

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
March 16, 2016
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Ray Barnett
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor James Gray

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Captain Paul Toussaint, P.D.

Minutes

Councilor Hamann brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approve Minutes from February 17, 2016

The first order of business was to approve the February 17, 2016. Councilor Gates made a motion to approve the February 17, 2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

2. Public Input

No member of the public was present to discuss any issues or concerns.

3. Gear Road-Traffic Speed (kept in committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Captain Toussaint said the speed trailer was set up in the area on March 3 through March 8, 2016. During that time 1,890 vehicles passed by. The highest traveled hours were the morning commute 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM. The Police Department did 10 directed patrols and only made 2 traffic stops. Captain Toussaint did not see a problem in the area. No action was taken.

4. Gonic Crosswalk (kept in committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Captain Toussaint said the speed trailer was put up near the Pickering Road crosswalk on March 9 through March 15, 2016. There were 13,355 vehicles that passed by with an average speed of 39.6 mph. The highest speed was 85 mph. 50% of the vehicles averaged 31-40 mph and 43% had an average

speed of 43 to 50 mph. There were 10 additional directed patrols done in the area with 15 traffic stops. There will be more directed patrols done in the area.

5. Betts/Cross Road Intersection Concerns (kept in committee)

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that the homeowner was okay with the City removing the tree. The tree was removed; and, the removal of the tree has improved the line-of-sight. DPW will need to keep on top of the brush cutting. Any further improvement to the line-of-sight would require removal of earth and resetting of the rock wall, which would require property acquisition or easement from the landowner. Mr. Bezanson reiterated that there is definitely a better line-of-sight now that the tree is removed.

6. Other

Salmon Falls Road HSIP Project

Mr. Bezanson gave an update on the Salmon Falls Road Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project. This project involves safety improvements at two curves on Salmon Falls Road, one not far from the Tara Estates entrance and the other near the intersection of Whitehall Road. The project is to be funded primarily with HSIP funds administered by NHDOT. Progress on the project had been held up with the right-of way easement acquisitions, however the City is currently in negotiations on the final easement necessary for the project. He relayed to Captain Toussaint that a homeowner had inquired about whether directed patrols are conducted on this portion of Salmon Falls Road. Captain Toussaint stated that there are a lot of patrols done on Salmon Falls Road.

Estes Road/Washington Street (Route 202) Intersection

Mr. Bezanson updated the committee on the NHDOT project involving safety improvements at the Estes Road/Route 202 intersection. The project involves demolition of the house on the corner, as well as other line-of-sight improvements. He stated that the State went out to bid on this project and has awarded a contractor. There will be a pre-construction meeting on March 22, 2016 that Mr. Bezanson will attend.

Woodman and Davyanne Locke Lane

Mr. Bezanson stated that the “no parking” signs are up and have been in effect since Tuesday. The School Department plans to change the bus route next Tuesday. He said that DPW has not received any significant negative feedback from the community.

Captain Toussaint said the police department will pay close attention to this area for the next couple of weeks.

Wildcat Transit Gonic Bus Stop

Mr. Bezanson talked with someone from the Wildcat Transit Bus and they had told him that the Gonic stop was a grant funded route. It may end in August of this year or may be extended for another year. Councilor Lachapelle said that the bus stop sign is attached to a utility pole and he questioned whether that was legal. Mr. Bezanson asked Wildcat whether they had considered the Gonic Mill site for a bus stop; Wildcat cited route timing and the width of Church Street as concerns affecting the feasibility of this site. Mr. Bezanson will touch base with them again this summer as to the future of the Gonic bus stop.

Twombly Street - 30 MPH Signs

Mr. Bezanson said that the 30 mph signs were installed on Twombly Street; 1 in each direction.

Farmington Road (Route 11) at Cocheco River Estates - Traffic Signal

Mr. Bezanson said one of the residents of Cocheco River Estates sent him a petition for a traffic signal on Route 11 at the entrance to this manufactured home park. The petition was signed by over 100 area residents and had been sent to the State. Mr. Bezanson stated that a recent traffic study completed for the Phase 2 Granite Ridge development concluded that this intersection did not warrant a traffic signal, even with the projected increase in traffic due to the Phase 1 and Phase 2 developments. Mr. Bezanson will continue to follow up with NHDOT expressing the residents' concerns.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.