

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

November 6, 2024

The November meeting of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 6, 2024, Chairman Eric Fraas presiding. Chairman Fraas began the meeting by noting that the October minutes were not yet available and would be reviewed at the December meeting. Members in attendance are Chairman Eric Fraas, Vice Chairman Greg Dionne, Dan Rider, Kevin Cantwell, Maxwell Kahn, Cynthia Selden, Nicholas Alterio, Helaine Sanders and Frances Knab. Departmental liaisons included William Prenevau of the Building Department; Scott Marshall of the Planning Department; Captain Charles Persons of the Police Department; Al Spoth of the Highway Department; Chris Schregel, Traffic Safety Coordinator/Engineering Liaison; and Councilman 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. Willow Ridge – Student project requesting pedestrian improvements at the corner of Amberwood and Peppertree. Chairman Fraas explains that the resident requesting this item asked for it to be held for a future meeting.
2. Maple Road – Traffic concerns related to Tim Hortons operations. Chris Schregel begins by explaining that the Tim Hortons is directly across from Maple West Elementary School at the intersection of Old Lyme and Maple Road. He displays the last submitted site plan for the members to review, which shows three curb cuts: one providing full access onto Old Lyme Road, and two restricted access points on Maple Road—one for entry only and the other for exit only. Vehicles can travel internally on the Tim Hortons site and a drive through window is on the property. This site gets very busy at times and can back up onto Maple Road. There is also a safety concern with eastbound vehicles on Maple Road making left turns into the Tim Hortons. This issue was last reviewed in 2016, when the County was contacted to develop a solution that could be implemented during an upcoming paving project.

Chairman Fraas opens the Board discussion by stating that a request was sent to the County asking for consideration of a curb cut on Maple Road to be eliminated. However, no response has been received, and no action has been taken regarding the request. Max Khan suggests resending the original request, and Chairman Fraas concurs. Chairman Fraas also proposes reaching out to Hector's Hardware to inquire whether a connection to their parking lot could help alleviate some of the congestion. After further discussion among the members, the Board decides to send a letter to Tim Hortons outlining the traffic issues and requesting a solution. The letter will also inform them that a separate letter is being sent to the County, requesting the closure of one of the driveways on Maple Road. Approved 9-0.

3. Lebrun Road – Request for an all-way stop to slow down area vehicular speeds. Chris Schregel introduces this item by saying the Town received an e-mail from a resident living on Lebrun close to Lebrun Circle. Other sections of Lebrun have been studied by the Traffic Safety Board for speeding but this section of Lebrun has not yet come up for review. This request is for an all-way stop at Lebrun and Lebrun Circle to reduce speeding and unsafe passing of vehicles and school buses. Highway has conducted counts: eastbound has approximately 900 vehicles with an 85th percentile speed of 37 mph; westbound the 85th percentile clocked in at 38 mph with approximately 1000 vehicles. These speeds are against a posted speed limit of 30 mph with the highest

occurrence of speeding happening in the 7 am and 4 pm hours. No crashes have been reported at this location in the past 7 years.

Chairman Fraas opens the discussion to the members. Dan Rider feels the speeds indicate that something needs to be done, but Chairman Fraas remarks that speeding should not be controlled by installing a stop sign. He suggests referring to the Amherst Police Department for enforcement. Chairman Fraas asks that this item be received and filed. Approved 9-0.

4. Heim Road – Speeding concerns and request for digital speed limit sign, flashing lights and enhanced crosswalk. Chris Schregel opens this item by stating that the resident involved in this matter has concerns regarding Heim Road, particularly in the vicinity of Heim Middle School. Counts on record are outdated and were conducted when school was not in session. The resident appreciates the recently installed flashing radar feedback sign near the school but requests adjustments to its operation. Specifically, the resident is asking for a wider range of speeds to be displayed on the sign, as well as enhanced pavement striping. Additionally, he proposes the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to assist the crossing guards.

Chairman Fraas opens the Board discussion by asking if the members approve modification of the current radar feedback sign, which would be referred to the Highway Department, asking them to align the sign with the standards of other Town radar feedback signs. The motion is approved 9-0.

The request for the RRFB is not recommended by the Amherst Traffic Safety Board at this time.

Motion by Chairman Fraas, seconded by Kevin Cantwell, to refer the request to the Highway Department to add LS-style crosshatching enhancements at this location on Heim Road once seasonal painting has resumed. Approved 9-0.

Greg Dionne requests additional traffic counts to assess whether the striping improvements made in the past year have impacted speeds. Chairman Fraas suggests referring the matter to the Highway Department to conduct speed and volume counts near 500 Heim Road.

5. Cottonwood Drive and Rosewood Drive – Request for a 3-way stop. Chris Schregel starts the discussion by noting that the Town has received a request for an all-way stop at the intersection of Rosewood and Cottonwood. A map of the neighborhood is displayed on the screen, showing the locations of all current stop signs in that area, with the requested stop sign location highlighted within a blue circle on the map. No traffic counts have been conducted, but it is suspected that this location would not meet the criteria for an all-way stop. Additionally, there has been no accident history at this intersection in the past five years. Chairman Fraas opens the discussion to the members, and they all agree that the intersection is properly signed. Receive and file. Approved 9-0.

Chairman Fraas asks if there is any other new business -- none being heard, he closes New Business and opens Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Main Street/Getzville Road/Brantwood Road/Berryman Drive – Vote needed to refer to DOT. Motion by Kevin Cantwell, second by Maxwell Kahn, to send a letter to the DOT for improvements, suggesting a right-in-right-out-only and eliminating the left turn on to Brantwood from Main Street. Approved 8-1 (Fraas - no).

SITE PLANS / REZONING**None**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.P. Schregel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher P. Schregel
Traffic Safety Coordinator