

# BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 18 , 2024, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The following members attended, Mike Stoddard, Dan Mason, Ed Neas, Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell. Rich Doolen, Emergency Management Director attended. Members of the public attending were Walt Garner and Josh Jonestein.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. Called to order at 5:30 PM.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the, August 21 2024 meeting minutes. Mike Stoddard made the motion to approve as written and Stuart Edson Seconded the motion. Approved 5-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. (Meeting Protocol).

Walt Garner of Witts Bridge Road in West Brookfield brought a safety issue on Witts Bridge Road to the attention of the committee. Witts Bridge Road (TH 41) starts at West Brookfield Road and travels northeasterly to an intersection with Small Road (TH 58) where Witts Bridge Road continues and Small Road goes a short distance beyond. What became immediately apparent is that the various maps do not agree with each other. ([https://www.trorc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/bftp\\_rdmmap4.pdf](https://www.trorc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/bftp_rdmmap4.pdf)) ([https://maps.vtrans.vermont.gov/Maps/TownMapSeries/ORANGE\\_Co/BROOKFIELD/BROOKFIELD\\_MILEAGE\\_2024.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*1e5mrwc\\*\\_ga\\*NDA2NDcwNDkyLjE2ODE2NjE2Mzk.\\*\\_ga\\_V9WQH77KLW\\*MTcyNzAzNzAzMS41LjEuMTcyNzAzNzU1NS4wLjAuMA.](https://maps.vtrans.vermont.gov/Maps/TownMapSeries/ORANGE_Co/BROOKFIELD/BROOKFIELD_MILEAGE_2024.pdf?_gl=1*1e5mrwc*_ga*NDA2NDcwNDkyLjE2ODE2NjE2Mzk.*_ga_V9WQH77KLW*MTcyNzAzNzAzMS41LjEuMTcyNzAzNzU1NS4wLjAuMA.)) . However, the maps did agree that only a short portion of Witts Bridge Road is Class 3 and maintained. (The VTRANS General Highway Map of Brookfield shows most of Witts Bridge as “impassable or untraveled”). Walt Garner went onto explain that all but one of the houses are above the class 4 portion and cannot be accessed from the West Brookfield Road end of Witts Bridge Road. They must be accessed by Small Road which is accessed from near the southern end of Eagle Peake Road. Because most organizations including emergency services use GPS, they cannot easily get to the other addresses on Witts Bridge Road. This has already resulted in a delay of an hour for an ambulance to get to one of the addresses above the end of the class 4 section of Witts Bridge Road. Walt Garner said that this posed a serious threat to the residents living either full time or seasonally on the upper part of Witts Bridge. There was discussion among the committee members and Walt Garner about what a reasonable solution to this problem should be. It was agreed that if four Witts Bridge Road addresses (630, 665, 751 and 773) were reassigned to either Small Road or a road to be named that emergency services and various delivery services would know to access those addresses from Small Road. It was also agreed that this was a project that should be referred to the Select Board and Jack Zebora, the Brookfield E-911 Coordinator. A motion was made by Michael Rutkovsky and seconded by Mike Stoddard to recommend to the Select Board that they consider changing the road name for the current Witts Bridge Road addresses of 630, 665, 751 and 773 with the assistance of Jack Zebora. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Josh Jonestein of Pond Village, representing Green Trails had questions about how to contact law enforcement if they had a problem on site when they open in 2025. He was advised that if it was a significant problem that he should call 911 and the dispatcher would send either the State Police or Windsor County Sheriff Department officers. Dan Mason, 1<sup>st</sup> Constable said

that if the problem had not yet escalated to a serious problem, they could call him and he would be willing to try to resolve the problem peacefully.

Additionally, Josh Jonestein wondered who he could have handle traffic details in the events that they had planned for next year. Dan Mason said that he or Ed Neas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable would be willing to provide traffic control.

- D. Review and Discussion of WCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. The Windsor County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) bill and report for August was received and discussed. 41 hours of patrols were conducted for a cost of \$2665.00. This was in keeping with the committee wish of having more patrols conducted during the late Spring, Summer and early Fall and fewer in the cold months.
- E. Speeding In Pond Village-An email from Colleen Casimiria and supporting comments from Josh Jonestein about speeding in Pond Village were discussed. WCSD has and will continue to respond to the situation.
- F. Traffic Study on Cram Hill Road- Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) has deployed a traffic study on Cram Hill Road. Results are expected to be received a while after the study has been completed on September 24th. TRORC will consider traffic studies on other roads in Brookfield in 2025. Walt Garner spoke in support of resolving the situation on Cram Hill Road.
- G. Emergency Management Status- Rich Doolen, Brookfield Emergency Management Director is recruiting additional members for the Shelter team. Lew Stowell offered to send Rich some information about the town emergency plan including contact information. Rich Doolen will attend the Select Board meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rich stated that VT Alert does not cover issues on town highways.
- H. VT Alert Registration Project Status- Rich Doolen stated that only 6 residents in Brookfield had signed up so far for the 211 CARE program. He will get a list of the people and see if more people should sign up. The CARE program was created to help emergency responders identify Vermonters who might need additional assistance in case of a wide-scale event. (<https://e911.vermont.gov/care>)
- I. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Lew Stowell reported that Carol Monness, Town Clerk has already received orders for 13 E-911 house number signs. We need at least 12 more to qualify for the \$9.95 price.
- J. Traffic, Parking, No Parking and Road Name Sign Progress. Stuart Edson has done research looking for companies that will install traffic signs. The town road crew is down one worker again and must get ready for Winter. Stuart has so far found one company that will install a sign for \$210 per sign with the town providing the signs and post. This would be a contract in FY 2026. Missing and damaged traffic control signs continue to be an on-going problem.
- K. October 2024 Public Safety Message. A motion was made by Michael Rutkovsky and seconded by Ed Neas to approve the October safety message. Approved: 5-0-0
- L. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be October 16, 2024 5:30 PM at the Town Office, 40 Ralph Road.
- M. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (October). Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer will be invited for a 90-day review of progress in the ongoing law enforcement contract.
- N. Final Public Comment. Stuart Edson made and Michael Rutkovsky seconded a motion to discontinue placing committee un-approved minutes on Front Porch Forum. Agendas will continue to be placed on Front Porch Forum. Approved 5-0-0.

O. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Dan Mason and seconded by Mike Stoddard. Approved at 7:06 PM 5-0-0.