

CITY OF ONEIDA
MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD
October 17, 2023
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Bruce Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice-Chairman Donald White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Buehner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Douglas Lippert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Malinowski	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Sweet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gary Hamer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Erwin Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brahim Zogby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Geer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADVISORS:

Public Safety Commissioner Kevin Salerno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steven Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Department Assistant Chief Rob Cowles	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Approval of July 18, 2023 Meeting and August 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to October 17, 2023 Meeting

Moved by James Sweet
Seconded by Gary Hamer

RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2023 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 5 (White, Buehner, Lippert, Malinowski, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business

❖ Bob Anderson update on CSX gate

Discussion: Bob Anderson let everyone know that CSX has told him that Gates will go up on Sturm Rd by the Railroad Tracks. The gates are not up at this point yet. CSX did close and put a lock on the gate on Elm St. as well.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Oneida Traffic Improvements (Skyler Cruz Wolsey)

Discussion: Some of the concerns that Skyler wrote are controlled by the State and County. Since he wrote that letter some of the Traffic Signs and other items have been reviewed and are up to date with all requirements set by the State. A letter will be sent to Skyler thanking him for his concern.

2. Oneida Plaza Drive Potholes (Christopher Barker)

Discussion: Jeff Rowe and Kevin Salerno let everyone know that Oneida Plaza Drive is private property owned by the Wal-Mart Corporation. Bob Anderson questioned how the road was named and listed on all maps if it is private property. It may have been something put in place by the company when the deed and all paperwork were filed at the time of purchase. Jeff Rowe checked the tax maps and found no public right of way in that area. A letter will be sent to Christopher Baker letting him know that that road is privately owned and to contact Wal-Mart with his concerns.

3. 3 Way intersection at Patio Circle, Stoneleigh Rd, and Cedarcrest Lane (Rachel Pace)

Moved by Gary Hamer

Seconded by James Sweet

RESOLVED that, after discussion, to make no changes at the three way intersection at Patio Circle, Stoneleigh Rd, and Cedarcrest Ln.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 5 (White, Buehner, Lippert, Malinowski, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion: Bob Anderson let everyone know that he drove through that intersection this week from all sides. There are yield signs on Stoneleigh Rd and Cedarcrest Ln, while Patio Circle Dr coming from Sayles St has the right of way. At both yield signs there is a clear line of sight on both roads. There are no visibility issues and Bob verified that all the current signage is in place here. Historically there are no issues at this location in the

10 or so years. The TSB does not want to put stop signs in this location as they are not effective as a speed deterrent.

4. All Way Stop and cross walk & stop at Lake St. and Gladwell Ave (Bob Anderson)

Moved by Brahim Zogby
Seconded by Gary Hamer

RESOLVED that, after discussion, to add 4 way stop signs, crosswalks, and stop bars at the corner of Lake St. @ Gladwell Ave.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 5 (White, Buehner, Lippert, Malinowski, Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion: Bob Anderson said that after the last special meeting in August he made a mistake and put the approved 4 way stop signs in the wrong location. When it was brought to his attention after a few days he went to remove it and got some push back from the surrounding neighbors. He left the stop signs up right now but covered them until this can be resolved. They would like the stop signs and road marks to stay. The stop signs were previously in that location but were taken down around 5 years ago. Police Chief Lowell let everyone know that a new bar opened recently on Lake St. There is now increased traffic on Lake Rd and the residents are concerned. The nearby residents would like the stop signs to stay.

5. Blue Bar Restrict Parking N. Lake St. (Sgt Ryan Warner)

Discussion: Police Chief Lowell explained that a new bar opened at the beginning of September at the corner of Lake St. and N. Main St. in Oneida. Sgt. Warner brought pictures of the area to the Board. Since the bar opened traffic in this area has slowed down, but Sgt. Warner is concerned that if they begin holding events or live music that parking may overload the parking lot and spill over into the road. There are guardrails along that section of the road and not much room for vehicles to park there. Bob Anderson let everyone know that that section of the road is maintained by the County; the only thing the city does in that area is post speed signs. Commission Kevin Salerno asked if there is that much need for a no parking sign to be put in place and Police Chief Lowell said not as much now, but that could change in the future.

New Business

- ❖ Brahim Zogby – Parking on the side of streets

Discussion: Brahim Zogby handed out picture of vehicles parking along the side of the road and into the City's Right of Way along with a copy of the City's Parking Ordinances. He is concerned about violators all over the city. These are not concerns of major safety, but about the enforcement of the law and public safety in general. He cited 2 specific locations and circumstances. On E. Sands St. near Maxwell Field there is a multi-family dwelling that was previously a small store. There is an area between the sidewalk and the road that is paved over and routinely has vehicles that on that and on the road. When both spaces are utilized the neighbors down the road for several houses do not have visibility on the road to back out of their driveways. The second area is on Cleveland Ave. and Loucks St. where vehicles will be parking in the grass area along the side of the road. Brahim reached out to the mayor previously how these situations are handled. Currently Scott Grinnell, the Community Service Officer, will give a ticket or warning to the owner bringing the violations to their attention. The Local Law (180.22 D) states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on any portion of the space between the curb or, if there is no curb, then the edge of pavement and the edge of the sidewalk farthest from the street or, if there is no sidewalk, then a point 10 feet from the edge of curb or pavement." Brahim would like clarification of the current process and whether or not it is correct. Steve Lowell reiterated that he and the Commissioner were aware of this and are awaiting interpretation of the Local Law from the City's Attorney. Currently the Community Service Officer will issue a letter of warning upon first observing the issue and typically this will clear it up. On streets where the road is narrow typically, they let the vehicle remain on the side as parking fully in the road leads to a greater occurrence for accidents.

Michael Geer inquired if there was a variance in place for the residence on E. Sands St. for having that right of way paved rather than filled with grass. Commissioner Salerno said that the Planning Department and Codes Department would know if there is a variance in place for the paving. Police Chief Lowell said he would reach out to the other Departments and let everyone know at the next meeting if there is any variance in place allowing them to park there. This issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

❖ Bob Anderson – Flashing Traffic Lights by Veterans Memorial Playground

Discussion: Bob said that he had someone from the DOT reach out and would like to finish out their project surrounding Veterans Memorial Park and Pool on N. Main St. The States project would entail removing the blinking lights north and south of the area on N. Main St. and installing a crosswalk with lights. Currently the cross walk signs we have in place are running 24/7, but they originally were on only when the pool was in use and/or the field was being used. The State would like to remove our signs and install their own signage. There was discussion about when the lights were left on 24/7 rather than as needed and what the Board would like to see. Bob was going to reach out to his contacts at the State and see if they would allow the signs to stay and tie them into the new crosswalk lights to all work together. We will be inviting the Parks Department to come to the next meeting to talk about this.

❖ Kevin Salerno – Emails from Council

Discussion: Commissioner Kevin Salerno received an email from Councilman Rick Rossi. During his door-to-door campaigning, he has spoken to residents who complained about HP Hood and their trailers throughout town. TSB talked about how they have already done as much as they could with signage and help to Hood drivers. He also had residents ask about the traffic lights and cross walks on Rt. 46. Councilor Rossi was advised that those would be State issues and not Traffic Safety Board issues.

He also had received word that residents on W. Elm St. have seen an increased amount of tractor trailers on the road. There was an inquiry about if they were large trucks from the Empire Farms Greenhouses or due to the recent explosion. Bob Anderson reminded everyone that there is a no Truck sign on Hubbard Place. Trucks leaving the greenhouses are supposed to turn right and go to Court St. but if they accidentally take a wrong turn or miss the entrance there is no other road they can go on. There is no sign on West Elm St. letting drivers know what direction to drive on when they leave. Chief Lowell has a good relationship with the manager there and will reach out to see if they can continue to educate drivers. He will also get Bob in touch with his contact there. Bob can see if they would be willing to pay for a sign that he can install on W. Elm St. to show where the entrance is.

Next Meeting Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 2:00pm

Motion to adjourn by Brahim Zogby
Seconded by Michael Geer

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Luck
Traffic Safety Board Secretary