

Traffic Safety Committee Action Group
Public Hearing 8/29/22 6 pm
Litchfield Firehouse and on Zoom
Public Comment/Q &A Session

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members present: Jodiann Tenney, Lauren Della Monica, Kim Fischer, Raz Alexe, Ed Fabbri, Denise Rapp. Attendance sheet was available for members of the public to sign in.

2. Presentation

Committee members Jodiann Tenney, Ed Fabbri and Lauren Della Monica presented the public with the a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the group's work over the past year and a half, outlined present work underway and detailed future goals. Raz Alexe and Denise Rapp answered questions and provided specific expertise.

By show of hands, 90-95% of the people in attendance admitted that they by-pass the North Street and the 202/118 intersections by using side streets in Litchfield.

3. Q & A

Various community members asked questions of the group or raised issues for consideration including:

-Bantam: A community member noted high rates of speed of motorists and dangerous road crossing conditions at Route 202 and Vanderpoel Avenue. Other problematic intersections include Doyle Road/202 and 209/202. We will take a look at these areas.

-With the increase in the number of hotel rooms in town, one community member expressed concern over added congestion. This will be included in our larger analysis.

-A resident asked if local police speeding ticket information could be published. We have considered this and could publish broad ticketing data.

-Intersection of 254/118: A first responder from Northfield mentioned the dangerous intersection and continued recent accidents and asked if something could be done in that location such as a traffic light. Denise Rapp explained that she agrees and has approached the State numerous times as it is their road. The DOT is looking at this again for the third time. Suggestion of a petition from the Town to the State to ask for changes here.

-A local first responder suggested that a combination of ticketing and public education will be most effective in solving our traffic safety issues. He suggested supplementing our police presence in town by asking the assigned Troop L officer covering Litchfield and Morris to coordinate with our resident trooper and rotate the on-duty trooper through town.

-A resident asked about speed bumps on secondary roads. Discussion about researching what other towns are doing with speed humps on their low-speed roads, keeping in mind issues of maintenance and liability.

-A South Street resident voiced concern about the high speeds on South Street where the posted limit is 40 mph. Discussion of a boulevard application to South and North Streets to narrow the travel lanes, slow traffic and beautify.

-A resident asked about elevated or submerged crosswalks at the North Street/202 intersection. Discussion about liability and maintenance.

-The resident asked about placing a digital speed sign at Center School again, and we discussed this possibility with State permission.

-A Tapping Reeve resident asked if the sidewalk could be continued West on Route 202 to connect the schools/Constitution with Tapping Reeve around the corner by Ace Hardware. She noted that the schools are walking distance to the Tapping Reeve community, and that there are many school children living there. Parents sign school bus waivers to allow their children to walk to and from

school rather than take the bus especially given Covid. However, she noted that because there is no sidewalk, the children have no safe passage. In winter, the State plows block their way with piles of snow so they have to walk in the dangerous road. She asked our group to take a look at this location.

-A resident asked about speeding on West Street and by Center School despite the 30 mph zone and 25 mph during school times. Discussion of road diet with turning lane to assist residents in accessing their driveways and also to slow traffic for the school and crossing guards.

4. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 7:45 pm by Jodiann Tenney

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Della Monica