

Traffic Safety Community Action Group
Meeting Minutes
December 18 2023

Call to order 4:08

Committee members in attendance: Cliff Cooper, Lara Hillman, Patricia Pfiffer, Dirk Patterson. Late: Amanda Glover. Absent: Margaret Goodhouse, Kim Fischer.
Also in attendance: Dan Morosani & Paul M.

Public Comment:

Patricia Pfiffer: Asked for impaired driving campaign goes out for increased enforcement. Asked to speak to local enforcement to participate.

Motion to Approve Minutes from Nov 8th by Patricia P. Seconded by Cliff C. Motion passed with typo changed.

Set Meeting Dates for 2024. Motion to approve by Cliff Cooper. Seconded by Lara Hillman.

Review concerns from Nov. 8 and next steps for the committee (see Nov 8 minutes for concerns).

Discussion:

Traffic Cameras:

Patricia - Wants the committee to focus on areas with high traffic & fatalities. What is this committee's responsibility if it is BOS responsibility? Patricia has concern about not enough enforcement.

Jodi - Role for traffic committee would be to be advocates. Ultimately people vote. Up to this group if the group wants to advocate for cameras. Police can only be in so many places at one time so many miles of road police can't be everywhere.

Denise - This year double the amount of tickets have been issued by our police.

Cliff - Supports traffic cameras as a deterrent for speeding.

Dan M.- Cameras are coming in many places and will make sense - cameras can be used for license plate readers (LPRs) - can help if break ins, thieves that steal cars. Can help with overall crime and safety prevention. Also he believes radar signs with your

speed helps reduce speed. Cameras would be in conjunction with speed signs. Maybe can ping a stolen car.

Jodi - would like for next month - Can we have a list of recommendations for BOS - our recommendations for where cameras should be considered. Next meeting we can come up with recommendations.

Ed - in favor of speed cameras - signs like this in Italy when he was there. GPS even gave you a warning before you got there. It worked. Very effective.

Dirk - Already cameras installed by state near the green. What are those and can we use them? Denise thinks they use them in case of an accident or to monitor traffic. Ed says the camera focuses on cars stopped at red light - alerts the computer to change light from red to green to move people along. Ed - thinks technology may be used there for people running red lights.

Lara - need to be careful. If we have cameras there needs to be enforcement. Need to be clear on what speed cameras mean to the community and have to enforce. In favor as long as enforced.

Dan M. - Lots more work needs to be done. Radar under sign. Not controversial. Good first step before cameras. Patricia agrees. Town is not trying to gain revenue. We are trying to reduce speed. Honest intentions.

Jodi asks people to process info on speed cameras for the next meeting.

Suggested recommendation for next meeting:

Recommendation to BOS: That BOS put forth regulations for speed & red light cameras to enforce speed, possibly combined with speed limit signs for 2023-2024 budget. (Investigate and ensure enforcement).

Board of Selectman having a separate meeting solely for safety and enforcement. Does this committee want to advocate for more police patrol? Jodi says people want more enforcement but people don't want taxes to go up. Do we as a committee view our enforcement as adequate?

Lara - Yes we want more enforcement, but that does mean more cost. People need to model the behavior. Are our own residents watching their own speed? Police officers say half of the tickets go to Litchfield residents. Denise says more than that and then residents scream at police because they are angry the police want to ticket them.

Patricia - Need high visibility enforcement. Human behavior - if they see enforcement they will slow down. Need at least periods of time where they are highly visible. Yes, let's recommend more enforcement. People will also feel safer with more visibility, more police.

Dirk - We need more police presence, more enforcement with increase in budget but then voters will get to vote on it.

Dan - Meeting coming up. Need to look at constables vs state police.

For next meeting: Recommendation to BOS: Need for more police presence and increased number of police, within reasonable limits for budgeting.

Jodi - Selectmen want to know what people are thinking.

Jodi - Also need rough proposal for 254/118 for meeting with Eucalito. If we ask for things that are too big, we are less likely to get it and will take a long time. Are there things we can ask them to do that won't cost a lot of money and that the state can support and pay for? Examples: Flashing red lights on 254, dangerous intersection ahead sign, speed limit signs redone (see document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MV6BN9PhlHeKCRwr-WG3VDPDj1bM6FHHMh8i98ffyCU/edit?usp=sharing>)

Jodi concerns that signage is unclear about when 40 MPH starts. (Sign says speed limit 40 ahead). Ed says that that orange and black is a warning sign - speed limit coming up - so you would not get a ticket. You get a ticket only after a black and white sign. There should be a black and white sign before 254 when you are coming from the East. Denise already put in a request for a speed limit reduction at 254/118.

Jodi - Asks people to process and look at the signage when they drive that road.

Ed - They should just replace the yellow sign with a regular speed black and white sign.

Spencer Street Crosswalk. Jodi wants this group to look at a temporary solution there while the state is looking at our plan. Jodi sent an idea to Denise & Raz. The man whose dog was killed was midway through the crosswalk and she has concerns that there is no pedestrian refuge and it is a very wide area. Jodi thinks if the speed limit there is reduced to 25 which Denise already did, this could be a potential area for a speed hump. Ed had concerns that a pedestrian refuge island would cause a problem because people would pass on the right and that could be more dangerous to cyclists. Ed will follow up with the state person in charge of temporary traffic calming measures. He will see if we can have a pilot program. Cliff and Ed both think it's a good idea to contact her.

Jodi - reminder we have ST money and this might be a good way to use it - ask ST to reallocate for this purpose.

Lara - Lisa Delatano and Kim - it would be good to get their input. They can provide more info. Also Desiree and Jim Holmes (our police). Ed already talked to Lisa and Kim and they are in favor of moving the crosswalk. Ed thinks that repaving/ possible road diet will only be a few years off. Timing is right to get something done.

Will revisit these at next meeting - Jan 23

Dan Morosani has concerns about putting things into the hands of the state (example Chestnut Hill Road showed state's actions did not make sense near 118/254). Problem is speed on 118, not people coming out of Chestnut Hill Road. He thinks we need to engage with the Borough and get the Borough to engage with us. If we add green space, what happens?

Dan M. shared a plan that he would like the committee to look at and the state to consider.

Adjourn at 5:23pm.