

MINUTES
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, August 11, 2011
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chair
Stephen Dubois, Deputy Police Chief
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Ted Gray, Vice-Chair
Ron Cypher, Member
Harold Whitehouse, Member
Jon Frederick, Parking & Transportation Director

Members Absent:

Fire Department representative and Christina Westfall, Member

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2011 meeting as presented. Seconded by Ron Cyphers and voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Dennett and Kane** – Request to remove parking in triangle

Mr. Whitehouse stated that a site review was conducted and they did see there is a problem with parking in that area as there were many more than the 2 allowed.

Mr. Whitehouse moved to refer to the Public Works Department for a report back on the design for controlling parking, seconded by Steve Parkinson.

Public Works Director Parkinson stated there is also a problem with pulling out of Kane and being able to see past the cars which have taken over the entire triangle area. He stated that public works will design a safer intersection and accommodate organized parking.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting to public comment on this issue:

Tylene Jousse of 197 Dennett Street stated she appreciates the committee hearing this issue and for the site walk that was conducted.

Alain Jousse of 197 Dennett Street reviewed the various issues with the parking in this area as well as problems with visibility, snow storage and room for recycling, trash removal trucks, snow plows, emergency vehicles, etc. to maneuver when cars are parked in the "V" area. He concluded by stating that this needs to be resolved as it is a safety issue.

Joseph Caldarola, 170 Dennett Street #2 stated that the type of parking that occurs in this area should be considered as there is a common understanding in the neighborhood that the area can be used for overflow parking for visitors for limited amounts of time. He stated it has become a problem with new residents in the area who use it for permanent parking. He suggested posting it as limited parking or permit parking. He concluded by stating that he is also disappointed that there seems to no longer be ticketing of cars that don't move during snow storms.

Philippe Favet, 152 Dennett Street stated he has been here since 1984 and nobody used to park in that area but now everybody does. He stated there is no place to park on Dennett Street so residents need it for guests. He suggested adding lines and signage limiting the time allowed.

Chairman Smith asked when a report back can be expected. Mr. Parkinson stated probably for the October 13th meeting.

MOTION PASSED.

- B . **Wright Ave and State Street** – Request to address safety issue with vehicles exiting the lot

Deputy Chief Dubois speaking on behalf of Chief LeClaire, stated that a site walk was conducted and they concluded that this area could be enhanced with some type of 3 dimensional flexible marking device.

Deputy Chief Dubois moved to refer to the Public Works Department for a report back on a way to prevent people from crossing at this intersection, seconded by Mr. Gray.

Public Works Director Parkinson clarified that this is a left-turn only which is already marked and the island area is hatched, but people are coming out and doing whatever due to the lack of site distance.

MOTION PASSED.

C. **Rockland, Kent, Elwyn, Sherburne** – Resident request to address lack of stop signs

Mr. Cypher stated that a site walk was held and considering all of the pedestrians and recreation facilities in the area, there is no mechanism for controlling traffic.

Mr. Cypher moved to place stop signs on the three streets that intersect Rockland Street and to place a “Dead End Street” sign on Rockland Street, seconded by Mr. Whitehouse.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting to public comment on this issue:

Shirley Hodgdon, Kent Street, stated she has been a resident since 1947 and it has always been a quiet street. She stated there have been many improvements and lots of activities in the area which she appreciates but it has brought in a lot more traffic, which she would like to see controlled.

MOTION PASSED.

D. **Thornton and Burkitt** – Resident request for 4-way stop

Mr. Gray stated that a site walk was held at this location and there is a problem with site distance out of Burkitt onto Dennett Street. He stated that the State law is that there is no parking within 20 feet on an intersection, but the city ordinance allows for increasing that distance if necessary.

Mr. Gray moved to refer to the Public Works Department to decide how many feet from each corner “No Parking here to corner” signs should be erected (as stop sign request doesn’t meet the criteria of the warrants), seconded by Mr. Cypher.

Chairman Smith opened the meeting to public comment on this issue:

Rich Brady of 124 Burkitt Street stated prior to 4 years ago there used to be stop signs on Thornton Street and no stop signs at the Burkitt Street intersection. He continued that the Public Works Department switched them around at which time he thought that they were coming back to complete a 4-way stop sign intersection, but that never occurred. He stated that Thornton has since become a raceway and it is difficult to cross the intersection coming up from Dennett Street.

Discussion ensued regarding the criteria of the warrant which don’t allow stop signs to be used to control speed. Public Works Director Parkinson clarified that this area does not meet the warrant criteria.

Mr. Brady asked why this was switched around in the first place 4 years ago. Steve Parkinson stated that at the time it was the request of the neighborhood because the area had become a short-cut to the Route 1 by-pass. He stated the stop sign should never have been put on Thornton Street because it doesn’t meet any of the warrants.

MOTION PASSED.

V. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

Mr. Whitehouse requested that the issue of No-Thru Traffic on Broad Street be heard by the committee at a future meeting.

Public Works Director Parkinson explained the ordinance has 6 streets on it and Broad Street was added in 1999 at the request of the neighborhood due to employees using the street to get to the retirement facility at that time.

Deputy Chief Dubois stated he has received requests to look into weighted signs at crosswalks and he will research the costs and do some trials as he feels they do help with pedestrian traffic and speeding. Chairman Smith requested that this be done at Islington and Cornwall.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Harold Whitehouse moved to adjourn at 8:30 a.m. Seconded by Deputy Chief Dubois and voted.