

**Streets and Roads Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009**

Subject to Commission Review & Approval

Commission members in attendance: Chair, Dawn Adair Johnson; Councilmember Peter Helt; Dave Blais; and Tora Mahoney.

Citizens: Mary Jane Wilson

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

II. Administrative items

a. Notes from the Chair

i. Welcome David Blais!

The Commission welcomed its newest member Dave Blais.

ii. Update on CCPS and FCPS bus route concerns

Carroll County elementary school students had to cross Main Street. To appease parents' safety concern, bus driver pick up students on one side of the street and then turned around to pick up students on the other side of the street when the bus returned. The bus route wasn't changed in any way; however, by doing this, the bus driver wasn't following the transportation policy. Parents were suggested to contact Carroll County transportation to present their concerns.

Helt indicated that the bus driver's decision made perfect sense since the bus traveled both ways anyway.

It will be asked that disciplinary actions not to be taken against the bus driver.

Town Administrator Monika Weierbach has conveyed the overall safety concern.

b. Departmental Report

Councilmember Helt presented the report in Moxley's absence: 3 new benches on town parking lot; Top soiling/seeding done; New culvert; Labor Day flags; Repainted crosswalks; Cleaned culverts; and Tree removal and clearing.

c. Council Liaison Report

Helt took the SHA plan to Economic Development Commission. He received positive feedback from that Commission.

Helt attended a mediation session regarding the Sunset Avenue drain issue. Unfortunately, no resolution was reached. They will move on to trial.

d. Review of prior minutes

Chair noted some formatting corrections. Helt moved to approve with noted corrections; Mahoney 2nd the motion with noted corrections.

III. Citizen Comments not otherwise on the Agenda

Mary Jane Wilson was interested in the Flower Ave. traffic count results.

Helt stated that the counter was recently pulled off of Flower Ave., and set up on Merridale.

The Chair has recently had drivers pass her on the double line on Flower Ave.

Mary Jane Wilson noted that the traffic counter lines sometimes “flop” when they come loose from the road. Moxley has assured the Commission in the past that this ultimately has no bearing on the results.

Helt shared Moxley’s comments on the traffic count results for Flower Ave. Moxley noted that the count looks good with a few exceptions. There are one or two problem times or areas. Moxley will have trooper address the problem.

IV. Old Business--Rising Ridge count #2

Helt noted that there was an improvement. The Chair believes that there is room for more improvement and that Moxley’s efforts with signage helped. Helt offered that drivers perceive that the speed limit is a 30 mph on this road because it is not residential street; however, the speed limit is really 25 mph. Chair stated the need to continue to work with the troopers and have them patrol the road on a random basis.

V. New Business--SHA plans for Main Street

The Chair will hold this issue open for public comment for 2 to 3 months. The Chair explained that the State is paying for a large portion of the project and the plan may not happen for 5 years. Blais asked how much the plan is projected to cost. Helt stated that the Town will pay for the projects concerning Park Ave. and most of Center Street. The Chair stated that the cost is approximately \$400k. Helt opined that most of the cost is for the drainage and grading. Helt stated that the Town has some money already set aside to upgrade Center Street. Helt advised the Commission that whenever a new business is built on Center Street, the business has to kick in some funds

for the road upgrade. Helt noted that a small corner of Patriot Park will be taken for the turn lane, which may cause some dissatisfaction.

Here are couple quick notes from the Chair about how this plan will benefit our Downtown area:

- This plan makes the east side of our Main Street fully compliant with ADA, the federal disability laws which we are required to do by statute, from Park Ave. to the Mt. Airy Pharmacy entrance.
- By making Park Ave. one way, and eliminating through traffic starting at Cross Street, the business and truck traffic will be reduced through this predominantly residential neighborhood and will enhance the traffic flow on Main Street.
- The center crosswalk will be aligned with the stairs from the Muni lot, improving the line of sight for better crossing and would encourage the lot's use.
- Net gain of multiple parking spaces that would not be subject to Main Street's 2 hour limit since they are adjacent to, rather than on, Main Street.
- With the use of the side door commonly used, this sidewalk installation provides safer ingress/egress for the Gun Shack and a secondary route to get to the Muni lot if the stairs are not an option, such as with a stroller.
- The majority of the cost will be borne by the state, and we can apply for grant money or matching money to fund the additional improvements that are beyond the state's area making the Town's investment less substantial.
- This provides westbound Park Ave traffic a safer approach to Main Street and opens their options to turn either right or left.
- This will improve the collection of storm runoff down Center Street and reduce the impacts of storm water on the buildings on the west side of Main Street.

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: Helt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by several.
Vote: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tora Mahoney