

CITY OF ONEIDA
MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD
October 15, 2024

MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Bruce Burke	Yes
Vice-President Donald White	Yes
Barbara Buehner	No
Kathy Malinowski	Yes
James Sweet	No
Erwin Smith	Yes
Brahim Zogby	No
Michael Geer	No
Brian Bortree	Yes
Gary Laureti	No

ADVISORS

Public Safety Commissioner Dave Jones	Yes
Police Chief Steven Lowell	Yes
Fire Dept. Assistant Chief Dennis Relyea	Yes
Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer	Yes

Absent Advisors: City Engineer Jeff Rowe & Police Lieutenant Ryan Warner

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawn Gerrett and Paul McDonald from HOOD

The regular meeting was called to order at 2 pm by Chairman Bruce Burke. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Overnight Parking on Allen Park Place

Brian said he had measured the street and it was not wide enough to allow overnight street parking. Police Chief Lowell explained that the residents were only asking to use the bump out on the park side of the street year-round. Dave Jones thought it wouldn't hurt anything to allow the bump out to be used year-round. Erwin Smith made a motion not to change the local law and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1 & 2:

Citizen Complaints: Parking in T-Intersections (Seneca/Bates, Seneca/W. Walnut, & N. Lake/E. Elm) and request for painting of cross walks and stop lines at intersecting side streets.

After discussion by board members and advisors, including safety issues, cost of changes, and consequences, Erwin Smith made a motion to take no action. Don White seconded, and the motion passed.

3. Uptick in Hood Truck Traffic on city streets:

Hood representatives explained that they were working with Google Maps to make sure that delivery/pick up address instructions were being properly given. They also added "I LOBBY" which allows drivers who don't speak English to select instructions in the language of their choice. They explained that the drivers that were not adhering to local truck traffic laws were not "Hood" employees. Hood uses 5-6 truck brokers to facilitate product delivery. The Hood representatives said they would reach out to their brokers again and ask them to please continue to advise drivers of local laws and that non-compliance could result in fines. There was appreciation expressed that they were trying new ways to help the drivers understand how to safely and responsibly work in our city.

4. Antiquated Traffic Lights:

Shawn Palmer said that Oneida owns "5" lights. (Two of which are scheduled for costly updates.) It would be less expensive to put in four-way stops. He also said that 3 of the lights are timed together, so when someone is sitting at a red light and sees no traffic, that doesn't mean that there isn't traffic at another intersection. Fire Dept. rep. Dennis said that the fire dept. does have the ability to turn certain lights red/green to aid in the fire dept.'s safe navigation through the city. Dennis and Shawn both said the lights were working properly. (antiquated?)

Safety was the biggest concern. Traffic lights are the most effective at getting people to stop and safely maneuver intersections. It was discussed that a minute here or there of waiting was preferable to injury. No action was taken.

5. Route 5 Dunkin Donuts blockage:

It was discussed that sometimes there is wait time to get past Dunkin Donuts. While it can be annoying, we don't have the authority to make Dunkin' Donuts change anything. We also don't have the authority to change anything on route 5. It's not our road. Therefore, no action will be taken.

6. Citizen Complaint: Boston Street near Phillips

Members and advisors discussed safety issues at this location. Erwin made a motion to put up "No Parking" signs around the inside curve of Phillips from Boston St. to the Chapel St. intersection." This was tabled until the Chief could check with attorney Nadine, and Shawn could give us the cost of implementing the measure.

Motion to adjourn at 3:20 by Bruce. All were in favor. Respectfully submitted, Kathy Malinowski

NEXT MEETING: December 19th, 2024 at 2:00 PM at City Hall, 109 N. Main St., Oneida.