



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GUILDERLAND

Minutes for Committee Meeting on July 23, 2008

Attendees: Present: - Captain Curt Cox, Minnie Lee, Scott Snide, Norine Molloy, Patricia Slavick, Joe Hallenbeck, Betty McGowan and Jerry Houser who recorded the minutes.

Absent: Mike Hotaling

Meeting began at 7:05PM.

- 1) **Minutes** - The minutes from the June 4, 2008 meeting were adopted as submitted.

Unfinished Business

1) **Norman Avenue** – Two speed studies have been conducted in the area. The first study was conducted for a total of 7 days from June 2, 2008 to June 9, 2008. The study showed that heading south to Seward St. there were a total of 925 vehicles and the 85% speed was 25 mph. It also showed heading north to Western Ave. there were a total of 231 vehicles and the 85% speed was 26 mph.

The second study was conducted from July 7, 2008 to July 14, 2008. This study showed that heading south to Seward St. there were a total of 801 vehicles and the 85% speed was 28 mph. It also showed heading north to Western Ave. there were a total of 131 vehicles and the 85% speed was 28 mph.

Based on these studies, there is no real indication of speeding on this street other than some isolated incidents.

The TSC agreed to refer to the Guilderland Police Department to monitor the situation and enforce speeding law as necessary. Captain Cox will contact the resident to advise. N/F/A

2) **Batterman Lane** – As agreed at the last meeting, the TSC contacted the management of Woodlakes Apartments and linked them to the complainant. The TSC has been advised that the complainant has installed a sign indicating that the drive is private property. Because this is private property, it is outside the purview of the Town. N/F/A

3) **Western Turnpike** – As a follow-up to the last meeting, the TSC has written to the NYS Department of Transportation about the concerns of the residents and that the TSC supports a reduction in the speed limit at the location previously indicated. The TSC has not received a response to its letter but the NYS DOT is conducting a traffic study of the area. T/B/C.

New Business

1) **Presidential Estates** – This is a request for a Children at Play sign on Presidential Way. Mike reported that currently there is no Children at Play sign installed on entering the sub-division on Presidential Way and that a Children at Play sign could be

installed at this location. There is a Children at Play sign installed on entering the sub-division from Heritage Village on Jefferson Ct.

Two speakers appeared and requested that the TSC consider a 3-way stop at Lincoln Drive and Presidential Way.

Captain Cox reported that the speed trailer was already in place and that Mike would be sending out traffic safety cards to the neighborhood.

The TSC voted to install a Children at Play sign and to proceed with a traffic study of the area. T/B/C

2) Covington Woods – The Covington Woods Neighborhood Association requests that yield signs be changed to stop signs (citing close calls) and to add new street signs that are bigger and custom for the neighborhood. They cite that at night the signs are hard to read. Questions arise: is there a town standard?; who foots the bill for the price difference of custom signs?; and what would be the process. Via e-mail, Mike reports that the Town’s guidelines for street signs are those from the Federal Manual of Traffic Control Devices. To the best of his knowledge, there are two sub-divisions in town that have custom street name signs in their neighborhoods (Woodscape and Weatherfield); these signs were purchased and installed by the developer and are fully maintained by the homeowners associations. The TSC agreed to recommend to the Town Board that six of the seven yield signs be replaced with stop signs. Also, the TSC recommended that the Neighborhood Association would bear the cost of the manufacture and installation of the replacement street signs and that it should contact the Guilderland Highway Department for further direction. N/F/A

3) Empire Avenue – This is a request to review the appropriateness of the street barricade on Empire Avenue which was recently forced open by emergency services staff (fire department) so that equipment could reach a house fire on Empire Avenue. The Town has received communication from a number of Town residents in his area including signed petitions, both pro and con, as to whether the street barrier on Empire Avenue should remain or be removed. The barrier was placed there at the direction of the Town Planning Board when the development was built and to be removed at a future time when the further development takes place. Further development has not yet taken place.

The main issue was that emergency services- those not in the Town of Guilderland- did not know of the barrier and had taken a route to the fire which brought them to the wrong side of the barrier.

In addition to residents who presented both sides of the issue, Steve Feeney, Chairman of the Planning Board, explained the reasons for the barrier.

The TSC decided to hold-over a decision so that the members could visit the location and to research options that may be available. T/B/C

Public Speakers

NAME	ADDRESS	Telephone/e-mail	AGENDA ITEM
David Freedman	Lincoln		Presidential
Gary App___	Presidential		Presidential
Barbara Webb	Jean Place		Empire Barricade
Clifford Waldman	Jean Place		“
Geral W. Ho___	Jean Place		“
Unreadable	Empire Avenue		“
Robert _____	Empire Avenue		“

Mike Bernhardt	Christina Drive		“
Joe Natale	Jean Place		“
Roberty Pagnotti	Lone Pine Drive		“
Rob Brown	Christina Drive		“