

Traffic Safety Community Action Group
March 1, 2021 ~ 6:00pm
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone

MINUTES

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jodi Tenney at 6:04pm. Members present were Jodi Tenney, Todd Johnson, Barbara Ellis, Dirk Patterson, Cliff Cooper, Lauren Della Monica, and Kim Fisher.

2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Barbara Ellis to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Cliff Cooper. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business:

A. Road Safety Audit Application:

Raz reported that the application is 95% complete. He wishes to add some additional stats to the report before submitting on or before Wednesday, March 3. First Selectperson Denise Raap asked whether there was concern that the State of CT could mandate cutting into the Town Green as part of a traffic safety plan. It was explained that while the State does have a right of way of a few feet, the historic designation of the Green prohibits their overriding the Town of Litchfield. Jodi asked for clarification as to what happens if the Town identifies areas of concern that the State doesn't address. Raz explained that while the Town cannot act on state roads without the State's permission, the case can be escalated with additional data, going all the way to the Commissioner of Transportation. Dirk offered to send a couple of edits for the application concerning semantics of historic designation. At the time of audit, should such audit be approved, the subcommittee will be instrumental and will consider plans for the revitalization of the Green as part of the discussion. If the audit application is approved, the audit could begin in relatively short order. If it is declined, the backup plan is to make a proposal directly to the DOT. A motion was made by Todd Johnson to endorse the audit application, seconded by Lauren Della Monica. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Walking Audit Update:

John Post presented the Walk Audit Brief, which is the document that would be shared with interested volunteer participants in order to outline expectations, time commitment, etc. Secondly, if the walk audit is to be used to support Litchfield's Sustainable CT initiative, the participants should, to the best of our ability, represent a diverse mix of ages, mobilities, ethnicities, and races. Lauren presented the Litchfield Walk Audit document which she created based on the AARP walk audit as well

as similar walk audits from other towns. The working list for the audit included 18 crosswalks, two of which are signaled. Jodi suggested adding the crosswalk opposite Meraki at North Lake Street. At the time of the required training session for volunteer participants, Raz suggested emphasizing the importance of noting specifically people who are attempting to cross within a crosswalk and cannot due to unyielding oncoming traffic. He added that, during the walk audit, volunteers' photos of these incidents will be very helpful to our cause and may be emailed to him directly. Jodi suggested creating a five-minute training video for interested volunteers to be posted on the town website following the training session. The subcommittee will begin to think about a scheduling matrix that will be as exhaustive as possible, including multiple times of day, multiple days of the week, etc. in order to assign volunteers most effectively for full coverage. The subcommittee will also meet independently to finalize the walk audit brief for distribution to interested participants. The goal is to conduct the walk audit in April.

C. Education Committee Update:

Jodi reported on behalf of the subcommittee. She expressed the value of the walk audit information for education purposes. The committee has reached out to schools and was enthusiastically received, with plans for possible school campaigns in the fall (as October is Pedestrian Safety Month), in addition to the subcommittee's initiatives prior to that time, including social media outreach and a pace driver campaign. They also plan to put out the word at the high school level in order to potentially add a high school teacher to the Education Committee.

4. Adjournment:

The next full committee meeting is scheduled for March 29 at 6:00pm, to be held remotely via live internet stream and telephone. The agenda will consist primarily of committee updates. A motion to adjourn was made by Lauren Della Monica and seconded by Cliff Cooper. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Johnson
Recording Secretary