

HENNIKER HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

June 23, 2011

Members Present: Chairman Ryan Murdough, Gary Guzouskas, Steve Connor, Keith Gilbert, and Lance Rickenberg.

Guest: Rocky Bostrom

5:10

Meeting opened with Ryan giving background concerning the advertising signage at the center of town in the triangle. The selectmen have had several discussions at their meetings and the present policy has revisions for review at a future meeting.

The charge to the committee is to discuss if any sign should be permitted in the triangle.

All present agreed the intersection is a very busy one and the proposed changes to the policy look good.

Options for sign placement given were the fire department area, now being used without need for a permit, anywhere but obvious travel path and not near the mailbox. Veterans Park was also mentioned, but that being a state road, members were unclear if that was a feasible option.

Lance stated he did not think any signs in the triangle should be allowed, as they are very distracting to drivers, as not only the intersection is heavy with traffic, but also two businesses, Citizens Bank and Gin Gin Restaurant, both have outlets on to Maple Street.

Gary expressed if any sign should be permitted there, perhaps one to highlight that the area is a pedestrian crossing, as the roadway print is not very visible until you are right upon it when traveling south through town.

Ryan stated he just had a meeting with the NEC president who expressed concern with the busy intersection as part of the Safe Routes to School discussion. He shared data information collected by the program as to the number of cars that travel in the area. He stated the study was done from a Tuesday-Thursday with the following results:

Hall Avenue near White Birch CC- 791
Route 114 north of downtown – 5082
Rush Road south of Prospect- 1253
Western Avenue east of Fairview- 2083.

Gary added the numbers collected from another source did not coincide with traffic from school operation times.

Further discussion included regulating signage with the current policy and revisions, no signage and crosswalk signage concerns. It was noted that the town does not meet most, if not all, of the state specifications for crosswalks.

MOTION- Lance made the motion to regulate no signage at the intersection. Gary seconded. The vote was 4-1 in favor with Keith opposing.

Members continued discussion of crosswalk enhancements with suggestions to paint the roadway area a solid color, better signage prior to crosswalk area, raised pavement areas and lighted structures when pedestrians are in the crosswalk.

Keith researched the Internet and read information from the Manual of Uniformed Traffic Control Devices.

MOTION- Ryan made the motion for the town to explore options to increase visibility in crosswalks, such as painting the roadway, adding speed tablets or others. Gary seconded. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

As there was no other business, motion was made to adjourn meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by
Gail Abramowicz