

TOWN OF AMHERST

TRAFFIC-SAFETY BOARD

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – 1100 NORTH FOREST ROAD, WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221
TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR - TELEPHONE 631-7154 - FAX 631-7222

AMHERST TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

May 3, 2023

The May meeting of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 3, 2023, Chairman Eric Fraas presiding. He opens the first order of business, asking if any changes or corrections are needed to the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes. None being heard, motion by Kevin Cantwell, second by Maxwell Kahn, to approve the minutes as written. Approved 8-0. Members in attendance are Chairman Eric Fraas, Vice-Chairman Greg Dionne, Dan Rider, Kevin Cantwell, Maxwell Kahn, Ken Smith, Jennifer Michniewicz, and Mark Storch. Departmental Liaisons included Thomas Voigt of the Planning Department, Bill Prenevau of the Building Department, Al Spoth of the Highway Department, Captain Kevin Brown of the Police Department, and Chris Schregel of the Engineering Department/Traffic Safety Coordinator. Also in attendance was Councilmember Michael Szukala, Town Board Liaison to the Amherst Traffic Safety Board. Guest list is on record at the Town's Engineering Department.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Muegel Road – Bike Lane, Sidewalks, Proper Shoulder. Chris Schregel begins the discussion by reviewing the trail of the resident's request to the Town asking for sidewalks. Because the Sidewalk Technical Review Committee has not yet reviewed her request, she contacted Highway Superintendent Patrick Lucey, who informed her that this request could possibly become part of a bigger project involving bike lanes and sidewalks similar to the Casey Road Ph. 2 Project. Muegel Road is a Town road, classified as a collector street, with a 66' wide right-of-way, with no sidewalks and limited shoulder space. Crash history review reveals no accidents in the past 3 years.

Chairman Fraas opens the public comment portion of the meeting specific to this item:

- a) Maureen McGovern-Shifflett, 194 Muegel Road. She has recently returned to this area after being away for about 23 years, feeling this area is the safest place to raise her daughter. She is a registered nurse with safety always being very important to her. She states that Muegel is a 30-mph road with a significant amount of pedestrian traffic, noting that the shoulder space is not wide enough for a bike and can cause bikers to fall going from the pavement to the grass area. Maureen has witnessed firsthand the devastation of pedestrian and bikes conflicting with vehicles. She states that the space allocated to pedestrians and bicyclists is too narrow and dangerous as it is designed now. She concludes by informing the members that her daughter Quinn first initiated this request by going from door to door with a petition asking for pedestrian improvements on Muegel Road.

Chairman Fraas closes the public comment period for this item and opens the discussion to the members, leading off by saying that East Amherst Fire Hall is located at the end of Muegel Road at Transit Road -- he wonders if some of the higher speeds she has witnessed might be due to fire calls. He also states he is very familiar with Muegel Road, and agrees it needs pedestrian accommodations to make it safer. He would support a sidewalk, bike lane or any improvement to make this a more pedestrian friendly street.

Maxwell Kahn uses Muegel Road often and has observed pedestrians walking in the street, causing him to veer over the center lane striping for safety reasons. He also adds that when Muegel is snow covered the conditions are even more dangerous. He approves of anything that can be done to improve Muegel Road for pedestrian traffic, also suggesting the Town add bike lanes on both sides of street. Jennifer Michniewicz would like Muegel added to the large plan for bike lanes in the Town of Amherst. She is in favor of a wide multipurpose path for the use of bikes and pedestrians in the wide-open area of right-of-way on the golf course side. Dan Rider comments that it appears from the photos displayed that bike lanes or sidewalks would have ample space to be installed. Greg Dionne is in favor of a multi-use path on the south side of Muegel. Chris Schregel adds that since grant money for Casey Road has recently been awarded, it could be two years before grant money would be available for another TAP/CMAC Project. The Board discusses adding Muegel to the Paradise sidewalk project.

Motion by Chairman Fraas, second by Ken Smith, advising that the Amherst Traffic Safety Board is in support of the Town finding a way to install sidewalks or a pathway on Muegel Road, referring the matter to Engineering Department for design possibilities based on the configurations of the road. Engineering will also send out a survey to residents for public input. Funding to be determined. Approved 8-0.

Chairman Fraas asks if there is any other new business. None being heard the New Business portion of the meeting is closed. Chairman Fraas opens Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Campus Drive near Daemen University – Wrong direction travel. Residents of Campus Drive contacted the Town several months ago indicating that wrong way travel was occurring on Campus Drive adjacent to Daemen University. It appeared that Daemen students were turning the wrong way out of the parking area as a shortcut to Sheridan Drive. This was reviewed during the March meeting by the Amherst Traffic Safety Board, but no Daemen representative was able to attend that session. Several options were discussed:

- opening Campus Drive to two-way traffic
- allowing parking on both sides of the street
- installing additional signage
- installation of a “pork chop” at the exit/entrance of the parking lot.

Daemen was asked by the Town to consider reconfiguration of the Parking Lot E curb cut to discourage illegal lefts out -- Chris Schregel displays a concept for Lot E that would force drivers to take right turns out. He also displays the sign plan proposed by Daemen featuring three (3) signs that will better instruct drivers as to the correct direction of travel. Daemen was asked to provide further input, and the matter has been held until a representative could be in attendance to discuss the item. Chairman Fraas opens the public comment period for this item:

- 1) Greg Naylor, President of Daemen University. He begins by saying that Daemen is very attentive to area residents and responds to complaints immediately. The signage displayed on the diagram earlier has been installed, and he believes it has helped significantly -- he adds that to date there have been no complaints about the signs from area residents. In addressing the “pork chop” design concept, he responds that such a fixture would complicate snow plowing operations. He would not have an issue with the street being opened to two-way traffic, but recognizes that the neighbors would most likely not be in favor of such a conversion.

Chairman Fraas closes the public comment period and opens the discussion to the members. Greg Dionne is comfortable with the signage as proposed, allowing that if additional complaints come in this issue can be re-evaluated. He also thinks converting Campus Drive to a two-way

street could be a good solution to the current issues, but does not think the area residents would be in favor of such a change.

Kevin Cantwell and Chairman Fraas would like to take some time to see how the signage is working before making any other additions or changes. Maxwell Kahn agrees that some time is needed to evaluate how the signage is working, but is in favor of the "pork chop" concept as it would force drivers to be compliant and exit legally -- he is not convinced signage alone will work to stop the wrong way drivers. Jennifer Michniewicz suggests waiting until after the fall semester starts to re-evaluate this issue.

Dan Rider points out that Daemen University private signage was installed within the Town's right-of-way and is not MUTCD compliant. Chris Schregel informs the members that Daemen University can post any signage they want, but it cannot be on the Town right-of-way. He suggests just moving the sign back a few feet onto Daemen property. Town to work with Daemen on proper placement in days ahead. Receive and file, revisit if necessary in fall semester.

Chairmen Fraas asks if there is any other old business. None being heard both the new and old business portion of the meeting are closed.

SITE PLANS / REZONING

SUBJECT: Proposed Boulevard Consumers Square – Restaurant Patio Addition
ADDRESS: 1565, 1575-1659 & 1641- 1703
PETITIONER: Benderson Development Company

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

SUBJECT: Proposed Warehouse Building
ADDRESS: 415-455 Lawrence Bell Drive
PETITIONER: Amherst Portfolio Equities

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

SUBJECT: Proposed Multi-Family Development
ADDRESS: 480 Dodge Road
PETITIONER: The Green Organization

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher P. Schregel
Traffic Safety Coordinator