

Traffic Safety Community Action Group

Monday June 28, 2021 6:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting Via Live Video Stream and Telephone

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Jodi Tenney at 6:05pm. Members present were Jodi Tenney, Lauren Della Monica, Cliff Cooper, Dirk Patterson, Barbara Ellis, Todd Johnson (joined late) and Kim Fisher (joined late).

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Raz Alexe. Seconded by Lauren Della Monica. There was no vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

Dirk requested a correction of his comment on Page 1, stating instead that events on the Green potentially affect merchants by creating increased demand for parking and consequent lack of available parking for customers. Dirk would also like to correct the comment regarding the “rainbow” crosswalk across from the community field to reflect that there are concerns around pedestrian safety, meeting standards for crosswalks, etc. Minutes were corrected to reflect this. Motion to approve the minutes by Raz Alexe. Seconded by Dirk Patterson. Motion passed.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Matt Etergino in Bantam, who is concerned about driver speed on Circle Drive. Raz agreed that there is concern; however, he pointed out that the majority of the speeders are local residents. Raz will place this area on the schedule for an electronic sign for the standard 30 days, to be extended to 60 days if necessary. Barbara Ellis suggested that the committee respond to Mr. Etergino to suggest that we are now focused on the Borough but will be expanding.

Suggestions for location of signs are received by First Selectperson who works in coordination with State Trooper. Though it is possible, Raz does not recommend using our electronic signs on state roads. That said, only the First Selectperson can request electronic signs from the state for state roads. Criteria for approving or denying speed signs from state are unclear. Report from the RSA is expected within the next ten days.

5. Communication Plan

Jodi expressed concern that there is frustration on the part of residents that there may be no apparent actions being taken following the RSA. Since the report is likely to suggest long-term solutions, she suggested that it is important to also put forward actions that can be taken now.

6. Old Business

A. Road Safety Audit Update

Lauren Della Monica reported on the RSA. An introductory Zoom meeting was held for all participants in the field study with CT DOT and the consultants, followed by a comprehensive walk-through of all crosswalks included in the study, including a particular focus on the crosswalk across from Center School. There was general agreement regarding concerns around speed, traffic volume, pedestrian safety, and traffic noise. Cliff Cooper added his concern regarding bicycle safety. One particular suggestion was to eliminate the climbing lane on 202 at the hill.

B. Walking Audit Data Sharing

Once RSA data is received, there will be a Zoom meeting of the full committee to review the audit recommendations and determine which pieces are salient for communication to the public.

C. Education Committee

This conversation diverted into discussion of additional police presence. Denise Raap explained that we have two constables and one resident state trooper. Hiring an additional constable is \$60K plus benefits. An additional state trooper costs \$176K. Ed Fabbri suggested applying for federal grants for safety improvement projects, based on his successful experience with grants in Torrington. There is general agreement that we need to present

some immediate, viable actions to the public after we receive the report. Denise pointed out that we have no police coverage on weekends and asks whether townspeople want to pay for more.

7. Moveable Traffic Signs and Police Presence

Dirk expressed opposition to temporary safety lawn signs due to visual clutter, and the fact that they may not legally be placed in public right of way from sidewalk to the road in the Borough. Jodi suggested educating the public who live in Borough as to regulations when they purchase signs. Cliff suggested the possibility of letting the Borough Board discuss and make this decision. Kim Fisher suggested that signs outside Borough could reinforce signs in the Borough in terms of immediate visual recognition, and that Borough residents might also agree to place signs on private property for a limited time. Jodi will share example signage and ask for no reply. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday June 30 at 6:00pm via Zoom specifically to discuss temporary lawn signs.

Ed suggested the use of a mobile electronic speed sign as a message board, but Raz pointed out that the mobile sign does not have sufficient space. Jodi will draft a letter to suggest a specific area for the state to provide an electronic speed sign and submit the letter to Denise. Jodi will contact Officer Pete Russo for his suggestion as to location of highest speeding area.

8. Adjournment

Cliff moved to adjourn. Seconded by Kim. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Johnson

Recording Secretary