

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TSC)

February 6, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Gary Daniels, BOS representative
Gil Archambault
Tina Philbrick
Rick Riendeau, Director of Public Works Department
Lincoln Daley, Director of Community Development
Chief Mike Viola, Police Chief
Captain Craig Frye

Absent: Dave Wheeler, Chairman; Jason Plourde, Vice Chairman.

Selectman Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

He then addressed the Old Business on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2016: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Gill, and was seconded by Tina. All were in favor.

New Business:

1. Election of Officers: A motion was made to table this item by Gil, as both the Chairman and Vice Chair were absent. Seconded by Tina, with all three members present in favor.
2. South Street Parking Spots Recovery – Mike and Lori Heeney: Mr. Heeney and his wife were present as the owners of Amigos. Since the South Street project has been in process, the number of parking spots in the downtown area has dwindled. The bank parking has been taken away and the spots from Union Coffee Shop to the oval have been eliminated. Mr. Heeney was requesting that the parking spots in front of his establishment (4 spots running along the awning) be reinstated. Mr. Heeney stated that it was not just for his benefit, that those spaces are utilized for the copy shop, the yogurt store, Café on the Oval and Bravo Pizza as well. He felt that even with the tractor trailers entering South Street from the oval, there would be enough room to straighten out before the first parking spot. He had pictures to disseminate to the committee. Rick Riendeau commented that CLD was the design engineer of the project and that there are specific radiuses for the turning lanes which eliminated some of the parking to increase the width of the road. Documents were provided to diagram the area in question. Rick also noted that the striping done by the contractor and there is one spot to be reinstated at the

awning which will be taken care of in the spring. Lincoln Daley noted that a center island of sorts (stamped asphalt) is in the plan for the beginning of South Street to shift the traffic to accommodate the truck turning radius. Gary Daniels felt that even with the turning radiuses there could be more parking spots in front of Amigo's. Lincoln noted that this plan had been in effect for many years with the approval of the landowners and focused on the safety of traveling vehicles and parked vehicles. It was also noted that any changes at this late date to the plan could result in added costs to be shouldered by the Town. Tina mentioned maybe putting in a couple of motorcycle spaces. A motion was made to table the discussion by Gary Daniels and seconded by Tina Philbrick. Gill Archambault felt that our hands are tied, and at this time, the request should be denied. A vote was taken with 2 in favor of tabling and 1 against. Gary will have a discussion with DOT and Rick stated they may need to have a conversation with CLD as DOT will probably contact them.

3. Striping – Rules of the Road (centerline) – Nick Darchik: Gary noted that this item was brought to the attention of Gary by Mr. Darchik. As Gary looked around, he noticed that there was no uniformity in the striping of the roads. There are similar roads elsewhere in New Hampshire that have no striping at all. Gary wonders if we are spending more on painting than we need to. The Chief noted that Jason Plourde was going to weigh in on this as he has a lot of knowledge with the MUTCD Manual. The Chief noted that the Police Department is in favor of the double yellow lines. He feels that the lines are a guide. In bad weather, it helps to keep people in their lanes. He believes that the manual states that we do not need lines as there is not enough traffic. The town has the center lines and from a safety point of view, he feels they should be kept. Mr. Darchik feels that double line that has been painted down the center line of Melendy Road encourages faster speeds, as it is the same striping that is on Route 13. Rick noted that striping does not denote speed. Mr. Darchik believes that it does; it gives the illusion that it is a higher class road than it is. The Chief feels that the double line is a little safer than the single line. It seems that people hug the line and this offers a bit more space. Rick stated that he has done a lot of research on this. He noted that he does not have in the budget enough money to stripe all the lines on every road in town. We are striping the same roads, the same way as has been done for 28 years. We do not have any formal criteria in DPW for the practice of striping. He is trying to come up with a SOP for the department addressing this. All striping refers to wither the MUTCD Manual or the NH RSSA's which point to the National acceptance which reverts to the MUTCD. The MUTCD relies on traffic counts for their criteria. They have eliminated the single yellow line. The Selectmen have the power to decide to stripe or not stripe, but need approval by the Commissioner. Mr. Darchik noted that Melendy Road has only been striped for 3 or 4 years. And after the last storm, main roads were clear to pavement, but Melendy Road was still snow covered with no striping evident. Gil asked is Melendy Road was a school bus road, to which Rick answered that it was. Gary asked if Cartograph held any information pertinent to this. Rick replied that it would only give you road widths. There have been no recent traffic studies to gather any information that would speak to this issue. That why he feels that a SOP for the town roads would be beneficial. Captain Frye noted that that road needs some sort of center line, to prevent passing. Tina feels as a mother of young adults, she would rather see a

center line marked. Mr. Darchik feels that with no line on the road, it would slow the cars down. His background is in Nashua Traffic Dept. for 28 years. The Chief feels that more enforcement will speak to the speed issue. When asked, Mr. Darchik responded that the speed problems are east bound in the AM and west bound in the evening. Tina wondered about increasing speed signs, which everyone pretty much felt that it would not help. Mr. Darchik asked if he could request that the town move forward with the SOP for all town roads. Rick noted that it is going to need some discussion, get some traffic count machines to gather information. Gary noted that most of the roads would not need that formal study. Rick thought it would be a good idea to do it right and afford both the Police Department and Community Development information. Gary asked if that was something that DPW could start if it needed a discussion with the Selectmen. Rick replied that he had already started and in fact he believed that some of it had already gone to the Selectmen. Tina noted that it had. Rick also mentioned that he had not had a discussion with the Select Board in reference to this yet. He felt that this was needed to get some direction from them. Mr. Darchik stated that he was fine with that.

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

None

A motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM by Tina, Gil seconded. All were in favor.