

Barre City Transportation Advisory Committee
August 19, 2020 6:30pm
Venue: In-person (Alumni Hall)
Virtual; (ZOOM)

Members Present: Giuliano Cecchinelli, Real Maurice, Michael Hellein
Art Bombardier (arrived t 8:320 p.m.)

City Support Staff: Steve Mackenzie, City Manager;
Bill Ahearn, Director of Public Works

Visitors: Ellen Sivret, Cedric Sandborn, Amy Galford, Judy Copping, Peter Anthony,
and others

1. Vice Chair Cecchinelli called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm
2. Adjustments to the Agenda:
 - a. Agenda Item 6.a (Elect Chair) was moved to the top of the Agenda.
 - i. On a motion by Hellein, second by Bombardier– Giuliano Cecchinelli was elected Chair by unanimous vote
 - ii. On a motion by Hellein, second by Bombardier, Hellein was elected Vice-Chair; by unanimous vote.
 - iii. Bombardier previously advised the Manager he wished to step down as Secretary. Absent any volunteer, the election of a Secretary was deferred. Mackenzie stepped in to take minutes for this meeting.
3. Approval of 1/15/2020 Minutes
 - a. **Action unrecorded**
4. Visitors and Communications:
 - a. Ellen Sivret requested the City provide “Children at Play” lawn signs. Committee consensus was this is not a City function. Ellen will take up with the Neighborhood Watch Group.
 - b. Nancy Wolfe spoke to her concern about speeding on Park Street and motorists using Park Street as a by-pass to avoid Main Street traffic. She requests the Speed Cart be placed on Park Street again. Hellein also noted Park St is subject to speeding, due in part to excessive pavement width. No action taken, but it was suggested to place on a future Agenda discussion of action to reduce State Speed Limits in a Designated Downtown.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Addition of Speed Limit sign to Berlin St.

Amy Gafford spoke to the Multi-use path and traffic as it relates to ? ; coordination of water line and pavement projects, and sight line safety issues - noting Smith to Berlin Street as a problem area.

Copping noted there is only 1 speed sign at the bridge, hidden by vegetation. Ahearn noted the need for an in-bound 25 mph speed sign. He advised that the DPW will install a new sign; DPW will also cross hatch intersections (similar to the intersection of Glenwood Ave at South Main St.).

Hellein noted hedges can't be greater than 4 ft. (per Ordinance ???).

Peter Anthony raised the issue of the existing center line location on Berlin Street, and its mid-street location conflicts with parking on the North side of the street. Ahearn advised the DPW has made repeated attempts to have VTrans stripe an off-set center line. DPW is working to have this accomplished as soon as possible.

b. Convert Berlin Street to "1-Way", Main Street to Route 62

A comment was made re: 80,000 lb. overweight trucks on Berlin Street and the need to erect weight Limit signs.

Anthony suggested Berlin be converted to 1 way - Main Street to Route 62, considering the ambulance emergency travel to teh hospital. Hellein observed that one-way streets tend to make vehicles go faster.

Copping had the following observations:

- Recommends "leaving Berlin Street alone";
- Concerned about sending more traffic down Smith Street with Berlin as One-Way considering that parking orientation is ignored at Thygesen Sports and the increase in traffic it would generate at the Granite Street /Main Street intersection.

Sanborn noted that one-way out-bound would be problematic for R&L Archery, as many customers travel down Rte 62. Also, tractor trailer deliveries would be adversely impacted. He recommends at least 2-way traffic Rte. 62 to Smith St

Christian (?) expressed a "huge concern" about the impact of Berlin St. one-way traffic on other streets. Suggested a "Welcome to Barre" sign in the traffic island to reinforce slower city speeds for traffic coming off the high-speed Belt-line.

Hellein commented he is not in favor of making Berlin Street one-way as it will make traffic go faster. He also suggested a "mini-roundabout" at Smith Street.

Galford commented a round-about at Smith St is not a good idea. She asked if there are quick, inexpensive things that can be done to reduce traffic speed such as striping, speed limit signs. She commented she would be annoyed to have to re-route personal travel due to a one-way street. Also that trucks on Berlin Street are not a speed problem; its the cars. She also suggested striping a Right Turn lane at Rte. 62. Mackenzie commented that contrary to public perception, the intersection was not designed to incorporate a right-turn lane due to the signalized pedestrian crossing. She also commented that two traffic lights at Rte. 62 confuse motorists;

Mackenzie commented that two traffic lights are per highway design standards as a safety measure in the event of burned out signal bulbs.

- c. Reverse School Bus Route on Berlin Street

???

- d. Roundabout/Street Light at Main Street/Berlin Intersection

???

- e. Remove “No Right Turn on Red” sign at Berlin Street/Route 62

This is not possible due to the pedestrian signal. see discussion under Item 5.b

- f. Post a yield Sign at Brook Street entering Maple Ave

This item was discussed briefly, but the Committee consensus is that this would be a safety hazard and should not be done.

6. New Business

- a. Elect New Committee Chair

- a. See Item 2

- b. New requests to be added to Pending Items list

- a. Reduce State Speed Limits in a Designated Downtown. (From 4.b above)

- b. Hellein requested that a discussion of Washington Street (???) be added to this list.

- c.

- c. New emergency requests

- a. None

7. Confirm Next Meeting Date

- a. Regularly scheduled date is September 16th, 6:30 p.m.

8. Round Table

- a. None

9. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m. on a motion by Bombardier, second by Maurice.