

**Public Safety Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024
5:30 PM
Council Chambers**

Members Present

Councilor Timothy Fontneau, Chair
Councilor Bryan Karolian, Vice Chair
Councilor Chuck Creteau
Councilor Kevin Sullivan
Councilor David Herman

Members Absent

Others Present

Deputy Chief Andrew Swanberry, PD
Jarrod Norris, P.E. Assistant City Engineer
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician
Paul Callaghan, Mayor
Human, Resident
Marilee Welch, 2 Ela Court
Cory Carter, 48B Stillings Court

Councilor Fontneau brought the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

- 1. Approve Minutes from March 20, 2024 Public Safety Meeting *Councilor Sullivan MOVED to approve the minutes from March 20, 2024. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

2. Public Input

Human a resident was present to discuss his concerns about the Woodman Park Area. He referenced a letter he sent to the City on December 15, 2023 describing insufficient line of sight in the Woodman Park area. He stated where Charles Street meets Woodman Street and Myrtle Street. He stated that traffic was reconfigured during construction and Congress Street is now one way west and Myrtle Street has also been converted into a way between Woodman Street and Charles Street. When trying to get out of the neighborhood you have to make a precarious turn from Woodman Street or Myrtle Street. The problem is not enough line of sight to see on coming traffic. This configuration has been there for about six months and he has had 3 instances of near misses. He said he has some potential solutions in mind looking at the parking lot on the corner of Woodman Street and Charles Street that is not currently in use. When the granite curbing was installed the parking lot was taken out of service. If the granite curbing could be replaced with a curb cut, then the people parking there could park in the parking lot. This would improve the line of sight.

Marilee Welch of 2 Ela Court was present to discuss her concern with safety in the Woodman area. Traffic backs up during school pick up along Charles Street and cars block the roadway. When a car is coming south bound on Charles they must get into the north bound lane to go around the parked cars waiting at pickup.

Coming out of Woodman Street and taking a left she cannot see them because of the parked cars and the school pick up cars. This almost became a head on collision for her a few weeks ago. She stated it would be better if the one-way traffic went east bound down Congress Street. This would allow a safer turn onto Charles Street. Councilor Fonteneau asked to clarify that the issue is taking a left out of Woodman Street on to Charles Street, Ms. Welch confirmed that is correct.

Corey Carter of 48B Stillings Court was present to discuss a no parking sign be placed on the western side of the roadway. He presented photos of the area showing cars driving down the road when there are cars parked on both sides of the roadway. He is concerned that emergency services would not be able to get down the road, and the road is small to begin with. Councilor Fonteneau asked Deputy Chief Swanberry to look into this.

3. Meaderboro Rd/ RT202A- Intersection (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is no additional information to keep in committee.

4. Traffic Circle/ Walnut St- Signage/ Speeding

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is any update at this time. Councilor Creteau asked if there was an update from Mr. Norris about moving the speed limit sign on Walnut Street. Mr. Norris discussed with the state traffic engineer and no review would be needed to take action on moving the sign. ***Councilor Creteau MOVED to move the 30 MPH speed limit sign up two poles on Walnut Street. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

5. Portland Street/ Salmon Falls Road –Speed and Enforcement (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is any update at this time. Councilor Sullivan asked if Deputy Chief Swanberry had an update. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated they have continued the efforts on this and intends to move the speed trailer out to this location.

6. Portland Street – School Drop Off/ Pick Up (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is no additional information to keep in committee.

7. Hanson Street- Going Wrong Direction (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is no additional information to keep in committee.

8. Rt 125/ Oak St Intersection- Traffic Light Timing (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is any update at this time. Councilor Karolian asked if Mr. Norris had an update from the state. Mr. Norris had drone video displayed showing the movement of the traffic through the intersection. Councilor Sullivan stated he believes the issue when traffic is backed up and going around.

Councilor Karolian agreed that the issue is when there is traffic backed up. Councilor Sullivan said the problem is when the traffic is backed up on both sides. Mayor Callaghan asked if there was any accident data specially for left hand turns at the intersection. Deputy Chief Swanberry said he does not have any prepared but can dig into it. Mayor Callaghan asked for 3-5 years of data. Councilor Karolian asked if there was a response from the state about having the light give each side there on turn. Mr. Norris followed up with the state engineer about staggering the movements with one side street going at a time. Mr. Norris read the response from the state it said they have already analyzed split phasing for the side streets and have determined the intersections does not have enough capacity for this phasing as it would cause long backups on RT125. If the city had funding to advance a capacity project to improve the intersection the state could start that process. Mr. Norris said he will look further into that.

9. Second Street- Children at Play Sign (kept in committee)

Councilor Fonteneau asked if there is any update at this time, no current update.

10. Informative Sessions- Jarrod Norris (kept in committee)

Mr. Norris offered to have a traffic engineering consultant come in for a short session to discuss topics on traffic control devices and traffic control measures. He asked if there are any specific topics that the committee members would be interested in. Councilor Karolian stated he believed at the last meeting Councilor Sullivan was interested in information on streetlights. Councilor Fonteneau stated that the next meeting they are attending tonight he believes is on speed limit on the rural roads. Councilor Sullivan stated he believes it would be beneficial to learn about the process of changing speed limits. Councilor Fonteneau asked Mr. Norris if he would be setting this up for future meetings. Mr. Norris said he is hoping the consultant can work this in this summer and he will provide more information as it gets closer.

11. Stillings Court- Stop Sign

Councilor Fonteneau summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated the image on the screen is accurate and there should be a stop sign there. He said summer street sees a decent amount of traffic. Councilor Sullivan said he went by there today and was surprised there was not a stop sign there.

Councilor Sullivan MOVED to recommend full city council approval to put a stop sign on Stillings Court. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

12. Other

Councilor Herman said that there is sidewalk repair on Oak Street and asked if they were going to be bringing that onto Hansonville Road up over the hill. Mr. Norris said he will have to review it he is not sure if there are any additional funds left for that project. Mr. Norris will look into this. Councilor Karolian said he was over in that area today by Punch Brook and noticed a large amount of debris being piled up with a steep drop off and would recommend someone doing an inspection.

Councilor Fonteneau said Council Walker mentioned that the stop sign is loose and leaning over at the end of Elizabeth Street at the intersection of Brock Street.

Councilor Karolian ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:03 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Ronda Boisvert, Administrative Assistant II