

Hardwick Planning Commission
Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force
February 11, 2020
Hardwick Memorial Building
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Jim Lewis; Joyce Mandeville; Diane Grenkow; Ken Davis; and Dave Gross, Chair.
Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Elizabeth Dow, Select Board Member; Shari Cornish, Select Board Member; and Shaun Fielder, Town Manager.

Absent: None

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Joyce Mandeville moved to approve the agenda as published. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

Elizabeth Dow moved to approve the January 14, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

General consensus was that the discussions with the stakeholders can be concluded. Enough input has been received to make viable suggestions. Another possible solution for pedestrian safety was received from a local resident. The town of Vergennes utilizes crossing flags in the crosswalks (for more visibility of pedestrians). Images of the approach were distributed and the members discussed the viability of this suggestion.

The Commission/Task Force reviewed the following suggestions:

Possible Short-Term Suggestions:

- **Adjust sight lines near crosswalks (adjust parking spots).**
State law states that a 20 foot buffer zone should be on both sides of a crosswalk. Adjusting the parking spaces (installing the buffer zones) would remove roughly 8 spots from the village center parking. This approach would align parking with state law and would theoretically make the crosswalks safer for pedestrians. ***Recommend.***
- **Remove the handicap parking spot adjacent to the Post Office parking area.**
The handicap parking space on Mill Street creates visibility issues for the traffic leaving and entering the post office parking lot. In addition, the space is constrained by an utility pole and lines. The space could be moved to the first spot on that stretch of road (in front of the former Gagnon's video) and a secondary parking space could be installed. This would remove roughly 1 spot from the village center parking. This approach would theoretically make the handicap parking space more feasible and improve the visibility and safety of traffic at the post office junction. ***Recommend.***
- **Repaint the crosswalks in a high visibility color.**
Recommend.
- **Install flashing crosswalk signs.**
The crosswalk signs have been successfully used in neighboring towns (Montpelier, Morrisville). Two sets would be installed. One would be at the crosswalk connecting the Clip Joint and the Laundry. One would be at either the Co-op/Swinging Bridge location or at the Yummy Wok/Village Diner crosswalk. State law would need to be observed – the Yummy Wok/Village Diner location may be too close to the intersection. ***Recommend.***

- **Add stop signs.**

The suggestion was reviewed for multiple locations. This may be an approach which is utilized in a longer-term design. ***Not Recommended for a Short Term Suggestion.***

- **Install a speed sign before the village (prior to the Glenside intersection).**

A flashing speed feedback sign would be useful for vehicles traveling into the village center. This suggestion will probably need state approval prior to implementation. ***Recommend.***

- **Install signage to direct cars to alternate parking.**

Signs which direct cars to the mural parking area and the Village Diner parking area could be helpful to travelers who are not familiar with Hardwick. ***Recommend.***

- **Add a street decal (bicycle symbol) to remind people that bikes can/will be in the road.**

The lack of a biking lane or of viable road shoulders through the center of the village result in bike usage on the main road. With upcoming improvements to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, there should be an increase in bicycle usage in the village center. Street decals could be added to road to remind vehicles to share the road. ***Recommend.***

- **Make a 4-way stop at Church /North Main and install crosswalks in all 4 directions.**

The installation of crosswalks would allow for legal and safe pedestrian travel. Members had concerns about adding stop signs to North Main Street when the road is on an incline (winter travel safety was noted). ***Recommend Crosswalks but not new stop signs.***

- **Install a crosswalk between the Hardwick Inn and the Laundry.**

More study necessary prior to a decision.

Not yet discussed by the Commission/Task Force (2/11/2020)

- Educate younger riders about sidewalk safety.
- Install a fence near the Village Diner to prevent people from traveling over the bank and through the intersection.
- Add a crosswalk to the Cherry Street area.
- Install bike racks at the library and in the downtown area.
- Create a designated parking spot for delivery trucks.
- Stop, wait, wave signs.
- Alternate materials in the crosswalk sections.
- Upgrade the town's parking area at the intersection of Mill Street and Perry Lane.
- Remove parking from the blinking light intersection.

The committee/planning commission will continue to review ideas from stakeholders at the next meeting. The ideas will be forwarded to the Road Foreman and the Police Chief for their input and then the ideas will be sent to the Select Board.

Joyce Mandeville made the motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Diane Grenkow seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be on March 10, 2020.

The meeting ended at 7:53 pm.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA