Viola noted that the enforcement is more for education purposes and that he had already received several emails commending the Department for their diligence.

A motion to adjourn at 4:55 PM. All were in favor.