

TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2010

PRESENT: Brian Kulpa (Trustee), Deb Rogers, Nicholas Perino, Nancy Drost, Walter Pacer (Chair), Douglas Richardson, Patricia Armitage, Lt. John Olesko, William Tuyn

GUESTS: Carolyn Schlifke, Basil Piazza, Ben Galletti

Start time: 7:35 PM

A motion to approve the November 5, 2009 meeting minutes was made by Pat Armitage and seconded by Nancy Drost. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of criteria for setting stop signs in general and the Monroe/Oakgrove stop sign in particular-

- Per Wally Pacer, if the Village Board chooses to not listen to recommendations made by the T&S Committee, then why have this committee?
 - Deb Rogers is in complete agreement with Mr. Pacer.
 - Mr. Pacer, would like to know who made the initial complaint to the Village Board regarding Monroe/Oakgrove.
 - Mr. Pacer feels that the stop sign at this intersection doesn't make any sense.
 - The T&S committee is becoming more involved in listening to residents requests, which are then communicated to the Village Board.
 - Doug Richardson spoke that he knew nothing about the decision to place a stop sign at Monroe/Oakgrove until he read it in the Amherst Bee.
 - Pat Armitage spoke that it is obvious that somebody knew somebody.
- A letter was received by the T&S Committee from Mrs. Carolyn Schlifke. (See Attachment - Letter dated December 15, 2009).
 - Mrs. Schlifke spoke that at the Village Board meeting, the T&S Committee was ignored.
 - No resident spoke out in favor of this stop sign at the Village Board meeting.
- Continuing discussion of Stop sign request at Monroe/Oakgrove.
 - Stop sign has been approved.
 - Stop sign will be temporary, for 1 year, until the Wehrle Drive project is complete.
- Brian Kulpa created a Stop Sign Installation Policy. (See Attachment – Stop Sign Installation Policy).
 - Mr. Kulpa will distribute the Stop Sign Installation Policy to the Village Board on Monday.

B. Eagle/Evans Stop Sign-

- Mrs. Carolyn Schlifke is a resident of Evans Street and voiced the following:
 - She presented a brief history of Evans/Eagle.
 - Stop sign is not causing the backup on Evans, but rather drivers who are making a left from Main onto Evans, at peak time, and running the light.
 - Spoke that this stop sign is “essential to the village”.

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- Mrs. Schlifke once served on the Traffic & Safety committee and recalls a public hearing at which this exact issue was discussed and a large amount of residents turned out to oppose the stop sign removal.
- She suggested a possible restriction of turning right, during peak hours, from Main onto Evans.
- Brian Kulpa told Mrs. Schlifke that this issue originated due to a concern over traffic backing up on Main Street, due to Evans.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Parking in and about Lena's at Main and Hirschfield-

- Mr. Ben Galletti was in attendance to represent Lena's. He voiced the following concerns:
 - A problem of not enough customer parking (Only 3 parking spaces alongside building).
 - Is there a way that the 2 parking spots on the opposite side (of Lena's) on Hirschfield could be made a 15 minute parking zone?
 - Also, crossing guards and parents have no place to park before and after school. Often times they are parked on Hirschfield illegally.

Additional Points:

- The NO PARKING sign, on this area of Hirschfield, is turned sideways.
- Traffic law that there is no parking within 30 feet of intersection.
- Doug Richardson, Parking Enforcer, feels that if you give a 15 minute parking then everyone in the Village would be requesting this. Also, this particular area is a narrow area.
- T&S Committee members were asked to look into this issue and report back next month for further discussion.

B. Traffic patterns/safety in and about the Walgreen's parking lot at Main and Union-

- William Tuyn feels that this issue even being on the agenda is ridiculous. This issue should have been discussed during the site plan and should not be up for discussion now.
- When the site plan was being done, William Tuyn and other members of the then T&S committee felt strongly that the Walgreens belonged close to the street. This would have alleviated any traffic safety issues due to the placement of the parking lot. This recommendation was made to the Village Board and ignored.

C. Reist Street Complaints-

- Lt. Olesko brought documents in regard to Reist Street.
 - No Reist Street residents were present at this meeting.
 - Concerns over speeding and parking.
 - Suggestion made by residents to eliminate parking on Reist.
- Per Lt. Olesko, if you remove the parking, and widen the driving area, you will increase people's likelihood for speeding.
- 2 speed studies were done and the average was 33 mph at the 85th percentile.
- Doug Richardson and the Amherst PD have been enforcing the parking/speeding issues on Reist to help address the complaints.

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D. Liaisons Report

Snow plowing and snow removal-

- Brian Kulpa is asking T&S members to pay attention to this and report as needed.
- Brian Kulpa will ask the DPW to leave one plow driver out, during off hours from 3:00-7:00 PM (due to rush hour), to help keep intersections cleared.

Stop Sign Installation Policy- (See Attachment)

- This document was created by Trustee Brian Kulpa to help standardize stop sign requests and procedures.
- Copy given to all T&S members.
- Policy form will require input from: Amherst Police Dept., Village Engineer, T&S Committee and Village Board of Trustees.
- Brian Kulpa will present this document to the Village Board on Monday.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Doug Richardson and seconded by Deb Rogers.

End time: 8:55 PM

Minutes submitted by: Deb Rogers

NOTE: Minutes include the following 2 attachments:

-Letter from Mrs. Carolyn Schlifke (2 pages)

-Stop Sign Installation Policy (5 pages)

NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AT 7:30 PM AT VILLAGE HALL