

VERONA

Township of Verona, New Jersey



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES August 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Township Manager Matt Cavallo in the Fireman's Room, 880 Bloomfield Ave.

ROLL CALL

Matthew Cavallo, Louis Koenig, Robert Rowbotham, Mary Cooksey-Wilks, Santi Condorelli, Nicole Quick, Gerard Shimonaski, Susan DeWitt, Chief Christopher Kiernan, Superintendent Rui Dionisio and Councilman Jack McEvoy were present. John Gasiewski was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Members

Each member introduced themselves and gave a little background about them.

Selection of Chairperson

Santi Condorelli was selected to serve as Chairperson of the Committee

Selection of Secretary

Susan DeWitt was asked to serve as Secretary of the Committee

Overview of Committee Responsibilities

Ordinance 2018-16 was distributed. This outlines the committee and responsibilities. (See attached)

Coordinate Upcoming Quarterly Meeting Dates

A date of August 29, 2018 at 7:30 PM was selected for the next meeting. Location to be determined. At that time a schedule of future meeting dates will be discussed

Discussion

Committee discussed various traffic problems in town along with some suggestions to rectify the issues.

- Chief Kiernan discussed school safety issues. Number of school posts has been reduced due to low numbers of students. We will be encouraging the use of "Safe Routes to School." Adding a post at Personette and Gould due to large number of students in area. Will be painting all crosswalks by schools in bright colors – possibly as a school project. Will be painting "Slow School" in roadways near schools. Will be replacing Pedestrian Crossing signs with new Lime Yellow Signs. Looking at a pedestrian activated crossing sign at Fairview & Sampson.
- More stop signs on streets such as Claremont could be helpful. There are many regulations that need to be met to install stop sign including engineer signing off that it is necessary. Stop signs are not supposed to be used as a traffic calming device.
- Rumble strips on Fairview approaching Sampson may help slow traffic coming up to the pedestrian crossing sign.
- County has said they will do traffic counts on Grove, Fairview & Personette next year.
- Question was asked about rumble strips at Fairview & Franklin. No as noise would be disturbing to the residents. Rumble strips are designed to get the drivers attention.
- More signs don't help as we have "sign pollution"
- Question was asked what other towns are doing to calm traffic. Chief Kiernan stated he took a traffic course with people from throughout the state and everyone has the same issues.
- Chief Kiernan stated we have three traffic data collection boxes. They are installed with the display turned off to collect data and then the display is turned on so motorist can see their speed as we continue to collect data. We obtain more accurate info when the display is turned off. Data includes speed, volume and times. VPD is going to be more data driven on enforcement efforts.
- Most of the offenders are actually residents
- Residential street speed limits must be 25 MPH
- Question was asked if there should be more stringent enforcement. Chief Kiernan stated officer have discretion over issuing a summons or a warning.

- WAZE and google maps are contributing to the traffic issue on side streets as they are directing people off the main roads such as Bloomfield Ave.
- Safety was discussed around the schools Rui will send emails to parents. Will try to address at Back to school night a there are a large number of people present. The SCA is only a small group of people.
- Town will be doing an internal review of traffic complaints before getting a formal traffic survey as they are expensive.
- Will be doing a traffic study on White Rock Road and at Cumberland and Bloomfield.
- Speed Humps were discussed. Everyone wants them until they are being placed in front of someone's house then they are not in favor.
- Montclair has flashing pedestrian crossing signs on intersections along Claremont and Walnuts Streets. Concern about the light disturbing neighbors. Hudson County had blinders on flashing lights to help with this issue.
- Proposed Assisted Living at 420 Bloomfield Ave has all traffic exiting the property onto Claremont Ave. Traffic engineer for the property is presenting tomorrow at the Verona Planning Board meeting.
- Suggestion was made to have 8th grade students act as a safety patrol to teach younger kids the proper routes to school and to cross the street safely. Good idea but Liability Issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM. The next meeting will be August 28, 2018 at 7:30 PM location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan DeWitt
Secretary