

**JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 15, 2018**

**I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tighe.**

**II. The following members were present:**

Thomas Tighe, Chairman  
Mary E. Meagher, Vice-Chairman  
William Munger  
Timothy Yentsch  
Vincent Moretti

**The following members were absent:**

Melissa Mastrostefano  
David Cain

**Also present:**

Edward Mello, Chief of Police  
Kim Devlin, Clerk

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES**

**A) October 19, 2017 (regular meeting)**

Member Munger moved to approve the minutes; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**IV. OPEN FORUM**

**A) Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Scheduled Requests to Address.

**B) Non-Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Non-Scheduled requests to address.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A) Crosswalk at Watson Avenue and North Road; obstructed view caused by hedges; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (continued from 10/19/2017)**

Chief Mello reported that the hedges have been cut back.

Member Munger stated that if it meets code then it is ok.

Chairman Tighe asked that staff ask the building inspector if the hedges are within the town code and that the Traffic Committee has concerns about this type of issue in general, and to include this information in a letter to the Building Inspector.

**B) Update on request for meeting with Director of DOT - reference letter to State Traffic Commission re: Conanicus Avenue Crosswalk; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (continued from 10/19/2017)**

Chief Mello reported that he had a meeting scheduled with the DOT Director on Tuesday to discuss a number of issues, but the meeting was cancelled due to the storm. The meeting items to be discussed include: the relocation of the Conanicus Avenue crosswalk and speed control options from the 138 off ramp to Bryer Avenue; the inconsistency of the speed limit on East Shore Road; the crosswalk at Southwest and High street, the reconstruction of Hamilton Avenue and Southwest Avenue intersection; the reconfiguration of the Conanicus Avenue and Bayview Drive intersection; the signage for 138W at North Road; crosswalk signage at Beavertail Road and Mackerel Cove; North Road and Watson Avenue; the correction of crosswalk signage at Est Ferry and Conanicus Avenue, Bryer Avenue and Conanicus Avenue and for the proposed crosswalk at Southwest Avenue. Chief Mello passed out examples of the signage he is trying to have installed at these locations, which includes signs that face in both directions on both sides of the road.

Vice-Chairman Meagher asked Chief Mello about the status of the crosswalk at Conanicus Avenue and Mt. Hope Avenue.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he is trying to coordinate with DOT and the RITBA to discuss the changes necessary to install traffic calming measures.

Chief Mello stated that he would also like to discuss with DOT the bike path connector that will likely happen, and about creating a bike lane on the wide part of East Shore Road and that it is important to look at the project holistically, instead of in sections.

Chairman Tighe asked if the DOT meeting is rescheduled; Chief Mello stated that it has not been rescheduled yet.

Chairman Tighe asked if a member of the Traffic Committee could attend the meeting; Chief Mello stated that if it can be arranged a member of the Committee may attend.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved that Member Munger represent the Traffic Committee at the DOT meeting, Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**C. Resident request for an in-road pedestrian sign to be located at Conanicus Avenue at Bryer Avenue and speeding on Conanicus Avenue as it relates to safety issue to children waiting for school bus; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (continued from (10/19/2017)**

This agenda item has been resolved.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Communications; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

**1) Letter of Melissa O'Neill of Beach Avenue requesting the installation of Stop Signs at the four corner intersection of Beach Avenue and Spirketing Street due to excessive speed by motorists.**

Chairman Tighe asked if Chief Mello has looked at the issue.

Chief Mello stated that he has reviewed the data from the area and there have not been any accidents in the area and that there is no scientifically proven results to point to that would support the installation of a four way stop at that intersection.

Chairman Tighe stated that Spirketing already has stop signs at the intersection of Beach Avenue.

Member Yentsch stated that there is a large hedge on the corner at that intersection and that he has observed cars going rapidly down Beach Avenue and if you are at the stop sign on Spirketing there is a limited view of the traffic on Beach Avenue.

A discussion ensued.

Chairman Tighe moved to not install a four way stop sign at Beach Avenue and Spirketing; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**B) Speed Limits on North Road and East Shore Road; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Referencing the earlier agenda item regarding DOT, Chief Mello stated that he was planning on talking to DOT about asking the state to forfeit property on Eldred Avenue for parking for the proposed bike path extension.

Chief Mello stated that the speed limit on North Road varies and that, after the paving is complete, the 25 MPH speed limit will be too low. Chief Mello stated that, before the paving and, during the last traffic study the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile was traveling at 40MPH. Chief Mello stated that he is not suggesting a 40MPH speed limit but that the 25 MPH limit is too low.

Chief Mello also pointed out inconsistencies in the speed limit stating that in one section going north the speed limit is 35MPH but going south the speed limit is 30MPH.

Chairman Tighe asked Chief Mello his opinion on what he thinks the speed limit should be.

Chief Mello stated that he thinks the speed limit should be 35MPH from the bridge to the dump, after the paving project is completed. Chief Mello stated that there is a process to having the speed limit raised, if that is the consensus of the Committee.

Member Munger moved to take the Chief's recommendation and to move forward with the process of raising the speed limit on North Road from the bridge to the transfer station; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Chairman Tighe stated that if we start advertising that there will be a public hearing for the consideration of raising the speed limit we can start the process of getting people involved now.

A discussion ensued.

Member Moretti moved to move forward with the process of having the speed limit on North Road raised; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**C) Meeting schedule; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chief Mello stated that he will not be available for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Munger and seconded by Member Yentsch to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin  
Clerk