

Traffic Safety Committee
September 29, 2015

The Traffic Safety Committee met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 in the classroom located on the lower level of the Municipal Center. The meeting commenced with Chairman John Stella, Mayor Randy Casale, Member Tony Furco, Street Superintendent Anthony “Zep” Thomaselli, Police Chief Doug Solomon, and Planning Board Representative Gary Barrack in attendance. Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis was excused.

New Business

Kent Street

Several residents from Kent Street signed a request for the committee to consider changing parking rules for the eight homes situated on the left side of Kent Street (Eliza Street to Cannon Street) to allow them to park on the street facing the opposite direction of traffic. They explain that because traffic flow on Cannon Street is one-way, they must turn around in order to park on the street in the correct direction. Members reviewed the street however state law mandates that vehicles parked on the street must face the direction of traffic. They felt no action should be taken citing most homes have driveways, and although inconvenient people can turn around to park in the direction of traffic flow. As a public service to residents, Mayor Casale suggested adding information on the website to educate people on laws that may be unknown or unclear.

Main Street Parking – Verplanck Avenue to Herbert Street

During busy weekends, vehicles are parking on the creek side of Main Street from Verplanck Avenue toward Herbert Street where parking is currently prohibited. Discussion took place about parking in the area and it was suggested that the restriction be moved from one side of the street to the other. The Highway Superintendent reported he would look at the situation and see if the street was wide enough (between Ackerman and Herbert Street) to allow parking on both sides of Main Street. Parking would continue to be restricted in front of “The Hop” at the corner of Verplanck Avenue. This item will be added to next month’s agenda for additional discussion.

Howland Avenue

Residents in the area of Howland Avenue and Union Street have noticed an increase in overflow parking along Howland Avenue from the Jehovah Witness’ church. Although Howland Avenue is quite wide in front of their property, vehicles are parking around the sharp curve beyond which adds to an already dangerous situation. It was recommended that parking be prohibited on both sides of Howland Avenue from their driveway around the curve. The Police Chief will monitor the situation and in addition, will visit the area with the Highway Superintendent. This item will be added to next month’s agenda for further discussion.

Dennings Avenue

Mr. Furco noticed a 15 m.p.h. sign is posted on Dennings Avenue however it is only 10 feet from the stop sign at the Hudson Avenue intersection. He questioned whether it should be moved. Mr. Thomaselli reported it is posted in that location because the 15 m.p.h. speed limit begins there and continues to the end of Dennings Avenue.

South Avenue – Intersection of Dennings Avenue

Mr. Furco reported that since South Avenue was repaved vehicles are speeding down South Avenue to the traffic light, creating a dangerous situation at the Dennings Avenue intersection. Also, a cedar tree (bush) on the corner, although trimmed back, hinders sight distance making it difficult to see cars coming down South Avenue. The Code Enforcement Officer will be informed to see if it needs to be trimmed back further.

Verplanck Avenue – Intersection of North Chestnut Street

Mr. Furco noted the auto repair shop on Verplanck Avenue continues to park cars on the sidewalk which seriously limits sight distance when pulling out of North Chestnut Street. The shop owner has been notified on more than one occasion and they will now begin to issue tickets. Unfortunately the tickets will be issued to the owner of the vehicle that is parked on the sidewalk.

Main Street – Intersection of Fishkill Avenue

Mr. Furco reported tractor trailers have difficulty making the turn from Main Street onto Fishkill Avenue, even though the stop bar is set back. Discussion took place regarding the Truck Route and how the increase in business brings more deliveries down Main Street.

Veteran's Place

Mr. Furco suggested moving the bus stop on Veteran's Place further back from the Henry Street intersection because the LOOP bus pulls up so far they block the stop sign. He reports that vehicles speed out of Veteran's Place onto Henry Street without stopping when the bus is picking up patrons. Mayor Casale will contact LOOP bus representatives to ask drivers to stop back further from the intersection so the stop sign remains visible.

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.