

**CITY OF ONEIDA
MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

April 16, 2024
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

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

ADVISORS:

Public Safety Commissioner Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steven Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Department Assistant Chief Dennis Relyea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

OTHER PRESENT:

Samantha Brundage (Executive Assistant, Brine Wells Companies LLC)

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

Approval of January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to April 16, 2024 Meeting

Moved by: Erwin Smith

Seconded by: Brian Bortree

RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2024 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (Geer & Zogby)

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

❖ Vets Field/Rt 46 Lights (Bob Anderson)

Bob let everyone know that there were no updates at this time. The state is very slow to respond to any emails. He will continue reaching out to the State and either he or Shawn will let us know of any updates.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. N. Main St. and Elm St. Lights out of sync (Thomas Terrell)

Discussion:

Bob Anderson let everyone know that he fixed the sensitivity on the loops. The weather may have knocked the wires loose and it got out of sync. He rewired the light as well so any and all issues at that light should be fixed.

2. Route 5 Hood Signage (Karen Sarensky)

Discussion:

Route 5 is a State Route, and the City of Oneida has no jurisdiction over signage on that road. A letter will be sent to Mrs. Sarensky letting her know that she should reach out to the State with her concerns. There was discussion about whether or not we could reach out to Hood to give their drivers better instructions to not use the Route 5 entrance. Bob Anderson and Dennis Relyea let everyone know anything that could be done has been done. Google Maps was updated with a new road off Broad Street, GPS directions have been updated, the delivery address in driver packets has been confirmed to be on Broad St., etc. The main issue is that Hood does not have the same drivers each time and new drivers don't always follow the directions.

Part 2 of her submission was about a sign in Oneida Castle near the old school. Oneida Castle does not fall under the jurisdiction of The City of Oneida. Melissa will send a letter to the resident advising them to reach out to the Oneida County Department of Transportation.

3. Overnight Parking on Allen Park Pl. (A.C. Matthew Colella)

Discussion:

Police Chief Lowell gave some background on the area. There are 2 houses on Allen Park Place near Broadway St. that do not have driveways and the occupants park in the road. From October 15 to April 15 overnight parking rules are in effect and there is no street parking allowed on roads that are curbed. In the past this rule has been loosely enforced in this area, but the Police Department hired several new officers in the last year and vehicles have been ticketed in that area. On the south side of Allen Park Place by Allen Park there is a small cut out on the road where there are roughly 5 parking spaces that will not impede the roadway. A.C. Colella would like to allow unrestricted parking in this cutout year-round to allow for overnight parking just in that specific area. Bruce asked what currently happens with the occupants of those houses that do not have parking spots and Chief Lowell said that it is strictly a first come first serve basis for parking there. Kathy asked if there is still room for Fire Trucks to get down the road if vehicles are in that cut out. A.C. Relyea said that if the vehicles are in the cut out there is room for the Fire Department to get through, but if they are parked on the road then there is not room for the trucks. Gary inquired if there was room on the properties for

driveways to be put in and Erwin asked who owns that property. Chief Lowell didn't believe there was room on the properties to put in driveways and that the City owns that property. The no parking rule is only in effect from 2AM to 6AM from October 15 to April 15. From April to October vehicles can park in that area and on the road with no consequences. Erwin asked if would be possibly to have every other night parking on either side of the street like larger cities do, and AC Relyea said that it would not be possible as the Fire Trucks would not be able to make it down the street in the case of an emergency. Melissa will reach out to City Attorney Nadine Bell as to the correct way to amend the local law.

Moved by: Don White

Seconded by: Brian Bortree

RESOLVED, The Traffic Safety Board recommended amending Local Law 180-21 to Common Council to allow unrestricted parking year-round in the parking spaces on the south side of Allen Park Place.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (Geer & Zogby)

4. 302 Main St. Parking Spaces (Gerri Gray)

Discussion:

Bob Anderson advised that the traditional area of Main St. that is painted annually runs from Stone St. to Elm St. and he does not recommend painting parking lines in this spot. The DPW does not have the time or resources to Paint beyond those points with the other work that needs to be done in the summer. After the January meeting new parking signs were placed in front of the area to better denote the parking area as per the owner's request and a letter was sent to alert them of the change coming. Bob and Shawn will not have time to paint those extra spaces; they will be painting from May to October in between paving and other duties. A suggestion was made to place a Sandwich Board denoting parking out every day. After conferring with the Codes Department, a Sandwich Board is not allowed to be placed out. The parcel is zoned residential and according to Local Law 190-15 (Zoning & Sign requirements) subsection C-22 Sandwich signs: allowed in Downtown Commercial Zone only; must be removed daily at close of business; not to exceed two feet by three feet; one sandwich sign per business. Melissa will let the owner know they can reach out to the Codes Department for sign recommendations.

Moved by: Barbara Buehner

Seconded by: Don White

RESOLVED that, after discussion, to make no changes to Parking Spot Markings at 302 Main St.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2 (Geer & Zogby)

5. No Parking Zone on Cedar St. (Samantha Brundage)

Discussion:

Samantha Brundage was there on behalf of Brine Wells Companies LLC. They have been working hard on beginning work on the old Oneida Hotel renovations on Cedar St. They are looking to have the 3 parking spaces on Cedar Street in front of 214 Cedar St. marked as no parking between the hours of 6AM and 10AM. They are working on scheduling all their deliveries during that time and having the spaces open will help facilitate the deliveries. Part of the agreement with the City is that they will have to provide additional parking spaces somewhere else in the City. The company is looking to start work in late spring or early summer. Currently they are working to get the appropriate permits and temporary fencing will be going up within the next week. There was discussion on where the tenants that currently use those spots would park and who would alert them of the alternative parking area. Samantha said Brine Wells would alert the tenants of alternate parking behind the Kallet Theater. After all the construction is completed there will be a new parking lot created that will have 20 spots for residents to use.

Moved by: Erwin Smith
Seconded by: Michael Geer

RESOLVED, that, after discussion, a “No Parking 6AM to 10AM, Delivery Trucks Only” sign, in front of 214 Cedar St.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2 (Geer & Zogby)

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ All Way Stop and cross walk & stop at Lake St. and Gladwell Ave (Buehner)

Discussion:

Barbara questioned the installation of the stop signs last fall. Bob admitted that the installation in August was originally a mistake on his part, but when we went to remove them and correct his mistake citizens around the area reached out requesting the signs to stay. At the October TSB meeting the members present voted to add 4 way stop signs, crosswalks, and stop bars. Barbara feels there is no need for the signs to be there as it is a quiet neighborhood. Dave Jones let everyone know that the other bridge north on Rt 46 will be closed for repairs this summer and traffic will be diverted down Lake St. The stop signs may help to control the extra traffic. The Board agreed to table the issue and revisit it in the fall after the bridge construction.

- ❖ CSX/Strum Road Railroad Access Point (Bob Anderson)

Discussion:

Bob went back and forth with Cornell at CSX about the access point. CSX originally agreed to install gates at the location and then after pricing out the gates changed their minds. Bob told them we would put signs up and close off the access point if no gate would be put up. CSX agreed and said they would abandon the access point. The signs have already been put up and if the signs are knocked over or removed a trail camera will be placed up to monitor. The signs are removable if another disaster were to occur and access is needed.

❖ Traffic Lights on Lenox Ave (Brian Bortree)

Discussion:

Brian inquired about the traffic lights on Lenox Ave and why the left hand arrow is a flashing yellow. Bob let everyone know that that is a State traffic light and they would have the answer. There was also a question about that light and the light on Main St. being out of sync. Bob let everyone know that the City light system and State light system are not compatible and the State will overrule and override every time.

❖ Madison County Craft Show Safety Concerns (Michael Geer)

Discussion:

Michael Geer said that the Madison County Historical Society is planning their annual craft show in September and they have some safety concerns over traffic on Main St. Vehicles are parked all along the road and citizens have trouble seeing past those vehicles into traffic to cross the street. They are not looking to have vehicles ticketed left and right as this was already tried and lots of people had issues with being ticketed. They would like a dedicated person to act as a crossing guard at Grove and Main. Chief Lowell asked the Historical Society to reach out to the Police Department to work something out.

❖ Kenwood Ave Issues (Steven Lowell)

Discussion:

Chief Lowell let everyone know he reached out to Chief Drake with the Sherrill Police Department who agreed to assist with speed enforcement along Kenwood Ave and The Vineyard. He has had residents in that area reach out to say they are happy with the police presence they have seen. The weather has finally improved and warmed to the point where the Radar Signs are out. The signs will move around the city and surrounding area as traffic issues dictates.

Chief Lowell also wanted to let everyone know that Timothy Killian has reached out again this week, possibly looking for a crosswalk or stop sign to be installed at the Kenwood Ave and Vineyard intersections. Steve hasn't been able to determine what Killian is looking for specifically yet but will continue communicating with him. There was discussion about how much a stop sign and post set up costs and possibly having the Mansion House Association footing the bill. Bob let everyone know the last time the complete set up was purchased it was around \$500 per sign.

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

Motion to adjourn by: Don White

Seconded by: Michael Geer

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Luck
Traffic Safety Board Secretary