

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Meeting commenced at 1:10 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Present at Meeting: Chief Melanson, Matt Blume, Scott Zenke, Jim Platosh & Charlie Leach

I. Old Business:

1. **0515-03 – Requesting to Turn High Street into a Cul-de-Sac or Place Speed Bumps** - (Jackie Pisani, Chris Harrison & other neighbors) – Item Tabled until Town Engineer can review the Draft with the Engineering Firm.
2. **0515-05 – Request All-Way Stop Control at River Road Intersection at Longridge Court/Brightwood Road** – (Matt Blume) – Chief Melanson was unable to visit the site and will make recommendations after he meets with Russ Arnold. This Item Tabled.

II. New Business:

1. **1015-01 – Design Requests for Tunxis Street at Main Street (Rte. 10) Junction – (Charlie Leach & Kerry Tharpe)** – Charlie Leach gave a handout to the Committee regarding some of the issues on Tunxis Street. A few of the main issues are that there is no Stop Bar and no zebra markings for the crosswalk and that there is a 30 foot gap in the sidewalk. Charlie also mentioned site line issues and speeding cars. Charlie along with the residents who signed the petition would like a marked crosswalk and a stop bar at the end of Tunxis Street and would like to continue the sidewalk to the end of the street and extend the curb out. Matt Blume said there may not be enough volume of cars to warrant a crosswalk but he will request one from the DOT. Matt also reported that chicanes for this road would not be super helpful as people would just drive down the middle of the road. Matt reported that 30mph to 32mph was the 85 percentile, while there were not many cars driven over 35mph. Matt said he will have to look at the radius of the road as it may need to stay at what it is for emergency vehicles to be able to make the turn. Matt also mentioned that the catch basins may impede changing the radius of the street. The Committee decided that Matt will check with the state for a crosswalk, the turn radius and installing a stop bar. There was discussion to have the Community Police talk with the parents about keeping their children safely on the sidewalk and to remind neighbors to be aware of their driving speeds. This Item Tabled.
2. **1015-02 – Speeding on Jefferson Street and Request a Stop Sign at Corner of Birch Street and Buena Vista** - (Sandra Wolf) – Matt reported that a traffic study was performed on Jefferson Street showing that, on average, vehicles travel between 26 and 28 miles per hour, with a small percentage traveling over 35 miles per hour. The “No Thru Traffic” sign

requested for Jefferson Street would only divert traffic to other Lake Garda Streets, and enforcement of that sign would prove challenging. The potential for installing a stop sign or “Go Slow Children” signs were also discussed by the committee, however, the state and federal government do not allow stop signs to be utilized for speed control, and the “Go Slow Children” at play signs are no longer included in the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. It is important to note that the “No Right Turn” sign, previously erected, has cut the volume of traffic significantly. Committee recommends increased police presence and Selective Enforcement for Jefferson Street and the Lake Garda area in marked and unmarked cars. Item Closed.

3. **1015-03 – Request Speed Limit Signage for Farm Spring Road** – (Captain Porter) – Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the State requesting 25mph signs posted. One to be posted on the way into the Road and one posted on the way out. Item Closed.

4. **1015-04 – Interstate 84 Signage – Farmington – (Kathy Eagen)** – Chief Melanson reported that the Town Manager and Russ Arnold had met with DOT and have requested to add Farmington onto the Exit 38 sign along with Bristol and Route 6 in order to keep drivers off of Route 4. The Exit 39 – Route 4 sign will remain the same and the Entering Farmington sign will read Next 3 Exits instead of Next 2 Exits. The Committee did not see a down side to this signage except maybe for merchants in the gate way. The Committee recommended that semi- variable message boards be used on both sides of the I-84 highway during the construction period. Item Closed.

III. Issues:

1. Bike Signage Request – (Matt Blume)The Bike Committee is requesting that the Highway Department add “Share the Road” Signs and “Bicycle Friendly Community” Signs on Fienemann Road and also at the Bike trails and Trail Heads where feasible. TRB Committee agrees with the signage.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next TRB meeting date remains to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Golas, Confidential Secretary