Traffic Safety Community Action Group Minutes
Monday April 26, 2021

In attendance: Jodiann Tenney, Denise Rapp, Clifford Cooper, Dirk Patterson, Barbara Ellis, Ed Fabbri, and Kim Fisher. Absent: Todd Johnson and Lauren Della Monica.

Call to order – 6:06

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Clifford Cooper. Second my Barbara Ellis. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes - Motion by Clifford Cooper. Second my Barbara Ellis. Motion passed.

Road Safety Audit Application – Application was approved. CT DOT will conduct the audit at no cost to the town. We need a team to work with them to help with scope of work to present to the consultant. The state determines the firm. Raz thinks it will take 6 months. Raz will start drafting a scope.

Walking Audit Update – Over 60 community volunteers. A few more people need to still do the audit and Todd and Lauren will collate the information. Some members shared their experience as auditors. The state is working at the North (63)/East Street light – changing lights, upgrading all hardware. There are some wind problems so they are putting arms. It will have a pedestrian countdown. Cliff mentioned how that turning is difficult for trucks as they continue North on 63 – it is a tight turn. Hopefully the RSA helps us with such problems. Raz says they need to think outside of the box.

Education Committee Update – The committee will be meeting next week. Just Barbara, Kim, and Jodi are on the committee. The committee wants to do something big in the fall when school starts, but Jodi has concerns about the summer. Jodi asked should be do something earlier. Barbara said she is OK with the fall, but is open to something in the summer as well. Kim mentioned that Parks and Rec will have parking at the town hall for the Concerts on the Green because businesses do not want parking taken up and she mentioned that Parks and Rec wants some volunteers. Dirk said that an event on the green negatively affects the merchants and the Borough does not approve new events because it adversely affects the restaurants. Parks and rec is hiring people to be crossing guards. Kim said she is willing to instruct people on how to do it safely. Denise said the person must be over 18.

Items for next agenda – communication. Denise is now doing the social media. We can send her posts.

Kim asked about the rainbow crosswalk. The board of selectman approved it. The crosswalk was being redesigned so that the white is predominant and getting anti-skid paint. Two aspects were considered – nighttime vision and slipping/footing. It is a local road, not a state road. Raz does have some concerns for the long term. Ed said he has some concerns about it. Raz said the only regulated colors are white and yellow -- codes/regulations are guidelines that can be interpreted. This round was approved by the BOS, but there not be another round. Denise
clarified that the normal white will not be touched – it will still have the wide white lines. The striping is 2x/year so probably it will revert back to white in the fall. Jodi said that this committee can make a recommendation. Jodi said the rainbow crosswalk sends a great message and people have expressed how the community is very accepting. She suggests that if the committee makes a different recommendation that the committee make a recommendation for a different way to show inclusivity. Ed Fabbri said there are other ways and he very amenable to sending a positive message in another way. That crosswalk is not part of the crosswalk audit. Cliff suggested it be put on the audit. Jodi noted that articles she researched show it is a town’s decision. The federal government has no data on rainbow crosswalks so there is no hard data, but there is anecdotal information from towns that cars slow for colored crosswalks, but again it is not backed by hard research. Denise noted that we have had accidents on the white crosswalks in town, but agreed these are different roads. Raz said we need to monitor.

The committee can put on a July agenda for next fall. Raz said we can see what data and feedback we have on that.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55. Motion by Dirk Patterson. Second by Cliff Cooper. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by J. Tenney