INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF GARDEN CITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

REVISED
TRAFFIC COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The following members were present:
Trustee Robert Bolebruch – Chairman
Trustee Richard Silver
Trustee John Delany
Trustee John DeMaro
Commissioner Kenneth Jackson
Robert J. Mangan, P.E. – Director of Public Works

1. Approve Minutes of October 15, 2015 – Approved.

2. Formal Agenda

A. DEFERRED AGENDA

1.LETTER AND PETITION FROM KEITH HOCHHEISER OF 32 CATHEDRAL AVENUE.
Mr. Hochheiser requests a No Trucking sign on Cathedral Avenue to significantly reduce the truck traffic on that road. He states that the quiet enjoyment for homes on Cathedral Avenue has been severely impacted by truck traffic. There are at least 20-30 eighteen wheel tractor trailers that drive down Cathedral Avenue every day; which is the heart of the residential central section. This situation also creates a serious safety issue as there are many young children that ride their bikes and play in the area.

UPDATE: Mr. Hochheiser submitted a petition at the September 17, 2015 Traffic Commission Meeting requesting a No Trucking sign on each end of Cathedral Avenue and each end of Rockaway Avenue.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its meeting of October 15, 2015 deferred this item until the next meeting and asked the Police Department to provide accident history for Cathedral Ave, Hilton Ave, Rockaway Ave, Franklin Ave, Washington Ave and Clinton Rd.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to deny this request.

2.LETTER FROM MATTHEW AND JEANNE LUTTINGER OF 11 MERILLON AVENUE.
Mr. and Mrs. Luttinger are requesting the installation of "NO RIGHT ON RED WHEN PEDESTRIANS ARE PRESENT" signs at the Merillon Avenue and Nassau Boulevard intersection. They commute to work from the LIRR station at Merillon Ave. They have consistently noticed an increase in traffic at the intersection of Merillon Avenue and Nassau Blvd. These signs would attempt to bring back into the proper balance the rights of Village residents walking to the LIRR at Merillon Avenue. A copy of this letter was sent to the Police Department and the Estates Property Owners' Association and the POA requested that it be put on the Agenda.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its October 15, 2015 meeting approved the request to install a "No Right on Red When Pedestrians are Present" sign. Formal request must be made to Nassau County for approval and installation.

NOTE: Nassau County Department of Public Works was sent a letter dated October 20, 2015 requesting this sign and we are awaiting their response.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this item as we are awaiting Nassau County's response to the letter that we sent them regarding this issue.

3. LETTER FROM TIM RYAN OF 17 CLINTON ROAD.

Mr. Ryan requests that the Village install "permanent" radar-based speed feedback signs on Clinton Road. Mr. Ryan states that according to the County Department of Public Works, they have two or more speed feedback signs available for Clinton Road, and he also states that the Village is either preventing, delaying or opposing the installation of the signs. The Police Department added a speed limit sign in each direction at a central location on Clinton Road between Brook and Meadow Streets. This does not require Traffic Commission approval.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its meeting of October 15, 2015, suggested that a letter be written to Mr. Ryan indicating that the Traffic Commission is not in favor of the large signs and would consider installing smaller solar signs and deferred this item until a definitive decision is made as to the locations where these solar signs will operate.

NOTE: We sent a letter to Mr. Ryan dated October 30, 2015 referring to the above decision.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this item for Engineering to get cost estimate for solar signs for both sides of Clinton Road at Locust Street.

4. E-MAIL FROM TRUSTEE ROBERT BOLEBRUCH.

Mr. Bolebruch states that he would like that we look to add a left turn light at the corner of Stewart Ave. and Nassau Blvd. going South on Nassau Blvd. At present there is a left turn lane with a left turning arrow but no left turning light. What happens is the traffic going North on Nassau Blvd. get to travel first and then go north and then turn left in their left turning lane with a left turning arrow. Then, the south direction of Nassau Blvd. gets to move and the cars in the left turning lane must wait for the traffic to end going North on Nassau Blvd. At times, it is impossible to see the cars going North, causing a dangerous situation. Trustee Bolebruch would request that after the left turning light is installed going south on Nassau Blvd, that the lights would be changed, allowed both directions to first turn left and then to allow the rest of the traffic to flow in both directions.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its meeting of October 15, 2015 deferred this item until Nassau County completes their study.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS TO SHILA SHAH-GAVNOUDIAS, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR NASSAU COUNTY.

On May 19, 2014 and April 21, 2015, the Village sent letters to Ms. Shila Shah-Gavnoudias requesting to modify the existing traffic signals at Stewart Avenue and Nassau Blvd. We have yet to get a response.

LETTER TO LAURA SCHAEFER, NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR.

On August 26, 2015, Trustee Robert Bolebruch sent a letter to Ms. Laura Schaefer asking for the status of the request to modify the traffic signals at Stewart Avenue and Nassau Blvd.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to drop this item, as we received a letter dated November 19, 2015 from Nassau County Public Works Commissioner Shila Shah-Gavnoudias indicating that a left-turn signal is not warranted.

5. MAKING PLATTSDALE ROAD A DEAD-END STREET.
UPDATE: TRAFFIC STUDY TO BE DONE ON AREA DURING FALL SEASON.
WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON AGENDA AS STUDY PROGRESSES.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this item. The Department of Public Works is to get Traffic Counts on Plattsdale Road, Adams Street and Cambridge Avenue. Chairman Robert Bolebruch indicated that closing the street is not an option and was based on input from the Fire and Police Departments and that doing so would create an unsafe condition.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1.LETTER FROM DANIELLE SACK OF 267 STEWART AVENUE.
Ms. Sack is requesting the installation of a stop sign on the southwest corner of Stratford Avenue which would control traffic turning onto Hampton Road from Stratford Avenue. There is a school bus stop on the northwest corner of Hampton Road and her children and others must cross Stratford Avenue every morning without the assistance of a stop sign. It is very difficult for them to safely cross the street. At that time of the morning there are many cars turning north onto Hampton Road In route to the High School and South to the Middle School. In addition to the difficult time children have safely crossing the street she has often witnessed near miss accidents when cars stopped at the stop sign on Hampton Road begin to proceed thinking that the cars on Stewart Avenue have a stop sign. This letter has been forwarded to the Police Department and the Estates Property Owners' Association. The Estates Property Owners' Association has approved it to be put on the Agenda.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to approve the installation of a stop sign at the Southwest corner, making it a three-way stop. The Estates Property Owners' Association was in favor.

2.LETTER FROM VALERIE DICAPRIO OF 198 KILDARE ROAD.
Ms. DiCaprio is requesting a three-way stop intersection at Somerset Avenue and Tanners Pond Road. Currently there are stop signs on Tanners Pond Road, but not on Somerset Avenue. Drivers on Tanners Pond Road seem unaware that this is not a three-way stop, and very often proceed while those on Somerset have the right of way. She is extremely concerned that there will be an accident at this intersection. She is asking if you would consider placing a stop sign on Somerset Avenue, or an indication to drivers on Tanners Pond Road that it is not a three-way stop. This letter has been forwarded to the Police Department and the Estates Property Owners' Association. The Estates Property Owners' Association has approved it to be put on the Agenda.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to approve the addition of a stop sign on Somerset Avenue making it a three-way stop. The Estates Property Owners' Association was in favor.

3.LETTER FROM SUSAN STEINHAUER OF 16 LYDIA LANE.

Ms. Steinhauer is voicing her opposition to a stop sign that was placed in front of her home. The placement of this stop sign creates a hardship while pulling out of her driveway. She feels that since Lydia Lane curves, drivers will not see the stop sign until they are only a few houses away from the sign. This letter has been forwarded to the Police Department and the Central Property Owners' Association. The Central Property Owners' Association has agreed that it should be put on the Agenda, but they state that they are not in favor of removing the stop sign.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to add a "Stop Ahead" sign and to leave the present stop sign in place.

4.LETTER AND PROPOSAL FROM JAMES VAN SCHOICK OF 74 MEADOW STREET.

Mr..Van Schoick is requesting stop signs at the corners of Meadow Street and Lafayette Ave. and Meadow Street and Prospect Ave. He also includes a proposal that requests Roadway Lane Markings, a Mobile Speed Trailer and Increased Police Presence in the area. His letter and Proposal was sent to the Police Department and approval for this proposal to be on the Agenda came from the Eastern Property Owners' Association.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this request after the Proposal submitted by the resident is reviewed. We are to look at Prospect Avenue and Meadow Street to see if there is enough room for a stop sign.

5.LETTER FROM ROB MARTIN OF 140 WASHINGTON AVENUE.

Mr. Martin requests a stop sign at Washington Avenue and Warton Place. There is a great deal of high speed driving on Washington Avenue. They have lived there for 18 years. The pressing issue is the increase in accidents, some right in front of their home. Pulling out of their driveway is dangerous and they never let their grandsons go out front for the fear of a car jumping the curb to avoid an accident. This letter was forwarded to us by Laura Schaefer, our Legislator. This letter was sent to the Police Department and the Eastern Property Owners' Association. Trustee Bolebruch has authorized it to be put on the Agenda for review.

DECISION: The Eastern Property Owners' Association is against the stop sign. The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to deny this request. The Eastern Property Owners' Association requested additional speed enforcement.

6.LETTER FROM KEVIN WALSH, ESQ. OF 229 SEVENTH STREET.

Mr. Walsh requests a pedestrian crossing on Seventh Street near 229 and 231 Seventh Street. All visitors and almost all employees must cross Seventh Street in order to get to the parking lot across the street. This is particularly challenging in the morning and evening since there are hundreds of people leaving the buildings and crossing at various points along Seventh Street within an hour or so. Cars proceeding east on Seventh Street, clear the light at Seventh and Franklin Avenue and race to get out onto Stewart Avenue to get home. In the evening at this time of year, it's getting darker earlier further impacting visibility. You also have cars exiting the parking lot going both east and west on Seventh Street creating an additional danger to pedestrians trying to cross. There have been numerous "close calls" with cars and pedestrians over the years. A pedestrian walk might slow traffic a bit by notifying drivers that there are people crossing. Such would be applauded by the occupants and visitors of the building. This letter was sent to the Police Department, Central Property Owners' Association and also to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce agrees with and supports this request. This letter was approved to be put on the Agenda by Trustee Delany and Trustee Bolebruch.

DECISION: The Police Department recommends the crosswalk west of the Chamber of Commerce building. The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to install crosswalk and appropriate signage in front of crosswalk.

7.LETTER #1 FROM WILLIAM BELLMER AT 156 POPLAR STREET.

Mr. Bellmer states that the LIRR Bridge on Cherry Valley Avenue continues to get hit by unobservant over-height trucks. The bridge is marked for 10-foot, 4-inch clearance, which means that the actual bridge height is 11-foot, 4-inches. A prior proposal to install tell-tales in advance of the bridge was not approved. Warning chevrons attached to the edge of the bridge and flashing bridge-height signs at the sides of the roadway have not eliminated the problem, as evidenced by the damage to the chevrons. Each time an accident occurs, multiple Garden City Police are required to direct traffic and oversee debris clearance. The LIRR is also involved in determining that the bridge has not been damaged. If the actual bridge clearance were to be 14-feet, the Federal Highway Administration standard, no signs would be necessary, and no accidents would occur. Cherry Valley Avenue is a County Road. He states it should be worthwhile to ask the County to investigate whether this proposal is feasible, and if so, to implement it to finally solve this long-term problem. In addition, Mr. Bellmer states that trucks might then be able to be diverted from using Cathedral Avenue. This letter was sent to the Police Department and Central Property Owners' Association. This letter was approved to be put on the Agenda by the Central Property Owners' Association.

DECISION: Chairman Robert Bolebruch is to discuss this issue with Legislator Laura Schaefer.

8.LETTER #2 FROM WILLIAM BELLMER AT 156 POPLAR STREET.

Mr. Bellmer states that on Sixth Street westbound at Cathedral Avenue is a "No Turn on Red" sign. These signs are normally placed where the visibility is poor for cross traffic. However, at this location the visibility is good for northbound Cathedral traffic to Fifth Street and beyond (see attached photo), better than for westbound traffic at Chestnut and Franklin, which does not have such a sign. Therefore, it would be beneficial to remove the sign to reduce the right-turn wait time at the intersection. This letter was sent to the Police Department and the Central Property Owners' Association. This letter was approved to be put on the Agenda by the Central Property Owners' Association.

DECISION: Chairman Robert Bolebruch discussed adding "No Turn on Red When Pedestrians are Present" sign. The Central Property Owners' Association is opposed to the elimination of the "No Turn on Red" sign requested. The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to deny Mr. Bellmer's request.

9.REQUEST FROM MR. RALPH SUOZZI, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR.

Mr. Suozzi requests that we install a pedestrian crossing sign in front of the Garden City Senior Center on Golf Club Lane.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting deferred this item at the request of the Central Property Owners' Association.

10.LETTER FROM PETER SAMAAN, ESQ. ABOUT ROCKAWAY AVENUE.

Mr. Samaan writes to ask for an opportunity to discuss the deplorable conditions on Rockaway Avenue, which are added to by the Garden City School buses and students at the High School, who like virtually everyone else, ignore stop signs and the posted Village speed limit and the school zone speed limit. He requests that the school corridor between the Middle School and High School and St. Paul's be made safer. This letter was forwarded to the Police Department

and the Central Property Owners' Association. Trustee Bolebruch approved it to be put on the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this item.

11. LETTER FROM CHRISTOPHER MALONEY OF HAMILTON GARDENS ON SECOND STREET.

Mr. Maloney requests permit parking for residents to park on the block. He states that Ford employees have taken over the block, they leave garbage, they loiter and most importantly they take up all of the spots in front of the apartments. He requests permit parking at least on the North side of the block, but better on both sides, similar to what is being done on Meadow Street. All Ford employees or guests of residents will have the ability to park in lots 2N or 2S down the block. This letter was forwarded to the Police Department and the Central Property Owners' Association. Trustee Bolebruch approved it to be put on the Agenda for this meeting.

DECISION: The Traffic Commission is considering the south side of Second Street toward Franklin to change the two-hour parking to unrestricted. The Department of Public Works and the Police Department are to consider 10-15 cars to be able to be parked. The Traffic Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting voted to defer this item and also to get input from the Central Property Owners' Association.

The following were in attendance:
Christine Mullavey – EPOA Representative
Maureen Lyons – WPOA Representative
Jack Byrnes – Chamber of Commerce
Douglas Singer – Estates POA Representative
Pat DiMattia – CPOA Representative

R. Mangan

Robert J. Mangan, P.E.
Director of Public Works

RJM:lh