



CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



Mr. Robert Airasian, Chair
Justin Hanrahan, Police Chief
Ryan Nicholson, Fire Chief
Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher

April 30, 2025 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Airasian, Ryan Nicholson, Steven Magoon, Thomas Brady, Tyler Glode

The Traffic Commission addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Mr. Magoon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 Commission meeting; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 –The Commission continued its discussion regarding a request by Ms. Samantha Garwin for traffic calming on Summer Street. Ms. Garwin originally presented her concerns at the February, 2025 Traffic Commission meeting. Ms. Garwin wanted to know the timeline for the implementation of traffic calming measures on Summer Street.

Mr. Glode reported that Summer Street is under redesign. National Grid has been working on the roadway and is nearing completion; the City does not anticipate further utility repairs on Summer Street. Once completed, the City will move forward with design plans. Realistically, the timeline is approximately 3-4 years (which is within the context of the Prioritization Program). Construction would take place approximately 1 year after design. The design will incorporate traffic calming elements. Summer Street may fall within the City's Road Program.

Senior Transportation Planner Mr. Zeke Mermell reported that he has collected more detailed information from residents regarding Summer Street. He would be happy to share the information as well as best practices with the Department of Public Works as the redesign project progresses.

Ms. Garwin believed that Summer Street is dangerous, and 3-4 years is a long time to wait for redesign. She asked whether any interim measures such as signage, road striping, etc. could be implemented on the street. Ms. Garwin is happy to engage other residents if more information is desired. She was also concerned about the amount of commercial traffic on the street and asked whether it can be excluded from Summer Street.

Ms. Marie Danziger of 118 Summer Street reported that she has a young grandson that she does not allow on the sidewalk because it is too dangerous. There is a constant flow of traffic on Summer Street and at times it is going very fast.

Mr. Paul Davis of 126 Summer Street is concerned with pedestrians on Summer Street. He also noted that potholes and grading issues are also an issue. In the winter, vehicles could swerve and be a danger to pedestrians.

Mr. Glode noted the residents' concerns and will look at signage to determine whether improvements can be made. As the redesign moves forward, truck traffic can be measured.

Mr. Magoon noted that street trees, curbing, etc. are traffic calming measures; any element that makes drivers feel less comfortable driving at high speeds contributes to traffic calming. Mr. Magoon was concerned about the effectiveness of increased signage, because drivers tend to ignore signs. Other measures can be considered that may be more effective than signage. Mr. Glode agreed with Mr. Magoon that too much signage tends to be ineffective.

Director of Public Works Mr. Brady noted that when traffic flow patterns, traffic calming, traffic adjustments, etc. are reviewed, everything must comply with Federal guidelines; it is not a subjective process. As the City gathers information it will be compared with applicable federal standards to ensure that the process and assessment are uniform and fair.

Mr. Magoon made a motion for the Department of Public Works, Engineering, and Transportation Planner to continue to examine traffic calming measures for Summer Street; Mr. Glode seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 –The Commission reviewed a request by Ms. Danielle Piantedosi for the installation of a crosswalk on Main Street in the area between Waverley Avenue and Lexington Street. Ms. Piantedosi was not present at the meeting. Sgt. Sampson provided a summary of the request and noted that a similar request was brought before the Commission in September, 2023.

Mr. Magoon reported that a section of the Community Path has been completed between Waverley Avenue and Main Street. While the path near the Halfway Café is not yet paved, it may be appropriate timing to conduct analysis to determine whether an appropriate location can be found to install a crosswalk to help pedestrians cross Main Street safely.

Mr. Magoon made a motion for City staff to evaluate the area and conduct an engineering analysis to try to determine a location for a formal crosswalk on Main Street between Waverley Avenue and Lexington Street; Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 –The Commission received an informational presentation by City Engineer Tyler Glode regarding green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) improvements that also function as traffic calming structures for sections of Dexter Avenue and Templeton Parkway.

Mr. Glode reported that the City received a Municipal Vulnerable Populations grant that allows the city to implement bump-outs and traffic calming in the form of "green" stormwater management infrastructure. The bump-outs cannot simply be structural; they must also be landscaped and vegetated. Plans were created by Weston and Sampson – The plans were reviewed a number of years ago and the project is now ready to proceed.

On Templeton Parkway and Dexter Avenue, the area will be repaved, curb and sidewalks will be implemented in specific areas, restriping will be conducted, and the design includes a crosswalk and ADA ramps.

On Dexter Ave, there will be several smaller bump outs as well.

Salisbury Road will have a small portion repaved, and the roadway will square off to Templeton Parkway. There will be no impacts on parking in the two areas. The bump outs will be within the City's standard 20' parking restriction.

Mr. Magoon asked noted that a crosswalk is shown on Cypress Street, but no ADA ramp is shown. Mr. Glode will check the status of the crosswalk and ramps in this area.

Mr. Glode clarified that with the improvements on Salisbury Road, a request for an isolated Stop at the intersection of Templeton Parkway will be brought to a future Commission meeting for consideration.

Chief Nicholson reported that new turning radius templates are available and can be used for the two areas; Mr. Glode has received the new templates and will ensure they are compared with the plans.

Mr. Magoon suggested to consider a vertical sign or structural item for Salisbury Road to alert drivers of the bump out.

New Business

Sgt. Sampson reported that he received a No Parking request for Palfrey Street at Forest Street, and will place the request on the May, 2025 agenda.

Chief Nicholson made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Magoon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

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