

A regular meeting of the Troy Traffic Committee was held Wednesday, January 18, 2017 in the Lower Level Conference Room at Troy City Hall. Pete Ziegenfelder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Don Johnson
Sunil Sivaraman
Cynthia Wilsher
Pete Ziegenfelder
Muyang Wang (Student Representative)

Absent: Richard Kilmer
Al Petrulis

Also present: Erion Nikolla, 53976 Desano, Shelby Twp., MI 48315
Sgt. Mike Szuminski, Police Department
Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

2. Minutes – November 16, 2016

Resolution # 2017-01-01
Moved by Wilsher
Seconded by Johnson

To approve the November 16, 2016 minutes as printed.

Yes: Johnson, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder
No: None
Absent: Kilmer, Petrulis

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Request for Sidewalk Waiver – 5931 Sussex – Sidwell #88-20-07-101-012

Erion Nikolla requests a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk at 5931 Sussex (Sidwell #88-20-07-101-012). Mr. Nikolla states *“Existing subdivision with no sidewalks in the whole neighborhood. The house fronts on dirt road and is next (south) of senior living home build in 2015 which also has no sidewalks [on Sussex].”*

The Department of Public Works (DPW) recommends approving this waiver request and not requiring the installation of sidewalk per the attached memo.

Mr. Nikolla was in attendance at the meeting and was in favor of a sidewalk waiver. He stated that there are no other sidewalks in the neighborhood or along either side Sussex. There would be trees on the north end of his property that would have to be removed. There are ditches for

roadside drainage that would make sidewalk installation difficult. This would be 100' of sidewalk that would lead to nowhere and connect to nothing.

Ms. Wilsher stated that she is in favor of sidewalks.

Mr. Ziegenfelder also stated that he is in favor of sidewalks.

Mr. Sivaraman asked if this request had been before the Committee previously. [This location has not been before the Committee previously].

Mr. Johnson stated that this would be along a gravel road. [There is the potential for a Special Assessment District (SAD) paving project along Sussex. There is a public hearing scheduled at the January 23, 2017 City Council meeting. The SAD paving project does not include sidewalk installation as it would be a separate SAD project for sidewalk only, if desired by residents].

Ms. Wilsher made a motion to deny the sidewalk waiver request which did not receive support.

Mr. Wang discussed the fact that the Committee had previously approved a sidewalk waiver on Sussex for the senior care facility directly to the north. If a sidewalk were required at 5931 Sussex it would not connect to another sidewalk as the senior care facility has a sidewalk waiver in place to the north and there is no sidewalk to the south.

Ms. Bluhm provided some general information on the sidewalk waiver process.

Mr. Johnson asked if there would be underground drainage installed as part of the SAD paving project. [The SAD paving project includes open ditch, roadside drainage].

Ms. Bluhm discussed the basis for granting a waiver which should be based on physical issues or limitations on installation such as trees, ditches, or other physical characteristics that make installing a sidewalk a hardship. Cost is not to be part of the decision. In general, the Committee should base their decision on whether the property meets the standard or not.

Mr. Johnson asked if sidewalk installation would require tree removal [yes, several trees on the north end of the property would need to be removed].

Mr. Ziegenfelder noted that the senior care facility to the north did receive a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk along Sussex on their east property line, but did install sidewalk along Square Lake and Adams Road frontages.

Ms. Wilsher added that this area is very rural and has significant mature trees.

An unnamed resident was in attendance with concerns about the proposed SAD paving project and her assessment cost. She was informed that the sidewalk waiver and SAD paving project were separate issues. Furthermore, her opportunity to speak on the SAD paving project would be at the Public Hearing on Monday, January 23 at the City Council meeting.

Resolution # 2017-01-02

Moved by Johnson

Seconded by Sivaraman

WHEREAS, City of Troy Ordinances, Chapter 34, allows the Traffic Committee to grant waivers of the City of Troy Design Standards for Sidewalks upon a demonstration of necessity; and

WHEREAS, Erion Nikolla has requested a waiver of the requirement to construct sidewalk based on no sidewalk in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee has determined the following:

- a. A waiver will not impair the public health, safety or general welfare of the inhabitants of the City and will not unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, and
- b. A strict application of the requirements to construct a sidewalk would result in practical difficulties to, or undue hardship upon, the owners, and
- c. The construction of a new sidewalk would lead nowhere, connect to no other walk, require removal of trees, drainage work and the fact that the senior care facility directly to the north (5990 Adams) previously received a sidewalk waiver for the sidewalk along Sussex and thus a new sidewalk at 5931 Sussex will not serve the purpose of a pedestrian travel-way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee **GRANTS** a waiver of the sidewalk requirement for 5931 Sussex (Sidwell #88-20-07-101-012).

Yes: Johnson, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder

No: None

Absent: Kilmer, Petrulis

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR BUSINESS

4. 2017 Meeting Schedule

According to City of Troy Traffic Committee By-Laws, Article IV – Meetings:

“Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Troy City Hall, 500 West Big Beaver Road, Troy, Michigan.”

There are no other by-laws or procedures that establish the actual dates of the meetings, but an annual calendar of meetings is published by the City so meeting dates need to be set for this purpose.

Resolution # 2017-01-02

Moved by Johnson

Seconded by Sivaraman

RESOLVED, that the Traffic Committee **SHALL HOLD** Regular Meetings in 2017 according to the following schedule at 7:30 PM:

- Wednesday, February 15
- Wednesday, March 15
- Wednesday, April 19
- Wednesday, May 17
- Wednesday, June 21
- Wednesday, July 19
- August – NO MEETING
- Wednesday, September 20
- Wednesday, October 18
- Wednesday, November 15
- December – NO MEETING

Yes: Johnson, Sivaraman, Wilsher, Ziegenfelder

No: None

Absent: Kilmer, Petrulis

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Other Business

City Attorney Bluhm was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the legal aspects of the Traffic Committee as well as to provide training for the new members. Ms. Bluhm discussed the Traffic Committee By-Laws, Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Sunshine Laws (Open Meetings Act and FOIA). Ms. Bluhm stressed to the Committee members that they should always consider the health, safety and welfare of any item deliberated.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.



Pete Ziegenfelder, Chairperson



Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer/Traffic Engineer