

Traffic Safety Community Action Group

Regular Meeting

Monday June 27, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Litchfield Firehouse

In Person and via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm. Members present: Jodiann Tenney, Lauren Della Monica, Kim Fischer, Raz Alexe, and Ed Fabbri.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Raz Alexe to approve the minutes from the May 25 meeting. Seconded by Kim Fischer. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Traffic Study and Design Plan Update

Our Road Safety Audit (RSA) will serve as the basis for our future grant applications. Federal grants are available under the Safe Street and Roads for All (SSFA) program. The due date is 9/15/22. Ed Fabbri attended two webinars to learn about the process of applying. There are two grants available: Action Plan Grants and Implementation Grants. Ed states that we probably qualify for the Action Plan Grant based upon our prior work and our existing RSA.

5. Federal Grant

Discussion of next steps for this federal grant application. Online forms are available where we can certify that we have an Action Plan in place. We already have a priority list of changes to our streets from the RSA. We may seek public comment on the RSA and proposed changes before the 9/15 application deadline to provide the public with information and guarantee transparency in the process.

We could partner with the State of Connecticut as relates to changes to state roads made possible through the federal grant process. The State would submit a letter agreeing to work with us on state highways. We would begin by conducting discussions with the State about responsibilities for maintenance which would then need to be finalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the State with the details of how that distribution would work. Such MOU would need to be in place before the grant could be awarded, and we should start the discussion before applying.

Discussion about which items to include in the grant application. We could propose everything in the RSA or apply in 2 parts, one part for The Green and the other part relating to Routes 202 & 118 and their intersections. We would bring in the Borough to discuss changes related to The Green.

Discussion of our chances of securing the SSFA grants as the federal grants aim to reduce fatalities many of which we have not had.

Discussion of whether we should apply for a CT DOT grant designed for rural areas like ours and/or apply for the federal grant. We will research what we can do for the available state grants and learn more about the state requirements.

Raz Alexe will contact three consulting firms and seek bids for them to prepare our grant applications.

Discussion of possible methods of public outreach from our committee regarding the RSA in advance of grant applications and providing opportunity for public comment.

6. Update on Crosswalk Request to State

Denise contacted the state to follow up on our request and learned that our contact person has retired. Our requests are documented and the new contact person will review and get back to us. We will follow up.

7. Summer Yard Sign Campaign

Committee chose to make signs again. This time they will be brighter and more colorful. Mock-up of new signs is in progress. The online store has an ordering deadline of 7/22. We will run the program of displaying these signs from August through September to coincide with back-to-school.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Next steps

Electronic speed signs update: 3 of 4 town signs are functional. We also have 4 borrowed signs from UConn until Sept-Oct. Raz is working on a gift of at least 2 signs from the State each of which now cost about \$6,000. We will conduct a test by using one of the traffic signs to record data without the digital screen engaged and then compare the data when the screen is activated and visible to drivers.

Public outreach regarding the RSA and future plans relating to its implementation to be determined.

Raz will speak with consultants about our assisting us with our grant applications.

Raz and Ed will work on getting State to agree to participate in our MOU so we can apply for the federal grant.

10. Motion to Adjourn at 7:08 pm by Lauren Della Monica. Seconded by Kim Fischer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Della Monica