

# MEETING MINUTES

## VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Date: March 26, 2025

Time: 6:36pm

Meeting called to order by: Wally Pacer

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### NOTE ON MEETING TIME

Owing to scheduling conflicts, the meeting was rescheduled from March 6, 2025. This meeting will cover the agendas of both the March and April meetings. There will not be an April 6, 2025 meeting.

### IN ATTENDANCE

Wally Pacer (Chair), Tom Petrocelli (Minutes Taker), Isabella Bakshi, Dan Rider, Bill Tuyn, Doug Richardson, Jim Celeste (Board Liaison).

Absent: Nick Roth, Matt Schery, Marilyn Alfes

A quorum was present.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Mr. Pacer introduced a new member of the Traffic and Safety Committee, Isabella Bakshi. All members introduced themselves and Ms. Bakshi did likewise. Mr. Celeste confirmed that the Board had ratified her appointment to the Committee.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the prior two meetings were introduced by Mr. Pacer. Mr. Tuyn made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2025, meeting. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with five yeas, and Ms. Bakshi abstaining.

Mr. Petrocelli made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 yeas, and Mr. Tuyn and Ms. Bakshi abstaining.

## **DISCUSSION OF WEHRLE AND AERO INTERSECTION**

Mr. Pacer received a message from Lauren Balbierz, one of the owners of George's Produce which sits at the corner of Wehrle and Aero Drive. A portion of that intersection (the portion where Ms. Balbierz business lies) is within the bounds of the Village. She outlines numerous safety issues with pedestrians and students walking to Harkness, a school run by Erie 1 BOCES. These issues have become more extreme since the redesign of the intersection.

The committee discussed issues such as a lack of pedestrian signals, lack of sidewalks, vehicles, including trucks, not yielding to pedestrians crossing the new right hand turn lane, insufficient pedestrian refuge features on the island in the intersection, and generally poor design.

Mr. Rider pointed out that the intersection itself lies partly in the Town of Amherst and Aero drive extends into Cheektowaga where Harkness is. Wehrle is also an Erie County road. Mr. Celeste spoke with Ben Vilonen of the Village DPW, who suggested all jurisdictions – Erie County, the Towns of Amherst and Cheektowaga, and the Village of Williamsville, would need to combine to resolve the issues with the intersection.

Mr. Pacer also said that accident information might help us better understand the situation and would contact Captain Persons of the Amherst Police Department (Traffic and Safety Committee Police Liaison) for that information.

Mr. Tuyn opined that a traffic circle would have the greatest impact on the safety of the intersection.

***Recommendation: Mr. Petrocelli motioned that the committee recommend to the Village Board that they contact the Amherst and Cheektowaga Town Boards to discuss safety issues with the intersection and possible resolutions. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to forward the recommendation.***

## **WATTS RECOMMENDATIONS**

The committee continued its discussions of the recommendations from Watts Architects and Engineers regarding the Eagle/School Street corridor and its intersections with Academy, Rinewalt, and N. Ellicott.

Mr. Tuyn discussed how the suggested speed humps would calm traffic and was not opposed to them along Eagle Street. While it is anticipated that some residents would object, it was felt by many on the committee that it would be beneficial for calming traffic along those streets. There were concerns, however, about traffic simply moving into adjacent streets.

Mr. Petrocelli opened the discussions about the recommendations for restriping with reflective paint. There were concerns about the cost of this repainting, but they were not considered insurmountable. Mr. Celeste pointed out that some of the proposed crosswalks were raised crosswalks and hence, would act as speed humps as well.

There was some discussion about the stop sign recommendations and how they could be initiated now by more aggressive tree trimming near the signs. The committee also believed that the stop sign on Evans that is affixed to the utility pole is likely illegal and needs to be moved to its own pole, per Watts' recommendation.

***Recommendation: Mr. Tuyn moved that the committee recommend all the options in the Watts' report to the Village Board. Furthermore, moved that the committee recommend to the Board that Watts meet with the Traffic and Safety Committee and Village DPW staff together to discuss preliminary costs, sequencing, and potential changes to the Village traffic patterns. Mr. Ricardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **ADJOURNMENT**

My. Tuyn motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

