The March 2012 meeting of the Traffic Safety Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 7, 2012.

Larry Hunter opened the meeting with a review of the February, 2012 minutes. Additions to the minutes are to add “Vice Chairman” before the name Joseph Sexton in the attendance. Under New Business, item 2, second line, third sentence start with the words - “She added”. Page 2, third paragraph, first sentence change the word recommends to “recommended”. A motion was made by R. Stoll, seconded by J. Sexton, to approve the February 1, 2012 minutes as revised, approved 8-0.

Larry Hunter chaired the meeting. Also present were Vice Chairman Joseph Sexton, Michael Cecchini, Duncan Black, Daniel Ulatowski, Andrew Lanphear, Russell Stoll, Thomas J. Wik, and Gary Palumbo (at 8:51 p.m.). Also present Scott Marshall of the Planning Department, Al Spoth from the Highway Department, Captain Patrick McKenna from the Police Department, Joseph Frese of the Building Department, Deputy Supervisor Guy Marlette, and Christopher Schregel, Traffic Safety Coordinator/Engineering Liaison. Guest list is on record in the Engineering Department.

Larry Hunter informed the Traffic Board that former Amherst Traffic Safety Board Member A.E. (Bud) Low, P.E. passed away on December 11, 2011. The Traffic Safety Board held a moment of silence in his memory and acknowledged his 20-year service to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. North Forest Road between Maple Road and Sheridan Drive – Request of shoulder and pavement markings. Robert Chamberlain, 39 Brookdale Drive, addressed the Amherst Traffic Board about North Forest Road between Maple Road and Sheridan Drive. Mr. Chamberlain explained that 10-15 years ago North Forest Road was improved between Klein Road and Maple Road and he was under the impression that the same was suppose to be done on North Forest Road from Maple Road to Sheridan Drive. L. Hunter explains that the County was going to do the work between Maple and Sheridan, but the residents objected and obtained Town Board support to shelve the project. Robert Chamberlain explained that this section of roadway is heavily traveled and the shoulders are in very bad shape. He added that the shoulders are deteriorated and breaking off, water is ponding, and some have potholes. During the winter, debris is thrown onto the sidewalk which makes it difficult to walk. L. Hunter interjects and explained that the Amherst Traffic Safety Board was in support of the improvements on North Forest Road between Sheridan Drive and Maple Road. These improvements were to include sidewalks on both sides, improved drainage, roads to be curbed and turning lanes at the Highway Department. Chairman Hunter recalled that one resident on
North Forest Road stated “we want the road to stay dangerous, because vehicles will go slower.”

Richard Chamberlain inquires about road work at the intersection of Maple Road and North Forest Road. C. Schregel states this is a County project for 2012 and only includes the intersection. G. Marlette suggests calling for speed and traffic counters. L Hunter asks C. Schregel to find the exact location of recent counters and put the counters at those same locations. L. Hunter has concerns about residents who put various objects within the right-of-way and requests that the coordinator follow-up with a previous request to the County asking that those be removed. After counts are taken, the Amherst Traffic Board will look at the results and see if counts would support a future improvement project.

2. Ridge Court North – Request to review signage. Ed Stachura, 191 Amherston Drive, addressed the Amherst Traffic Safety Board asking that the Ridge Court North Sign at Main Street have Bellingham Drive and Amherston Drive signage installed underneath as they are currently installed at the south end at Wehrle Drive showing Ridge Court South, Bellingham Drive and Amherston Drive. C. Schregel clarifies that this is the jurisdiction of the Town of Amherst to post the street signs as they were turned over by the NYSDOT. Ed Stachura explained that vehicles traveling from Bellingham Drive are using the westerly side of Ridge Court North to enter Main Street and going the wrong way toward on-coming traffic. A motion was made by D. Ulatowski, seconded by T. Wik, to add “Do Not Enter” sign on the east side of Ridge Court North and to add the second “Do Not Enter” sign, on the west side angled south westerly. Approved 8-0.

In reference to the street sign request, Chairman Hunter stated that many Town Streets are configured in this same manner without additional street signs informing drivers of internal streets. Chairman Hunter is not in favor of posting the Bellingham Drive and Amherston Drive directions signs on Main Street. Other Traffic Safety Board members thought that the Wehrle Drive signage should be consistent with the Main Street signage. A motion was made by M. Cecchini, seconded by D. Ulatowski, to add the signage of Bellingham Drive and Amherston Drive at the Ridge Court North sign. Approved 7-1 (L. Hunter - no). A motion was made by M. Cecchini, seconded by T. Wik, to have those recommendations go to the Town Board for a vote. Approved 7-1 (L. Hunter - no).

3. Sundridge Drive – Request to add two new stop signs and additional parking restrictions. Jeff Haas, 250 Sundridge Dr., addressed the Traffic Board and requested that the Town add two new stop signs to slow traffic down going north and south on Sundridge Drive and to further restrict parking on the east and west side of the street. The Traffic Safety Board discussed the vehicle speeds and L. Hunter explained that the purpose of a stop sign is to assist in designating right-of-way at an intersection and is not to be used for speed control. L. Hunter suggests a count be conducted at Sundridge Drive & Cascade Drive. A motion was made by D. Ulatowski, seconded by J. Sexton, to close the public hearing and to recommend a scheduling of speed count and speed study by the Town's Hwy. Department. Approved 8-0. L. Hunter stated once they receive the counts, this item will be brought up under Old Business.

4. Wehrle Drive – Request to review parking restrictions east of McKinley Avenue right-of-way. After review from the Amherst Traffic Safety Board, that NYDOT did not re-post a parking restriction on Wehrle Drive, east of the McKinley Avenue right-of-way as part of the Transit Road Reconstruction Project, PIN 5209.40. Design plans show that NYSDOT was to replace the “No Parking” sign on the south side of Wehrle Drive consistent with
resolution. As it was the NYSDOT project that removed these signs, Amherst Traffic Safety Board is requesting that they be re-posted according to the resolution.

5. Willowridge Drive and Niagara Falls Boulevard Intersection – Request to review traffic signal timing. L. Hunter asks C. Schregel if he would send a letter requesting the signal timing at the intersection of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Willowridge Drive (similar request sent to NYSDOT in the Fall of 2008). ATSB questions if the nearby traffic changes in association with the new “half-signal” at the I-290 ramps are significant enough to necessitate re-review of the intersection. C. Schregel to report back with the response of the state.

6. 475 Campus Drive – Unsafe snow removal on Sheridan Drive sidewalk. Jason Guzman (on behalf of Michelle Guzman – sister) addressed the Amherst Traffic Safety Board about the difficulty of snow removal for the sidewalk on Campus Drive at the south side of Sheridan. After review by the Amherst Traffic Safety Board, the following two recommendations were provided to Jason Guzman:
   - Consider speaking to neighbors and attempt to make arrangements with the adjacent office park to extend its Sheridan Drive sidewalk snow plowing to include the Sheridan Drive sidewalk at 475 Campus Drive.
   - Hire a driveway snow plowing company that would also plow the sidewalks with its equipment. The configuration of the sidewalk along Sheridan Drive allows for a truck to partially ride up on the sidewalk and plow.

   The Amherst Traffic Safety Board was not aware of the legalities regarding the second option and left it up to the resident and their contractor to determine if that practice is legal.

7. Hartford Road at Millersport Highway Intersection – Request to review traffic signal timing. The Amherst Traffic Safety Board reviewed the residents request after various members reported that they visited the intersection and timed the signal at 1:30 – 1:45 minutes after activated by a vehicle. It was reported that in February 2011, the Police Department worked with the NYSDOT to make sure the Millersport Highway / Hartford Road intersection was optimally timed with Millersport Highway / Sheridan Drive intersection. For these reasons, the Amherst Traffic Safety Board did not suggest any changes to the signal operation at this time.

8. Dodge Road and Campbell Boulevard – Request to review traffic signal operation. According to C. Schregel, NYSDOT will be starting a paving project on Campbell Boulevard from Millersport Highway to Tonawanda Creek Road this Spring. As part of the project, vehicle detection loops will be installed at the subject intersection. This will be an overall improvement upon the current Time-Actuated Signal System that is currently in place. It is anticipated that the overall level of service of the signal will improve after the NYSDOT improvements. For this reason, Amherst Traffic Safety Board wants to wait to make any recommendation until the signal work is completed.

9. Emerson Drive and North Bailey Ave. – Request for traffic signal. L. Hunter is not in favor of proposing it right now, however, L. Hunter would like it included in the Wal-Mart follow-up traffic study to look at ways to eliminate conflicts at this intersection. Amherst Traffic Safety Board discussed possible solutions including a roundabout option, closing off Amsterdam Road, and making Amsterdam Road one-way. C. Schregel to notify Linda Smith about waiting for this study to be complete.
10. Traffic Calming Pilot Study - Residents are continuing to request speed reduction on Pino Verde Lane. After discussion, the Amherst Traffic Safety Board recommends a cut-through count. A motion was made by D. Black, seconded by J. Sexton, to approve a cut-through count and speed and volume count on Pino Verde Lane. Approved 9-0. After further discussion, the Amherst Traffic Safety Board concurs to create a subcommittee for traffic standard codes to be implemented for the Town of Amherst and recommended to the Town Board. This subcommittee will consist of Amherst Traffic Safety Board members Duncan Black, Gary Palumbo and Daniel Ulatowski and the appropriate Town Liaisons.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Main Street at Hirschfield Drive Intersection & Williamsville South High School – Report by Police Dept. Capt. McKenna spoke to the Crossing Guards and felt there was no need for any additional signage.

SITE PLAN/REZONING

SUBJECT: Request to rezone 4.39± Acres From RD to GB;
ADDRESS: 1280 Sweet Home Road and 3875, 3885, 3895, 3905, & 3925 Rensch Road
(SBL#54.12-1-25.12; 54.12-1-25.13, 54.12-1-22, 54.12-1-23.2; 54.12-1-24; 54.12-1-25.2)
PETITIONER: Bevilacqua Development, LP, Z-2011-16A

REZONING IS

APPROVED WITH CONDITION

1. Limit the number of curb cuts on Sweet Home Road to one.

SUBJECT: Minor Site Plan Review, SP-1985-42F
Proposed Burlington Plaza – Parking Expansion and Building Relocations
TOA Job #85-86
ADDRESS: 1551 Niagara Falls Boulevard
PETITIONER: Developers Diversified Realty Corp.

MINOR SITE PLAN IS

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

1. Install pedestrian crosswalk striping between the proposed restaurant building and the existing First Niagara Bank.
SUBJECT: Minor Site Plan Review, SP-1985-42F
Proposed Burlington Plaza – Parking Expansion and Building Relocations
TOA Job #85-86
ADDRESS: 1551 Niagara Falls Boulevard
PETITIONER: Developers Diversified Realty Corp.

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

1. Install pedestrian crosswalk striping between the proposed restaurant building and the existing First Niagara Bank.

SUBJECT: Minor Site Plan Review, ED-1973-23A
Proposed Automotive Sales – Parking Reduction
TOA Job #12-017
ADDRESS: 7428 Transit Road
PETITIONER: Transitowne USA

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

SUBJECT: Minor Site Plan Review, SP-1985-20D
Proposed Retail Building – Patio & Refuse Enclosure
TOA Job #85-29
ADDRESS: 6011 Main Street
PETITIONER: Iskalo 6011 Main Street, LLC

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

SUBJECT: Minor Site Plan Review, SP-1986-72B
Proposed Credit Union – Drive-Thru Addition
TOA Job #86-137
ADDRESS: 2787 Niagara Falls Boulevard
PETITIONER: Boulevard Federal Credit Union

X MINOR SITE PLAN IS
X NOT REVIEWABLE
1. Provide number of anticipated vehicles per hour that will utilize the drive-thru.
2. As currently proposed, drive-thru conflicts with northwest parking stalls. Please specify if the handicap parking stall within this area is signed for staff parking only. If not, consider relocating this one handicap spot to avoid the drive-thru traffic.
3. The close proximity of the drive-thru in relation to the Niagara Falls Boulevard curb cut will cause vehicle conflicts where vehicles have to cross paths in a small amount of space where vehicles may be stacked to exit the site. May cause vehicle queuing on Niagara Falls Boulevard for those drivers who want to use the drive-thru, but cannot access it because exiting vehicles are blocking the drive-thru lanes.
4. Traffic Safety Board is requesting the direction of travel be within the drive-thru reversed to improve traffic flow and eliminate the before-mentioned conflicts.

SUBJECT: Major Site Plan Review, SP-1987-73J
Proposed Miniature Golf Course
TOA Job #87-154
ADDRESS: 5105 North Bailey Avenue
PETITIONER: Lasertron, Inc.

MAJOR SITE PLAN IS
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

1. Provide a pedestrian walkway / crosswalk between the existing North Bailey Avenue sidewalk and the Lasertron building.
2. Install a sidewalk along the Meyer Road frontage.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.  Next meeting scheduled for April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Board Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher P. Schregel
Traffic Safety Coordinator

CPS/jm