



Justin M. Hanrahan
Chief of Police

CITY OF WATERTOWN TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson
Sergeant
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Justin Hanrahan, Chair
Ryan Nicholson, Provisional Fire Chief
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher
Mr. Robert Airasian

May 22, 2024

March 27, 2024 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Justin Hanrahan, Ryan Nicholson, Gregory St. Louis, Tyler Glode, Kelly Gallagher, Robert Airasian

Traffic Commission members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Mr. Airasian made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2024 Commission meeting; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Shervin Riahi of Marcia Road for traffic calming measures and complete sidewalks on Bellevue Road in the area of Bailey Road. Mr. Riahi felt that there is a deteriorating condition on Bellevue Road near Bailey Road – there is a lot of construction in the area, an increase in traffic and pedestrian volumes, and a lack of infrastructure for pedestrians. Mr. Riahi was particularly concerned with the curve in the road where Bellevue and Bailey Roads meet; he felt that this area was less safe due to no sidewalk on one side of the street and poor visibility for motorists traveling around this corner. Mr. Riahi asked for traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds and complete sidewalks for pedestrians.

Sgt. Sampson reported that in September, 2022 the Traffic Commission approved the installation of advance warning signage for the curve on both Bellevue and Bailey Roads. Although new speed data could not be obtained prior to the March, 2024 meeting, Sgt. Sampson provided a summary of 2018 data that the police department collected on Bellevue Road. At that time, the average speed of vehicles was 23.98 mph, and the 85th percentile was 30 mph. Although there were outlying speeds (maximum speed recorded was 47 mph), overall speeds were reasonable.

In response to Mr. Airasian's questions about the current roadwork and its effect on neighboring sidewalks, Mr. St. Louis reported that the roadway will be reconstructed in the area where the actual work is being performed (Bellevue Road from Common Street to Russell Ave). The section of Bellevue Road at Bailey road is outside the scope of the current National Grid and MWRA work so this project would not address Mr. Riahi's concerns. Mr. St. Louis further reported that a number of sidewalk repairs were conducted on Bailey Road within the last two years, and that Garfield Street would benefit from some work as well. The City is currently dealing with stormwater issues associated with Oakley Country Club. There may be an opportunity to address sidewalks on Bellevue and Bailey Roads through stormwater mitigation efforts.

Mr. Glode reported that the Oakley Country Club will install an infiltration trench along the lower perimeter limits of their lot which closely aligns with the area lacking sidewalks. When the trench is installed, the City may be able to explore sidewalk issues as well.

Mr. Airasian felt that due to ongoing construction it would be difficult to implement permanent measures in this area. Perhaps temporary measures could be taken.

Mr. St. Louis asked if the police department could place an electronic speed feedback sign on Bellevue Road. Sgt. Sampson reported that an electronic sign could be posted on Bellevue Road.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to post an electronic speed feedback sign on Bellevue Road; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – The Commission reviewed a request by Sgt. Sampson of the Watertown Police Department for the installation of No Parking signs on the south side of Summer Street between Spring Street and Mount Auburn Street with the exception of the designated parking area in front of #20 Summer Street. Sgt. Sampson reported that there are ongoing issues with illegally parked vehicles in this area. Oftentimes, particularly during the daytime, motorists will park along the bump-out near Spring Street even though this area is not intended for vehicles. Because the roadway is somewhat wide and is not posted as No Parking, motorists may assume parking is allowed. Parking is prohibited on the south side of Summer Street between Spring Street and Mount Auburn Street with the exception of the designated parking area in front of #20 Summer Street. Enhancing the area with No Parking signage may clarify the regulation, may reduce violations, and will make it easier for the City to enforce current parking regulations.

Mr. Airasian made a motion to install No Parking signage on the south side of Summer Street between Spring Street and Mount Auburn Street; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- a. Mr. St. Louis reported that there is a kick-off event on April 4, 2024 with the State for the Mt. Auburn Street project. Newport Construction will be the contractor for the project. The DPW and other agencies will create a new resident working group which will coordinate with the Watertown Business Coalition to help with outreach efforts about the progress of the project.

Mr. Airasian made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. David Sampson
Assistant to the Traffic Commission