

Traffic Safety Community Action Group

Monday August 30, 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 6:03pm. Members present were Jodi Tenney, Lauren Della Monica, Dirk Patterson, and Cliff Cooper. Kim Fisher joined late.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve June 28 minutes was made by Lauren Della Monica. Seconded by Cliff Cooper. Motion carried. Motion to approve June 30 minutes was made by Cliff Cooper. Seconded by Lauren Della Monica. Motion carried. Motion to approve July 26 minutes was made by Lauren Della Monica. Seconded by Cliff Cooper. Motion carried.

3. Communication

Jodi expressed thanks to all who provided feedback on the RSA report particularly to Ed for compiling all notes for submission to consultants. Also, thanks to Kim and Raz for doing radio spots.

4. Old Business

A. Road Safety Audit Update

Our notes have gone back to RSA consultants to review and incorporate into their final report. The next step is to create a 5-7 year plan by reviewing the report and recommendations so as to determine viable short, medium, and long term goals, along with associated costs.

Ed suggested that grouping tasks/projects together for efficacy and cost efficiency would be the most practical way to proceed. Ed and Raz suggested meeting in committee to create responses to the RSA report, and then having a meeting with CT DOT to present those responses.

Jodi again brought up pursuing additional electronic speed signs by soliciting the State. Raz suggested two signs for state roads, first to be on North and South Streets, then rotated to East and West Streets. Denise is the individual who must request these signs from the State as the Local Traffic Authority. Raz doesn't have advice as to whether to address this concurrently with RSA audit or to have residents petition for these signs. This issue has come up repeatedly in meetings. Denise will determine the path to move on this, along with Raz.

Ed suggested that we also ask for lowering speed limits to 25mph, which might be an alternative should the State decline to provide electronic signs.

Additionally, Ed suggested that the RSA recommendation regarding moving the streetlight on Spencer Street could be accomplished without DOT to show the public that we are taking action. Dirk pointed out that the Burrough would have to do this in conjunction with the town. Ed said there was a standard charge to move the light. Dirk and Denise will work together on this.

B. Education Committee

The signs for "Please Slow Down and Enjoy Our Town" are in. So far about twenty lawn signs have been sold along with some t-shirts and magnets. They will go out this week to purchasers. The second online store is open. Lauren asked for a current link to send out to multiple recipients, which Jodi will provide.

Jodi has posted regarding the safety campaign on Facebook and thinks we need more messaging and social media posts in light of the upcoming fall leaf season and back-to-school. Jodi and Denise will post on Instagram.

Denise raised the idea of "pace cars" again. She mentioned that additional tickets have been given for speeding, and some local residents have expressed anger at being ticketed. Denise asked Pete for a breakdown of the number of tickets he has written and his

speed threshold for issuing tickets for the purpose of educating the public.

Cliff asked for the Borough position on lawn signs; Dirk replied that at this point the Borough has no position.

Jodi suggested adding some people to the Education Committee. Lauren offered to reach out to participants in the walk audit who expressed interest in helping further. Ed suggested the possibility of parents at Center School. Jodi will connect with Kim and Lauren on this.

C. Government COVID Funds Update

Our current data doesn't justify using these funds for traffic safety measures.

D. Committee Assignments Ongoing

Lauren: RSA

Kim: Education

Jodi: Education

Cliff: RSA

Dirk: RSA

E. Town Budget

By November 1, Denise needs to know any "low hanging fruit" in order to include any of these items in the town budget. Raz suggested that should the State deny request for electronic signs, perhaps town could purchase signs solely for state roads. Jodi inquired about the use of existing town surplus funds. Denise explained that town surplus funds go into the general fund and have been used in the past to support capital projects that are not bonded. Some of the traffic projects could go to Capital Committee for approval if they have a 15-year life. Otherwise, they must go into the town budget. The first line of approach will be to go to the State as soon as possible, given that this will be a process.

5. Adjournment

Cliff moved to adjourn. Seconded by Raz. Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Johnson

Recording Secretary