

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING
July 26, 2016 – 9:00 am
Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: J. Carrington, D. Dilaj, M. Hart, L. Painter, B. LaVoie, F. Raiola, R. Cournoyer

Guests Present: C. van Zelm, K. Paterson, M. Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by John Carrington.

Approval of Minutes

June 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by D. Dilaj and seconded by B. LaVoie to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

July 12, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes – Motion made by B. LaVoie and seconded by D. Dilaj to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- a. **Ravine Road** (K. Green) – *Road is temporarily closed to thru traffic. CL&P has an easement for the power lines. Research to be done for CL&P easement and to check with Town Attorney for abandoning/liability of a Town road. Mr. Drake Smith attended the 5/26/15 meeting with his concerns on keeping the road closed and suggested making the road a One Way Road. The Traffic Authority will bring this up at the next meeting. K. Green expressed there are more issues with her property with the road closed than there were with it open. She is fine with closing it permanently. Waiting to hear back from attorney regarding discontinuing or abandoning roads. E. Dorgan from Ravine Road attended to see what the status was. Plans are to have a neighborhood meeting in the fall to come up with options for the Traffic Authority to discuss. Neighborhood meeting is trying to get scheduled for September 16th to discuss options. K. Green would like to put a gate across with (two 12' sections) and pay for – Town would have key access for any maintenance, etc. LaVoie suggested that the Town do this as it is a "Town" road. "Neighborhood" meeting officially set for October 1st at 6:00 p.m. Anyone that wants to attend is more than welcome. Carrington distributed Power Point presentation which will be amended to include cost estimates. Recommendations will be given to Town Manager which then might require budget adjustments, PZC and/or Council action. Safety will be taken into consideration first, then access vs. cost. A paper poll is considered to be taken upon arrival at meeting with what recommendations or wants would be. K. Green stated that the signs were not consistent on either end of the road and that they should read "No Thru Trucks". She was worried that if an accident occurred with one of her trucks and the sign read "No Trucks" that she would be liable. B. LaVoie will remove all signs today. Signs will be put up that say "No Thru Trucks". J. Carrington state that estimated costs to "fix" (guardrails, etc.) the road would be in the \$100,000 range and that it would have to be included in next fiscal year's budget. In the meantime, the road will remain gated and proper signs will be installed. The road is closed, however, abutting land owner (the Green Family) can still use the road to include trucks,*

oversized trucks, commercial trucks, agricultural equipment, etc. Barricades and concrete blocks are installed. Item will be going to the Council in January with an estimate to fix the road to reopen safely. Item will go to Council first meeting in January. The group discussed alternatives to the proposed two options. The Town Council passed a unanimous motion at the 2/22/16 regular meeting to endorse the compromise option for Ravine Road and for Staff to work with the Town Attorney on a draft proposed agreement or other legal instrument for their consideration. In addition, staff would include a sum of \$110,000 for Ravine Road improvements in the FY2016/17 CIP. Town Attorney approved the "Draft" Agreement. M. Hart will forward the "Draft" Agreement to the Green family. J. Carrington made a site visit with the guiderail contractor. About twenty trees were marked that are in the way of the guiderail. K. Green sent back the "Draft" Agreement to M. Hart with some requested changes that need to be addressed. Once complete, M. Hart will send her the revised "Draft" Agreement. Town Manager and Town Attorney are reviewing the "Draft" Agreement. Public Works will post trees with a notice for 10 days to allow for any comments from residents. **The Town Council authorized the Town Manager to execute the agreement. Leave as old business.**

- b. **Speed Limits at Storrs Center** (F. Raiola) – Raiola stated that the speed limit through Storrs Center was 25mph and was almost hit. The State Traffic Commission has to review speed limits to lower them. Raiola consulted with Cournoyer with his recommendation it was to lower the speed limit to 15 mph. Research will be done to see if 25 mph was approved and do traffic counts. State Traffic Commission needs to approve if speed limit is reduced to 15mph. Waiting until businesses are completed then traffic will be checked. 25 mph speed limit sign is mounted. F. Raiola suggested to evaluate as business sector grows. Review in the fall and determine the capacity of the business sector. **Leave as old business. Tabled waiting on the build out of Storrs Center.**
- c. **Dangerous Intersection Mansfield City / Crane Hill Roads** (C.Liu) – Motion made by Dilaj, seconded by Dilaj to study intersection to figure out how to improve before paving. Passed unanimously. Survey is completed. Data needs to be compiled. Engineering continuing with this work. Engineering has completed the design to change the site lines and will bring to the next meeting for approval from the Traffic Authority. Upon approval, this project will be added to the project list for Fiscal Year 17/18. Engineering presented plan sheets showing the current site lines at the intersection are 80 feet and should be 250 feet. The plan shows the removal of the wide turn and installation of a "T" intersection with a three-way stop. M. Hart would like to solicit feedback from the residents who will be most affected by the change. B. LaVoie was concerned with the change of radius for the farm equipment entering and leaving the intersection. Engineering will solicit comments from the residents and report back to the Traffic Authority. **Engineering is scheduling meetings with adjacent property owners to review the proposed design. Leave as old business.**
- d. **E.O. Smith / Bolton Road Extension** – Motion made by Dilaj, seconded by LaVoie to contact DOT to determine if turning area is warranted (signal arrow) on Bolton Road Extension. Passed unanimously. Letter needs to be sent to OSTA requesting light with green arrow. Letter has been sent to DOT – not heard back yet. **Still waiting to hear from OSTA. Leave as old business.**

- e. **Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Route 32 and Route 31** (S. Mitchell) – *Light at the Intersection would not solve the problem as it would be in conflict with the flashing light at the drive-in causing more congestion. A letter will be sent to the State requesting a study to be done to install a traffic light at that intersection. Letter sent to the State to conduct study as both roads are State roads. Letter received by CTDOT, they are looking into it. Still waiting to hear from CTDOT. Leave as old business.*

- f. **Time Limits for Parking on Storrs Road and Wilbur Cross Way** (C. van Zelm) – *C. van Zelm received an e-mail from the owner of the Dog Lane Café questioning the change to a 30 minute time limit, stating that it was affecting business. Discussion occurred stating that the parking garage and the open lot by Moe's are both two hour free parking so customers at sit down restaurants should be parking there. Most restaurants along 195 are "Grab and Go" restaurants so the 30 minute limit should not be an issue. Dog Lane Café stated they have some patrons that cannot walk from the garage or open lot and do not have a handicapped sticker so the 30 minute limit is affecting business. M. Taylor (Storrs Commons) suggested into looking for a location for a second parking garage. C. van Zelm will contact the owner of Dog Lane Café to get an idea of how the 30 minute limit affects the business customer wise. C. van Zelm spoke with Steve Smith of Dog Lane Café and invited him to attend the meeting to discuss the 30 minute parking. He was not able to attend. M. Taylor brought up the point that the change to 30 minute parking in the middle spots has been positive for the merchants. There was discussion from all those at the meeting to change the spots to 30 minutes or to 1 hour. Impacts to the businesses were discussed as well as impacts to special events. Motion was made by B. LaVoie, seconded by F. Raiola, to have 30 minute street parking on Route 195 and Wilbur Cross Way. This item will be re-evaluated at the November meeting. The motion passed unanimously. **All signs are 30 minutes at this time and some negative feedback is being received from business owners and patrons. No further discussion at this time.***

New Business

- a. **Celebrate Mansfield Festival and Parade** (K. Paterson) – K. Paterson presented a road closure plan to the authority indicating locations of closures. The authority discussed needs for additional barricades. Motion was made by L. Painter, seconded by D. Dilaj to approve the plan route subject to an operations plan to be submitted to the Public Works Department.

Other Business

None

Future Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is August 23rd at 9:00am in Conference Room B.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek M. Dilaj, PE
Assistant Town Engineer