

**MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING
TRAFFIC ORDINANCE
Grafton Town Hall Upstairs In Person/Live
With accommodation for persons unable to attend in person via interactive Zoom**

Monday, July 17, 2023, 5:00 pm

Present at the meeting in the Town Hall:

Selectboard: Chair Joe Pollio, Vice Chair Cathy Siano-Goodwin, John Gregory, Rich Thompson, and Seth Pajcic

Also: Morgan Wilbur, Amber Stevens, Colby Record, Wendy Martin, Hardy Merrill, Mike Faulkner, Maureen Parker, Christine Tattersall, Pamela Johnson-Spurlock, Patsy Ellis, John Patterson, Nicole Pilson, Patrick Cooperman, Kirk Goodwin, Michael Parker, Liisa Kissel, Don Dougall, and Sam Battaglino

Present online: Nancy Merrill, FactTV, Charles Bonin, and Eric Stevens

1. Call to order: The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 5:00 pm. Joe Pollio began the discussion by saying the Windham County Sheriff's Department had given the recommendation to set the speed limit from the intersection of Route 121 East and Route 30 (Athens Road) be set between 33-39 miles per hour. Pollio also said the Vermont Department of Transportation recommended 2 options:

- 3 stop signs at all entry points to the intersection
- 2 stop signs on the North (Grafton) and South (Athens) entry points

Pollio then invited comments. Pamela Johnson-Spurlock said she is comfortable with the recommended changes; however, she feels the Selectboard should communicate with the Town of Rockingham to make all speed limits going into the intersection consistent and correct.

Maureen Parker would like the Sheriff's Department contract to increase from 8 hours per month to at least 12 hours per month. She noted that the speed limit needs to be enforced all throughout town, not just at the Cambridgeport intersection. Parker said if the town is going to have an ordinance, it needs to be enforced; therefore, the sheriff's hours should be increased to do so. Michael Parker stated that the majority of travelers do the speed limit, but it only takes 1 person for a catastrophe to occur.

In regard to stop sign placement, Parker was worried about large trucks having to back up if all lanes of traffic were required to stop. He explained there just isn't enough room in the intersection for a long truck to properly turn. Mike Faulkner agreed, saying it is challenging to turn from the bridge towards Grafton without going over into the other lane a little bit.

Rich Thompson asked if the Town is liable, in the event of an accident, if they decide against the recommendations from the Vermont Department of Transportation. Seth Pajcic felt the Town would be liable.

John Gregory said the Town would need to paint stop lines on the road as well. Parker also suggested the Town gets the exact location of where the stop signs should be placed from the Vermont Department of Transportation.

Parker asked about getting a flashing speed sign to warn people of the intersection. Pollio said it was voted down by the Town several years ago at Town Meeting. Morgan Wilbur asked if it was voted down because of placement since at the time it was in discussion for being in the village. Pollio said it could be added to the warning at next year's town meeting.

A formal vote on action to take regarding the Traffic Ordinance occurred during the regular Selectboard meeting, immediately following the Public Hearing.

2. Close the hearing. It was moved by Seth Pajcic, seconded by John Gregory, to close the hearing at 5:21 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Morgan Wilbur