



Thomas F. Rocca
Chief of Police

CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson
Sergeant
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Thomas F. Rocca, Chair
Ryan Nicholson, Provisional Fire Chief
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Ms. Kelly Gallagher
Mr. Robert Airasian

June 5, 2023

May 31, 2023 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Thomas Rocca, Ryan Nicholson, Gregory St. Louis, Kelly Gallagher, Robert Airasian

Traffic Commission members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Chief Nicholson made a motion to approve the April 26, 2023 Traffic Commission meeting minutes; Mr. St. Louis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – The Commission reviewed a request by Linda and Gordon Phillips of Hillcrest Circle to restrict parking on both sides of Hillcrest Circle for a distance of two car lengths from Hillside Road.

Hillcrest Circle resident Mr. Archie LaSalle addressed the Commission. Mr. LaSalle, who is an 18-year resident of the street, described the tight-knit atmosphere of his neighborhood and the numerous small children that reside there. Mr. LaSalle remembers at least seven incidents of residents needing emergency services and trash collection difficulties over the years. Mr. LaSalle reported that residents have difficulty entering and exiting Hillcrest Circle due to the geometry of the roadway as it intersects with Hillside Road. Accessing the road is more difficult when approaching the intersection from Mt. Auburn Street, particularly when there are cars parked too close to the intersection.

Mr. LaSalle reported that most residents ask their visitors to refrain from parking on the corners, but many times people park up to the intersection. To complicate the matter, there is a large privately owned rhododendron bush on the corner residential lot that causes a line-of-sight issue.

Although most visitors park in private driveways, oftentimes there are home repair vehicles and Hillside Road residents that regularly park on Hillcrest Circle.

Mr. LaSalle reported that resident Mr. Gordon was involved in a cycling collision with a vehicle exiting Hillcrest Circle. Mr. Gordon suffered various injuries.

Mr. Airasian agreed that if vehicles were parked too close to the intersection, it could make it difficult to enter and exit Hillcrest Circle. Mr. Airasian visited the area and noticed that there was no signage present in the area.

Ms. Gallagher clarified that the typical parking restriction is 20 feet from the crosswalk. Mr. LaSalle confirmed that this distance from the crosswalk is being ignored by motorists.

Chief Nicholson reported that his staff had mixed reactions about the ability to access Hillcrest Circle. They are very cautious when they respond to the area. Chief Nicholson supported signage on Hillcrest Circle.

Sgt. Sampson reported that Republic Services Inc. only has trouble accessing the Hillcrest Circle when vehicles are parked on both sides of the road and too close to the intersection. The large private rhododendron bush has been scaled back; this has provided a better line of sight for motorists turning on or off of Hillcrest Circle. Sgt. Sampson reviewed the intersection with City Engineer Mr. Shuman. The roadway is 24 feet wide and allows for parking on both sides. There is a curve in the roadway at the beginning of Hillcrest Circle which is a unique situation; this would make visibility somewhat difficult for oncoming traffic. Sgt. Sampson felt that signage on both sides of the street, placed 20 feet from the crosswalk would be beneficial.

Mr. Airasian relayed that District A Councilor Gardner has received support from the residents for the signage.

Mr. Airasian made a motion to install signage on both sides of Hillcrest Circle, 20 feet east of the crosswalk to reinforce the City's standard No Parking restriction; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to adjourn; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

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