

JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Approved:

I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:11 PM by Chairman Tighe.

II. The following members were present:

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

The following members were absent:

David Cain

Also present:

Chief Edward Mello
Kim Devlin, Clerk

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES

A) April 19, 2018 (regular meeting)

Member Munger moved to approve the minutes; Member Moretti 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.

Member Munger moved to move up item VI (B); Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B) Increasing the speed limit on North Road; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chief Mello stated that in 2014 he received a letter from a resident about the speed on North Road, which prompted him to conduct a speed study. The speed limit on North Road is 25MPH and is set by the state. In order to change the speed limit there would have to be an ordinance change by the town council.

Chief Mello presented the results of the speed study. Chief Mello stated that the speed limits are set by the 85th percentile of the speed that people are driving and explained the results of the study. The traffic

was monitored at three points along North Road; at Blythe Road, Laurel Lane and between the transfer station and West Reach Drive. Traffic at Blythe Road was the busiest, at 3000 cars passing by per day with the 85th percentile at 40MPH. Traffic at Laurel Lane was 2300 cars per day and the 85th percentile is 38MPH. Between the transfer station and West Reach the volume of traffic dropped to 750 cars per day with the 85th percentile at 45MPH.

Chief Mello stated that the 25MPH speed limit is unenforceable based on the data collected from the traffic study. Chief Mello stated that he is trying to present all of the data he has so the traffic committee can make an informed decision on how to move forward. Chief Mello also stated that from January 2017 until today there were 478 traffic violations on North Road and at least 74 on North Main Road.

Regarding the letter to the traffic committee from Ken and Patricia Froberg, Chief Mello clarified that the traffic tickets issued in Jamestown are processed through the state traffic court and the town collects between \$63 and \$67 dollars of the fine.

Mr. Doug Jacobs from 1141 North Main Road, asked Chief Mello about traffic accidents on North Road.

Chief Mello state that there are not many accidents and there is not enough data to analyze.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he is in favor of increasing the speed limit and making it more uniform along North Road.

Mr. Paul Halsberg from North Main Road asked Chief Mello if he is taking a position on the speed limit.

Chief Mello stated that he believes 35MPH would be the high end of the limit that residents in the area would find acceptable.

Ms. Natalie Haggerty asked Chief Mello if the goal is enforceability or public safety and if there are pedestrian accidents, how much of a difference does 5MPH make in survivability.

Chief Mello stated that his goal is consistency because the speed limit changes a number of times on North Road and people should know what the speed limit is.

Ms. Carol Craft stated that the speed limit should go up a little bit but only to 30MPH. 35MPH is an invitation to go too fast, and there are 41 driveways on North Road and people tailgate and make it dangerous to turn in and out of the driveways.

Chief Mello stated that we should do another study in one year when the roads are completed because the 85th percentile will jump up when the roads are finished.

Member Yentsch asked if the new roads will offer more refuge for pedestrians.

Chief Mello stated that the intent is to make the roads as wide as possible.

Chairman Tighe stated that the traffic committee is not voting on this item tonight but that they just wanted to start the discussion.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) Update on Crosswalk at Watson Avenue and North Road; obstructed view caused by hedges; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (continued from 4/19/2018)**

Chief Mello stated that the homeowner is still not in compliance and the building official is still working with the owner to get him into compliance.

- 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 4/19/2018)**

Chief Mello stated that he asked the state to conduct another study based on residents recommendation of having it done in early May.

Chief Mello also mentioned that the in road pedestrian sign has ben installed at Bryer Avenue and the sign by the golf course has been tweaked, so hopefully that will be more affective at slowing traffic in the area.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

- 1) Letter of Paul Housberg in support of raising the speed limit on North Main Road to 35MPH**

- C) Alternative location for crosswalk on Conanicus Avenue; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

- 1) Letter of request to State Traffic Commission by Police Chief Mello**
2) Diagram of proposed crosswalk location

- D) Traffic Committee vacancy - resignation of Melissa Mastrostefano; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

- E) Meeting Schedule; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

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 6:48 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin
Clerk