

**CITY OF ONEIDA
TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

January 15, 2019

2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Public Safety Commissioner Mike West	—
Police Chief Paul Thompson	<u>Yes</u>
Fire Department Rep Rob Cowles	—
City Engineer	—
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	<u>Yes</u>
Chairman Bruce Burke	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Chairman Donald White	<u>Yes</u>
Barbara Buehner	—
Douglas Lippert	<u>Yes</u>
Kathy Malinowski	<u>Yes</u>
James Sweet	<u>Yes</u>
Mike Kaiser	<u>Yes</u>
Gary Hamer	<u>Yes</u>
Kipp Hicks	—
Jim Dalzell	<u>Yes</u>

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

Moved by Kathy Malinowski
Seconded by Mike Kaiser

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of 10/16/18 are hereby approved.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Painting of Handicap spaces – Oneida Dental Group

Traffic Advisor Bob Anderson said that the cut-off for striping/decals for handicap parking is Stone Street and just past the Red Apple on Main, other than at the pool parking lot. He said that the City Engineer is in agreement, and he has no problem with the handicap parking sign. The Traffic Adviser said that where the sign was placed in front of the Presbyterian Church and the one in front of the Catholic Church have no striping or decals either, and there has not been any issues. He said that there is one exception on Grove Street where there is a drop-off at the school for pre-K.

Moved by Mike Kaiser
Seconded by Kathy Malinowski

RESOLVED, that the Resolution at the October 16, 2018 meeting approving a handicap decal and striping in front of the office at 308 Main Street be hereby rescinded, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Chairman will write a letter to the Oneida Dental Group at 308 Main Street explaining the Board's decision.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mt. Hope Avenue Hidden Driveway Sign

Traffic Advisor Anderson said that the City only has authority for speed limit signs on Mt. Hope Avenue, and the County has the authority for all other signs. He said that he went to the County to see if a hidden driveway sign could be placed as Mr. Bortle requested, and they basically told him to mind his own business. Police Chief Thompson, who is a member of the County's Traffic Safety Board was also told that the City has no jurisdiction over yellow signs. The Chairman will notify Mr. Bortle.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1. – PLANNING DIRECTOR CASSIE ROSE
DISCUSSION OF JAMES STREET

Planning Director Cassie Rose said that they would like to close off James Street from Railroad to Madison to vehicular traffic and create a pedestrian walkway as part of their Downtown Revitalization Program. She said that \$15,000 from the Main Street Program Grant is dedicated for this project, which will include physical barriers, lighting and directional signage. She added that the Rail Trail is opening on Oneida Street this spring also. She said that grad students from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry will be helping with the design. Jim Dalzell questioned if she had spoken with the adjoining property owners. Director Rose said that last year they shut the street down for one day placing potted trees and plants at each end. They had bales of hay around to use as benches, games in the street written in with chalk, lights etc. with the help of the SUNY college class. She said that they only received one negative comment from a person who likes to park in one of the three parking spaces on that street. She said that they finally have downtown business owners who believe in the potential of downtown and are investing money in their buildings. Director Rose said this summer you will see work being done on six different buildings. There is a \$700K Restore NY Grant allocated to create upper rate apartments on Madison Street. She said that the downtown commercial district has been designated as a Historic District by NYS. Discussion continued with respect to the fire trucks, and Board Member Dalzell said the trucks would work from the corners if ever needed. The Chairman said that he is concerned about losing three parking spaces, and Traffic Advisor Anderson said that once that area in back of the buildings is striped, a lot of parking spaces will be gained. Jim Dalzell said that the Board should make a recommendation to the Council.

Moved by Doug Lippert

Seconded by James Dalzell

RESOLVED, that the Oneida Traffic Safety Board hereby gives positive recommendation for the proposed James Street Project of closing the street to create a pedestrian walkway, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Chairman will write a letter denoting said positive recommendation to be received by the Common Council at the February 5, 2019 meeting.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 - REQUEST FROM COUNCILOR MIKE BOWE – PLACEMENT OF A
CROSSWALK AT AMERICAN LEGION TO PARKING LOT ON N. MAIN STREET (RT. 46)

Traffic Advisor Anderson said that the crosswalk by the entrance to Vet's Field is about 100 yards away and noted that the sidewalks end at the entrance to Vet's. He said the City cannot paint a sidewalk on a

State Highway, we can only ask the State to place a crosswalk there. He said if a crosswalk were to be placed there, it would require curb cuts by the NYS DOT also. A question was asked if the Legion has an agreement with the Gorman Foundation to park in their parking lot. James Dalzell said that the State has put all the crosswalks where it wanted on Rt. 46 and is already done, so it might be a hard sell to add another. The Chairman said that he will let Councilor Bowe know that NYS has to be contacted for this request.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - DISCUSSION RELATING TO MIDDLE ROAD
SPEED LIMIT SIGNS**

Chairman Burke said that the Board received a good explanation from the Police Chief. The Traffic Advisor said that coming off of Chapel Street onto Middle Road you wouldn't know that the speed limit is 30 MPH, noting that the next sign is 45 MPH. He said that Union and Chapel Streets are both 30 MPH. The Chairman asked if we need additional signage, and the Traffic Advisor said the City Engineer said no we don't. The Traffic Advisor said that the City Engineer would like signs stating "30 MPH Unless Otherwise Posted" at every entrance to the City. The Police Chief said that the perception of that area is rural, and folks perceive that the speed limit is higher than 30 MPH. He said that adding that extra sign on Middle Road wouldn't hurt. It was noted that the City Code states that ½ mile from Chapel Street the speed limit changes from 45 MPH to 30 MPH. Doug Lippert said that the Police Chief says yes to the sign and added that the sign has to do with traffic safety.

Moved by Doug Lippert
Seconded by James Dalzell

RESOLVED, that a Traffic Order be prepared to place a 30 MPH speed limit sign on Middle Road by Chapel Street in a location determined by the Traffic Safety Advisor.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE ON
ONEIDA STREET BETWEEN MAIN AND WILLIAMS**

Mike Kaiser questioned the signage for Oneida Street. Traffic Advisor Anderson said that Oneida Street will be used as a parking lot, noting that the early cold weather has not allowed him to do the striping of the spaces. Mike said that there is no stop sign at the end onto Williams Street. The Traffic Advisor said that he will check with the City Engineer, as there is nothing on the drawings noting how to finish the street, adding that possibly one-way signs could be added. He noted that the parking spaces will double, and the Chairman said that he guesses he shouldn't worry about losing three spaces on James Street. The Traffic Advisor said he will have to speak to the City Engineer, as he unsure as to what signage will be necessary.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 5. – REQUEST FROM DEPUTY MAYOR CHAMBERLAIN CONSIDER
REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT
ON ABE'S WAY TO 30 MPH, END TO END**

The Board said that the speed limit on Abe's Way goes up to 45 MPH and part of that street is not within the City limits. Police Chief Thompson said that there is no accident history on Abe's Way. Jim Dalzell said that the houses are set back from the road and about ¾ of the way down, it no longer belongs to the City. Gary Hamer questioned why this is needed, as they have nothing in writing from a resident listing the reasons why they want it changed. Jim said that it is hard to maintain 30 MPH on a country road. The Police Chief said that sometimes we can overregulate. The Chairman said that he will check with the Deputy Mayor for further information, and this will be addressed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Crosswalks on Freedom Drive

Traffic Advisor Anderson said that the City Engineer has spoken with the owner of All Seasonings about installing crosswalks at their facility, and a map was presented. He said that it would be no big deal to maintain two more sidewalks. Donald White said that it is safety first if the factory workers will be using it. Traffic Advisor Anderson said that it is City jurisdiction, but he follows State compliance. He said that there is not a good line of sight to the proposed crosswalks and suggested placing a "Crosswalk Ahead" sign.

Moved by James Dalzell
Seconded by Donald White

RESOLVED, that a Traffic Order be prepared to add one "Crosswalk Ahead" sign on Freedom Drive in a location determined by the Traffic Safety Advisor.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

East Walnut Street Stop Sign

Don White said that he has thought about it and thinks that the stop sign on E. Walnut Street should be moved over to Wilson Street. Chairman Burke said that the Police Chief said, like with the matter of the four way stop signs at Williams & E. Elm, along with changes people sometimes get confused and that can be worse than better. The Board said that they already voted not to move the sign on E. Walnut. Don said that it is something for thought. The Chairman said for everyone to think about it, and we will revisit the sign issue at the next meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers.

Moved by James Dalzell

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pulverenti
City Clerk