

Windham Traffic Calming Committee

Minutes from the April 15, 2016 meeting



Committee Members Present: Scott Clairmont, Joe Gardner, Ted Colwell, Bob Buckner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm

2. Citizens and Delegations

Maria Capriola from 57 Serwan Ave spoke about increased volumes and speeds of traffic on Serwan Ave. She commented on a letter sent from her and her husband to the Traffic Authority a few weeks ago that was signed by a number of her neighbors. In the letter, she asked that Serwan Ave be considered for traffic calming and went over a few suggestions made in the letter. Maria did mention before she began speaking that it was required by the ethics ordinance in The Town of Mansfield, that she disclosed that although a Town of Mansfield employee, she was speaking to the Committee as a resident of Windham and in no way was that related to her official capacity in the Town of Mansfield.

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on February 16, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16th meeting was made by Joe and seconded by Bob. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Update on budget request for radar speed display signs

Scott mentioned that the signs were added to the budget for next fiscal year, but we would have to wait and see if they were going to get cut or not.

5. Discussion and possible action on a letter from Residents of Serwan Ave. concerning speeding and the need for traffic calming

The committee reviewed the letter and discussed each of the suggestions made in the letter.

- Speed Enforcement – Bob said that the Police Department can have put an officer out to conduct speed enforcement whenever there is manpower available
- Use of Speed Monitors – Scott and Joe expressed concerns that there may not be enough room on Serwan Ave. to set up the speed trailer so it would be out of traffic and in a safe location. Bob said that he would look at the road and see if he could find a safe spot to set it up
- Installation of a Crosswalk and Pedestrian Crossing Signs - The letter pointed out that there is no crosswalk on High St. near the entrance to Eastern CT State University and Serwan Ave. which makes crossing the road to go into Eastern dangerous. A motion to have Scott send a letter to the Willimantic Traffic Authority requesting that a crosswalk be installed on High St. was made by Joe and seconded by Ted. The motion passed unanimously.

- Conduct Traffic Counts on Serwan Ave. – Scott said that since the radar speed signs that are in the budget record traffic counts also, we should wait and see if they stay in the budget. If they do not get cut and we end up getting them in July, we can use them to do a traffic count. If the signs do get cut, Joe said he could hire a contractor to do a traffic count after July.
The letter asked about possible restricting commercial vehicles. Joe mentioned that the Town can't make that call and that it has to go through the State DOT. He said that the regulations are very strict regarding restricting vehicles on roads. One of the regulations says that if a vehicle has either their point of origin or their destination in Windham, then they are still allowed to use the road. Joe said it is very rare that the DOT grants vehicle restrictions and feels that Serwan Ave. would not qualify for such restrictions.
- Cut Back Shrubs at 415 High St. – The letter states that the shrubs on the Serwan Ave. side of 415 High St. are overgrown and into the road causing pedestrians to walk farther into oncoming traffic to pass by them. Scott said, normally he would send a letter to the property owner requesting that they trim the shrubs, but since the house has been empty for over a year and the shrubs are in the Town's right-of-way a Public Works crew could trim them off the edge of the road.
- Adding a Small Section of Sidewalk Around the Corner on High St. onto Serwan Ave. – Joe said that we can look into the possibility of adding a curved section of sidewalk this summer when other sidewalk work was being done in Town.
- Other Traffic Calming Measures – Scott said that the radar signs could be used on Serwan Ave. as long as they were approved in the budget. They could be set up on South St. for a period of time, and then moved to Serwan Ave.

6. Discussion and possible action on a request to change the Committee's meeting times from 5:00 to 6:00

Scott mentioned that Kim Charron said that she was not going to be able to attend meetings at 5:00 anymore and requested that they be changed to 6:00. Scott said the Committee originally voted on a 5:00 meeting time because that was convenient for everyone and if the Committee wanted to change the time, it would have to be voted on. Joe said that 6:00 meetings will not be convenient for him because of his work schedule, he can only meet at 5:00 or 7:00. Bob mentioned that 7:00 meetings could interfere with other meetings that are held at the Town Hall at 7:00 on Tuesdays, primarily Council meetings. Scott said that if the Committee members present wanted to vote on it someone would have to make a motion to change the meeting times, or the topic could be tabled for the next meeting when, hopefully more Committee members would be present to discuss the proposed time change. It was decided to hold off on making a change until more members were present to give their opinions.

7. Old Business

Scott asked Bob if there was any update on enforcement on South St.? Bob said that they are putting cars out during the peak times that were identified on the traffic study when manpower permits them to do so.

8. New Business

Ted asked if Babcock Hill Rd could be looked at by the Committee. He mentioned that there is a high number of cars using the road at seemingly high speeds and with the Camp on the road it is a safety concern. Joe and Scott said that if the budget passes and the signs are approved, then Babcock Hill Rd can be the first road in the Windham's that the radar signs are used.

9. Citizens and Delegations

None

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob and seconded by Ted. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm

Minutes submitted by:

Scott Clairmont