

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

In Attendance: Ernie Orgera
Mani Poola
Captain Bill Mullin
Captain Sue Bretthauer
Captain Thomas Wuennemann
Sgt. Chris Weed
Officer Mike Skoumbros
Thomas Turk
Paul Montanaro
Dan Colleluori

Guests: Chris Kelly – Summer House Project
Robert Calvano – Summer House Project
Capt. Henry Marx – Harvard Avenue Traffic Accidents
Lisa Butler – Residential Parking Permit Program
Kieran Ryan – Residential Parking Permit Program
Rob Forte – 7 Market Street
Michael Battinelli – Columbus Day Parade
Anthony Scalzi – 14 Relay Place – Parking
Celestina Scalzi – 14 Relay Place – Parking
Cynthia Brown – 14 Relay Place – Parking
Gregg Scalzi – 14 Relay Place – Parking
Rep. John Zelinsky – Wardwell Street
Mary Sempy – Wardwell Street

Meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Ernie Orgera, Chair.

Motion was made by Captain Thomas Wuennemann, seconded by Captain Bretthauer and passed unanimously to take the agenda out of order.

Michael Battinelli – UNICO/Sacred Heart Church – Columbus Day Parade and Ceremony – Use of Columbus Park – Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Set-Up Starts at 7:00 a.m. and Clean-Up Ends at 3:30 p.m. – Approximately 300 Adults and 50 Children.

- The Parade will be the same as last year.
- They would like to close the following streets:
 - West Broad Street
 - Old Summer Street
 - Main Street from lower Summer Street to Washington Boulevard
 - West Park Place from lower Summer Street to Washington Boulevard
 - Mill River Street and Schuyler Avenue (this is where they put the parade together)
- Route is as follows:
 - Start at Schuyler Avenue behind Mill River Street
 - Right onto West Broad Street
 - Right at Old Summer Street
 - Finish at Columbus Park

Motion was made by Captain Bill Mullin, seconded by Captain Thomas Wuennemann and passed unanimously to approve Columbus Day Parade and Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Representative John Zelinsky – Request to Return Wardwell Street to a Two Way Street Starting at Elm Street.

- Representative Zelinsky stated that many years ago Wardwell Street was a Two Way Street and for some reason some years ago it was changed to a One Way Street.
- The residents are not happy with the street being a One Way Street. There is a sharp curve at the end of the street going towards Elm Street off of Shippan Avenue. The residents would like the Traffic Advisory Committee to change Wardwell Street from that section back to a Two Way Street.
- Ms. Mary Sempy has a business at the corner of Wardwell Street. For the last four and a half years, Ms. Sempy, has seen how many cars turn the wrong way on the One Way Street, even though there is a sign there. Just last week there was almost a head on collision. This is why this petition is being presented to the Traffic Advisory Committee.
- About seven years ago there was one head on collision on the corner of Wardwell Street and Elm Street.

- Mr. Orgera stated that he does not know the reason why Wardwell Street was changed to a One Way Street; he does not remember the street being a Two Way Street. Mr. Orgera stated that we will look at the street, we will do traffic counts and look at the width of the roadway. If the street is changed to a Two Way Street as requested by the residents, parking may have to be eliminated to allow bi-directional traffic.

Lisa Butler – Residential Parking Permit Program for Hobson Street and Stamford Avenue.

- Ms. Butler stated that some residents have had issues near the public access points in Shippan for several years; it has become an issue with residents that live near those public access areas.
- Ms. Butler requested that the following streets be part of the Residential Parking Permit Program:
 - Hobson Street from Shippan Avenue to Ocean Drive East.
 - Fairview Avenue from Ocean Drive West to Van Rensselaer Avenue.
 - Stamford Avenue from Ocean Drive West to Verplank Avenue.
- Mr. Orgera explained the process for the Residential Parking Program. Surveys will be sent out to the residents on the affected streets. The Surveys have to come back with a 65% positive response. If the responses come back 65% positive, a Public Hearing will be scheduled. If there is no opposition at the Public Hearing, the program will be instituted.
- Ms. Butler stated that they would like the program to be instituted year round.
- Ms. Butler also requested No Drop Off signs at the public access areas. Mr. Poola responded that this can't be done. Captain Mullin stated that the access for public access areas is from dawn to dusk. An Ordinance needs to be created in order to be able to give out fines. If there is an Ordinance they will be able to install the signs.

Motion was made by Paul Montanaro, seconded by Officer Mike Skoumbros and passed unanimously to start the process for Residential Parking Permit Program on Stamford Avenue from Ocean Drive West to Verplank Avenue, on Fairview Avenue from Ocean Drive West to Van Rensselaer Avenue and on Hobson Street from Shippan Avenue to Ocean Drive East.

David Griffin – Summer House Project.

- Mr. Chris Kelly stated that the plan is to demolish the old Marianne's Restaurant on lower Summer Street, the Demolition Permit is pending, they should have it in a day or so. They will be submitting the Foundation Permit this week or next week. They would like to go under construction as soon as possible. They were approved by

Planning and Zoning about a year ago.

- There are a total of 27 parking spaces in the area of the building. The Summer House Project has to provide a barrier or corral in front of the building – three spaces will be taken for the corral area. During the day an additional three spaces will be taken so that trucks can get access to get in. Because the road will be narrow because of the occupied area, additional spaces across from the corral will also be taken. During the day the 27 spaces will go down to 15 so there will be a loss of 12 parking spaces during the day. At night there will only be a loss of 9 spaces.
- Construction is anticipated to start within a month.
- The heavy lifting for the Crane will probably start sometime in January or February of 2014 and last for 12 or 13 months; after that we can gain some spaces back. The impact will be down to three lost spaces for the balance of construction time.
- There will not be a sidewalk shed. There will be two crosswalks, they were asked for the crosswalks to be raised. They wanted to coordinate with Department of Public Works to make sure that they will be able to maintain the road in the winter.
- Mani Poola would like them to have a flashing light. They will have No Parking Signs during the day and they will be able to reverse them at night. Along the barrier there will be a sign “Traffic Slow at Night”, it is clearly visible that there is an obstruction there. They will re-stripe the road if needed to control the traffic.
- Summer Street is currently 29 ft. wide, on the corral side they will be taking 13 feet, so there will be 16 ft. left – the road will be 16 ft. wide for vehicle traffic.
- Sgt. Weed is concerned with debris falling and not having anything to protect the pedestrians. Mr. Orgera stated that this is an Engineering issue not a Traffic Advisory Committee issue.
- Captain Wuennemann's concern would be the tower crane; depending on what they are doing you will have no parking on Summer Street.
- They will have about 3 trucks an hour queuing in. Mr. Orgera stated that Manual Traffic Control will be needed.
- The steel trucks are about 30 ft. long.
- Once the heavy lifting is done, they will not require the 13 ft., it's only required as the frame is going up.
- Mr. Orgera is concerned with stopping the traffic on lower Summer Street, because it backs up very quickly to Broad Street. This needs to be looked at.

Motion was made by Sgt. Weed, seconded by Captain Wuennemann and passed unanimously to approve the plan with the condition that it is approved by the Engineering Department and Traffic Engineering.

Anthony Scalzi – Parking Issue at 14 Relay Place.

- Mr. Gregg Scalzi owns a building at 14 Relay Place. There are many parking problems on the street, Sanitation and the Fire Department can't get in the street.
- Liberation House used to have parking behind their building, but they made it into a Basketball Court making parking worst for Relay Place.
- Mr. Scalzi suggested that the City create 7 parking spaces in the grassy area that belongs to the City by his building as well as by the corner where the parking garage is.
- Mr. Orgera stated that he will need a copy of the map of the property lines from GIS; he will look at it and determine what can be done for parking. Mr. Orgera will also talk to the Liberation House to see if some parking can be created there.
- Mr. Orgera will do the research and get back to Mr. Scalzi.

Captain Henry Marx – Landfall Navigation – Traffic Accidents at Harvard Avenue and Brown House Road Intersection.

- Captain Henry Marx stated that there is an unending chain of accidents at the intersection of Harvard Avenue and Brown House Road, which is adjacent to his business, Landfall Navigation.
- Captain Marx stated that there was an accident on May 5, 2013, where a car pulled out of Brown House Road and hit a mini bus carrying 3 wheelchair patients. The bus took out a road sign, Landfall's flag pole, 20 feet of split rail fence and seriously damaged 2 vehicles in the Landfall Parking Lot before coming to rest. Captain Marx told the Committee of other accidents that have occurred.
- Mr. Orgera thanked Captain Marx for his concern about this intersection and told him that we will look at the intersection to see if the situation there can be improved.

Carm D'Agostino – Residential Parking Permit Program for Wright Street.

- Item was tabled to the October Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting. No representative was present.

Rob Forte – Pappajohn Construction – 7 Market Street Project.

- Mr. Forte would like to rent the 2 hour parking spots on Market Street from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- BLT has a project directly behind them and to the side of them; they lost their parking about three weeks ago.
- Mr. Forte needs space for 25 vehicles.
- Project will be completed by Thanksgiving.
- With multiple projects going on in the area, the Committee cannot accommodate just one person. The Committee would have to accommodate everybody, if they also ask for parking.
- Mr. Orgera suggested parking at one of the garages, if Mr. Forte wants to offer a shuttle to his employees. Mr. Forte stated that this would not work, because the electricians and plumbers need to go back and forth to their trucks.
- Mani Poola suggested that Mr. Forte gets a Street Use Permit to allow them to have the portion of the street that they can use (it has to be a reasonable portion). They will have to barricade the area on and off every day. This will be just for the highest priority vehicles; the rest of the 2 Hour parking spaces will remain intact.

New Business

Captain Tom Wuennemann – Sidewalk Cafes.

- Captain Wuennemann stated that he has been getting a lot of complaints regarding the Sidewalk Cafes encroaching on so much percentage of the sidewalks that pedestrians are walking on the street.
- The Zoning Department is the one to enforce Sidewalk Cafes. Mr. Orgera will contact Jim Lunney to find out who actually is responsible.

As there were no further business, motion was made by Stg. Chris Weed, seconded by Paul Montanaro to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Margarita Arenas
September 25, 2013