

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

June 11, 2025

The June meeting of the Amherst Traffic Safety Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 2025, Vice-Chair Cynthia Selden presiding. Vice-Chair Selden began the meeting by explaining that the May minutes were not completed in time for this meeting and will be reviewed during the August meeting. Members in attendance are Vice-Chair Cynthia Selden, Dan Rider, Kevin Cantwell, Helaine Sanders, Maxwell Kahn, Cara Biddlecom, and Patricia Dunne. 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. Wehrle Drive between Garrison and Rubino Court – Speeding and Pedestrian related concerns. Chris Schregel opens this item with a brief presentation that summarizes the resident's concerns. The area of interest is on Wehrle between Garrison and Rubino Court -- Wehrle is under the jurisdiction of Erie County, but the signal at Garrison is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Amherst. The resident is asking the Board to look into:

- Reducing the speed limit to 25 mph from Garrison to Columbia
- Lane reduction from two to one lane near Rubino Ct.
- Loud engine noises and frequent racing of vehicles and motorcycles
- Increasing police presence
- Request for a new pedestrian crossing at Monroe & Wehrle or Cadman & Wehrle
- Current crossings are unsafe and inconvenient
- Improvements to walkability and safety for families and pedestrians

Crash data indicated numerous intersection accidents but nothing uncommon. Vice-Chair Selden opens the board discussion, which Kevin Cantwell begins by commenting that this request/concern covers about a half mile of roadway and includes numerous intersections. It's also mentioned that most of the area in question falls within the Village of Williamsville. Motion by Kevin Cantwell, second by Dan Rider, to forward this request to the Village of Williamsville. Approved 7-0.

2. Meadowview / Chaumont – Request for an All-way stop – Chris Schregel introduces this item by stating that it was brought forward by a neighborhood resident requesting an all-way stop to address driver confusion, with a diagram of the intersection and site photos displayed on-screen. This is a four-legged intersection with stop control on two of the approaches, with no recorded accidents in the past five years. Traffic counts have been conducted for all approaches, and as shown on the display screen the streets without stop signs had slightly higher speeds compared to those with stop signs. An all-way stop warrant analysis was performed and indicated that this intersection did not meet the warrants for an all-way stop. Vice-Chair Selden opens the discussion to the members. Motion by Maxwell Kahn, second by Vice-Chair Selden, to receive and file. Approved 7-0.

3. Main Street / Berryman / Getzville – Request for a crossing guard and driver confusion related to signalization. Chris Schregel begins the discussion by saying an email was received from a resident concerning the intersection of Getzville Road and Main Street, as shown on the screen. He explains that the signalization is very confusing to eastbound drivers on Main Street at Getzville Road and Berryman Drive -- what often happens is that when the Berryman Drive light changes to green, drivers stopped at the red at Getzville think it's green for them too and proceed through their intersection, causing conflicts with vehicles turning left from Getzville onto Main Street. The resident is also asking for a crossing guard at this location. Regarding the signal, Chris summarizes options for the Board:

- Receive and File
- Refer to NYSDOT without a recommendation
- Refer to NYSDOT with a recommendation
- Request Police enforcement

Vice-Chair Selden opens the discussion to the Board, beginning with the signalization issues. Maxwell Kahn would like to refer this issue to the NYSDOT, since Main Street is a NYSDOT road. Motion by Kevin Cantwell, second by Maxwell Kahn, to refer to the NYSDOT recommending the installation of "Stop Here On Red" signage (R10-6). Approved 4-3 (Biddlecom, Selden, Sanders opposed). Cara Biddlecom would like it on record that she would like this referred to NYSDOT with no specific recommendation but rather have the state come up with a solution -- Vice-Chair Selden agrees.

The second part of this request is in reference to a crossing guard. The Town has a policy for the placement of crossing guards, and although some of the criteria for placing a crossing guard have been satisfied, the number of K-8 children crossing has not. The Town Board could approve the placement of a crossing guard regardless of the criteria, but the Amherst Traffic Safety Board would need to make that recommendation. Since no member moves to make that recommendation, motion by Maxwell Kahn, second by Vice-Chair Selden, to receive and file. Approved 7-0.

A resident in attendance asks to speak on an item that is not on the current agenda. Vice-Chair Selden asks if any member would like to make a motion to add item #4 to the current agenda, discussion of Cottonwood speeds. Kevin Cantwell makes a motion, second by Dan Rider, to add Cottonwood speeds to the agenda. Approved 7-0.

4. Cottonwood Drive – Speeds and Speed bumps. Chris Schregel opens the discussion by updating the Board on this matter, saying that a memo was sent to the Police Department asking for the placement of the speed trailer on this section of Cottonwood Drive when available. Vice-Chair Selden opens the public comment period for this item:

- a) Matt Lepovich, 592 Cottonwood Drive. He begins by saying at the last meeting there was discussion about getting a petition signed by area residents in support of speed bumps. He circulated such a petition and was able to get support from 75 percent of the residents living on this section of Cottonwood Drive, which he presents to the Board. He asks the Board for guidance on what the next steps would be to press for the installation of speed bumps and is told that the petition should be forwarded to the Highway Superintendent since he makes the decision whether to pursue speed humps in the Town of Amherst. Mr. Lepovich remarks that even as he was leaving his house today, he heard a vehicle stopping suddenly to avoid a ball from children playing close by. He emphasizes that this has been an on-going issue, more concerning due to an increase in the number of small children living on this block of Cottonwood. He would like to see more of a Police presence and the installation of speed bumps, suggesting the installation of temporary seasonal speed bumps that can be removed during the winter months.

Vice-Chair Selden closes the public comment period and opens the discussion to the members. Dan Rider and Kevin Cantwell suggest parking in the street to slow the traffic. Motion by Vice-Chair Selden, second by Cara Biddlecom, to refer the petition to the Highway Department. Approved 6-1 (Cantwell opposed).

Vice-Chair Selden asks if there is any other new business -- none being heard, she closes New Business and opens Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Spruce / Buckeye – Resident feedback related to a Parking Restriction Proposal. Chris Schregel opens this item by reminding the Board that this was before them at the May meeting and was held awaiting resident response to Board-approved parking restrictions on Spruce at Buckeye, displayed on-screen. At the last meeting two residents spoke in favor of a parking restriction, which the Board approved, although the distance was not specified at that time. Chris Schregel reviews the resident feedback to the proposed parking restriction: seven letters were sent out, two positive and one negative response were returned. Chris Schregel displays an aerial photo of the proposed parking restriction and then asks for the members' recommendations. Maxwell Kahn would like to see the parking restriction on the side of Spruce with the stop sign but sees no reason to add a parking restriction on the opposite side of the street. Motion by Kevin Cantwell, second by Vice-Chair Selden, to install "No Parking Anytime" 30 feet back from the current stop sign. Approved 7-0.
- B. Heim Road Mosque – Town / Mosque/ Resident Meeting Results. Chris Schregel begins by saying that a neighborhood meeting was called by Councilmember Szukala as requested by the Traffic Safety Board. At the meeting with Councilmember Szukala were Mosque administration, residents and town staff. A summary of the discussion points follows:
- Contact nearby schools for parking alternatives for Mosque members – Councilmember Szukala responded by stating that some individuals park irresponsibly on the street and in "no parking" zones because they are arriving at the last minute and are in a rush. According to Mosque members, it is these last-minute arrivals that are causing the parking and traffic issues. They also expressed that a shuttle bus would not help solve the problem, as those individuals are unlikely to take the extra time required to use it.
 - Request Increased Police presence – Councilmember Szukala reported that he spoke with the Police Chief, who agreed to assign an officer to the location for the next four Fridays. Tickets have been issued to individuals parking illegally. Additionally, residents from the area have contacted Councilmember Szukala to inform him that the situation appears to be improving.
 - Discuss a new location for a new Mosque. – Councilmember Szukala noted that the Mosque Administration is already exploring alternative locations to accommodate the area's growing number of members.
 - Placing traffic cones where there are parking restrictions on Fridays – Councilmember Szukala spoke with the Police Department regarding the placement of cones and was advised that cones should not be placed in the roadway. The Mosque administration agreed to comply with this directive.
 - Utilizing Buffalo Convention Center – Due to time constraints this option has not been reviewed, especially as this option overall is not a viable choice.
 - Implementing a Tow-Away Zone – This will be considered in the future.
 - Writing a formal Letter to Amherst Police Chief - The Mosque Administration will follow up with this suggestion.

Councilmember Szukala felt this was a successful meeting and will be following up on all that was discussed. Dan Rider asks if there is a possibility of the Mosque having an off-duty Police Officer at the Mosque on Fridays during services.

- C. Mona / Lebrun – All-Way Stop Sign Warrant Analysis -- item held for counts. An evaluation of signage and safety concerns was conducted to determine potential solutions, and the Highway Department conducted an all-way stop warrant analysis and installed traffic counters as part of the study -- counters were not placed in the VA Hospital driveway as that is private property. Counts for Mona and Lebrun showed that warrants have not been met for an all-way stop, and crash data did not show any related accidents in the past 5 years. Chris Schregel provided a summary of a letter received by the Engineering Department, indicating that a significant amount of truck traffic is exiting the VA driveway. The letter further recommends increased police enforcement for vehicles violating 'No Parking' zones and the trimming of bushes to address visibility concerns. Vice-Chair Selden opens the public comment period for this item:

- a) Bob Muraco, 154 Lebrun Road. He begins by saying lots of speeding is occurring and he has had vehicles ending up on his front lawn. He also states that it's not clear who has the right of way at the stop locations, and he has suggested sub-plaques saying "Oncoming Traffic Has Right of Way" to help avoid a collision.

Vice-Chair Selden closes the public comment and opens the discussion to the members. The members discussed the possibility of removing or adding stop signs, taking into consideration that some residents indicate they prefer no changes to the existing signage. Some type of plaque is discussed, but no MUTCD-approved signage is appropriate for this location, which Chris Schregel explains is a must for any signage. However, Chris goes on to say that there is a procedure in place to have new wording approved for signage if the resident is interested in pursuing that. Maxwell Kahn and Cara Biddlecom would like any foliage concealing the current stop signs trimmed. Refer to Highway for foliage trimming.

- D. Bike Path crossing North Forest Road, near Auden Apts. – Pedestrian Counts, hold waiting for count data.

Vice-Chair Selden asks if there is any other new or old business. Hearing no other new or old business, Vice-Chair Selden closes Old and New Business.

SITE PLANS / REZONING

SUBJECT: Proposed Commercial Building – Parking & Landscaping Modifications
ADDRESS: 5150 Main Street
PETITIONER: Iskalo 5166 Main Street LLC

X PROPOSED MINOR SITE PLAN REVIEW IS

X APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

1. Install a public sidewalk between Main Street and the north property line of 5150 Main Street.
 2. Interconnect front parking lots between 5150 and 5166 Main Street. Reconfigure parking spots as needed.
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SUBJECT: Proposed Commercial Plaza – Restaurant Deck Exit Ramp
ADDRESS: 2447-2471 Niagara Falls Blvd.
PETITIONER: El Ranchito 3 Mexican Restaurant

X PROPOSED MINOR SITE PLAN REVIEW IS

X APPROVED WITH CONDITION

1. Extend guide Rail northerly along east side of building to protect deck.

SUBJECT: Proposed Apartment Development – Vestibule Addition with Utility & Sidewalk Revision
ADDRESS: 3315-3327 & 3329-3333 Millersport Highway
PETITIONER: The Green Organization

X PROPOSED MINOR SITE PLAN REVIEW IS

X APPROVED WITH CONDITION

1. Extend sidewalk to property lines before veering to Millersport Highway edge of pavement.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher P. Schregel
Traffic Safety Coordinator