



TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

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TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 18, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Review any items for addition to the agenda before taking up any business.

Add new items for consideration to the agenda if any at the start of the meeting.

1. Review and approve the Minutes of October 21, 2015.
2. Review and Discussion – Old & New Business
 - A. Barclay Road - Paul requested a “No Outlet” sign for Barclay Rd at the intersection of Sunset and Phelps Roads. **Possible Action item**
 - B. Kings Row – Review of the sight distance for the intersection of Kings Row at Route 14 (So. Barre Road). Consider various options to make recommendations to Select Board and for referral to the State of Vermont -VTRANS. **Possible Action item**
 - C. Cedar Street & Batchelder Street – Review CVRPC Speed Study and consider recommendations to Select Board. **Possible Action item**
 - D. Graniteville Road – Review safety and sight distance issues at the intersection with Baptist Street.
3. Other Business –
 - A. Miscellaneous – Concern about striping on newly paved roads.
 - B. Portable Speed Monitoring Devices - Chief Mike Stevens**
 - C. Schedule items for December 16 meeting –
4. Adjourn

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

November 18, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Review any items for addition to the agenda before taking up any business.

New Item Added to Agenda: Chief Stevens had information regarding a budget item that is a portable traffic counter from Jamar Technologies.

Members Present: Chauncey Liese, Paul White, Val Vallerand, William Kirby

Absent: Dan Newhall

Others Present: Harry Hinrichsen, Police Chief Mike Stevens

Speed Monitoring devices: Chief Mike Stevens was present to discuss portable speed monitoring devices with the Traffic Safety Committee. He is proposing to put the items in the upcoming 2017 budget. This item was taken first in the order of business as Chief Stevens was present for the discussion.

Chief Stevens referred to handouts regarding the portable speed devices by Jamar Technologies. He is considering these devices for a new budget item in the Police Department Budget for 2017.

The literature described the devices as being transportable from one site to another. They would be used to assist the department in determining problem areas for speed control. The devices and the data collected would be more readily available than relying on the wait time with devices and data collected by CVRPC.

TSAC members generally were in favor of and receptive of the devices. They were interested in how many of them the department would be requesting.

Paul White suggested that the Town might qualify for a grant to cover the \$3400 +/- cost of the units through its participation in the Highway Safety Council Program. He would look into it and refer Chief Stevens to the St. Johnsbury unit as he remembered that they may have just gotten something similar.

- 1. Review and approve the Minutes of September 16, 2015.**

Discussion:

Motion: Approve the minutes of 9-16-15 as submitted

Motion by: Paul White?

Second by: Val Vallerand?

The motion was approved unanimously

2. Review and Discussion – Old & New Business

A. Barclay Road - Paul White requested a “No Outlet” sign for Barclay Rd at the intersection of Sunset and Phelps Roads.

Discussion:

Harry indicated that he wasn’t able to find a recommendation in previous minutes for a “No Outlet” advisory sign for Barclay Road.

Motion: Recommend to Select Board that a “No Outlet” advisory sign (W14-2) be installed just north of the intersection of Barclay Road with Sunset and Phelps Roads.

Motion by: Paul White

Second by: Bill Kirby

The motion was approved unanimously

B. Kings Row – Review of the sight distance for the intersection of Kings Row at Route 14 (So. Barre Road). Consider various options to make recommendations to Select Board for the State of Vermont - VTRANS.

Discussion:

Harry discussed the limiting sight distance of less than 200’ for Kings Row. The speed limit at 40 MPH creates a stopping sight distance of 275’ for the north bound traffic on South Barre Road and a cornering sight distance of 540’ for Kings Row traffic pulling out onto the main road.

Motion: Recommend a request to State of Vermont VTRANS for a review the sight distance relative to speed of traffic on Route 14 and safety concerns for traffic entering from the side road. If sight distance is insufficient adjust the situation with a strategy to improve sight distance or lower speed limit or both.

Motion by: Paul White

Second by: Val Vallerand

The motion was approved unanimously

C. Cedar Street & Batchelder Street – Review CVRPC Speed Study and consider recommendations to Select Board.

Discussion:

The initial discussion was whether to make any recommendations. The general consensus was the perceived speed problem was associated with a relatively temporary situation. Once the situation with the illegal activity goes away the speeding will no longer be a problem.

Chauncey suggested that the Town Engineer prepare a readable summary report of the traffic counts to be provided to the residents of the neighborhood.

The majority of the “Speeders” are not residents but they do create an issue with the “quality of life” in the neighborhood.

No Further Action Taken

D. Graniteville Road – Review safety and sight distance issues at the intersection with Baptist Street. Consider request to trim or remove vegetation at corner lot (# 620 Graniteville Road - Mike Dandurand) and address traffic turning across south bound vehicles (onto Baptist St.)

Discussion:

Harry explained the situation with the sight distance being hampered by the lilac shrubs on the corner of the property owned by Michael Dandurand. Mr. Dandurand is now living outside the area so Harry will have to wire a letter.

The consensus was to have the Town Engineer write a letter and get together with the property owner before spring to trim the appropriate branches need to improve the sight distance for the corner.

No Further action Taken

3. Other Business –

A. Miscellaneous – Review a concern about striping on newly paved roads.

Email from Robert Murphy

Discussion: Bob Murphy had concerns about newly paved roads especially ones like West Road. His concern was regarding the

speed of vehicles and the increase of traffic there. He suggested that the speed could be addressed somewhat by reducing the lane width to 10.5' or 10' when installing side line stripes. It would also give other users a little more space on the pavement rather than relying on the gravel shoulders.

Harry indicated he felt it was worth looking into putting the side line striping in for West Road in the spring of 2016.

Paul White indicated that the lane widths should be addressed in the striping contracts.

B. Osborne Road – Speed Study – Report from the Town Engineer reviewing the Status of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) Traffic Study

Discussion:

Harry explained about the limiting physical road features that impact operator's vehicle speed on this section of road. He and Dan have reviewed the locations for loop detectors for CVRPC.

Because the road has several curves and hills it might be reasonable by engineering review to reduce the speed limit without traffic data but the information would be helpful to have when discussing the possible reduction from 40 to 35 MPH.

Harry reported that the CVRPC traffic counters were in place and should be picked up next week. Speed information should be available for the December meeting.

No Action Taken at this time

**C. Schedule items for December 16 meeting –
Osborne Road - Review Speed Limits & Nov. CVRPC Traffic Data
South Barre Road – Updates?**

4. Adjourn – On a motion from Val Vallerand the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.