

VERONA

Township of Verona, New Jersey



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES October 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chairman Santi Condorelli in the Fireman's Room at the Verona Community Center.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Jennifer DeShazer, Louis Knoetig, Susan DeWitt, Chief Christopher Kiernan and Councilman Ted Giblin were present.

Nicole Quick, Robert Rowbotham, Albert Rawding, and Robert Merkler representing the Verona Schools were absent.

Mary Cooksey-Wilks has resigned from the committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting were approved. Motion Louis Knoetig, 2nd Santi Condorelli, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion

- Andy Anderson brought in some information about Complete Streets and a workshop they are running in various areas in NJ. (See attached) He stated there are grants available. Chief Kiernan stated Verona is heavily involved with the Complete Streets Program.

Chief Kiernan Report

- Chief Kiernan stated summons and written warnings are both up from 2018 totals at this time. Call volume is also up. Now that schools are open, officers spend time each day walking through the schools in their zones. Chief also stated with all the new state regulations with Criminal Justice Reform and

domestic violence reporting, calls take longer to complete than they did in past years.

- Chief stated there have been a lot of traffic related complaints in the Forest Ave Section of town. Waze, Google Maps and other mapping programs put more traffic onto side streets as they direct motorists away from main roads.
- Commercial traffic is hard to relocate, looking at no left turn from Forest onto Bloomfield Ave.
- Total amount of overall traffic is increasing.
- Not in favor of one way on Forest during certain times as it will just displace traffic onto S. Prospect Street and Mountain Road and not he is sure if those roads could handle the increase.
- Traffic Study came back for Forest Ave. Recommended more stop signs. (See Attached)
- School Guards - we have 26 full time posts. 988 post positions in September - 90 needed to be covered by sub guards or police, 8 of these were covered by police.
- Post at Otsego and Newman was eliminated as police felt there were other safe alternative routes for the children to walk. Police are monitoring this area as the stop signs on Elmwood have put traffic onto other streets.
- Question was asked about traffic lights on Fairview. Chief stated County had traffic counters on Fairview; he will remain in touch with the County.

Jennifer DeShazer brought up concerns about children crossing at South Prospect and Hill St. Chief stated Crosswalk Ahead signs were installed in that area and parking stalls were going to be realigned once roadway is milled and paved which will give a better line of sight when crossing in that area. Chief also stated that we never had a crossing guard at that intersection.

Andy Anderson asked about the Lenape Trail - he stated this would be a good place to get people to walk/bike and get some cars off the roadways. He stated he has brought up this topic in other towns.

Ted Giblin asked what could be done for pedestrian crossing at Pompton and Claremont. Chief stated it is not a safe area to be crossing due to speed of vehicles and sight lines in that area. He would recommend that anyone who needs to cross go to Linden/Cambridge/Pompton. Chief has been in touch with State Highway to see if they can give a 15 second pedestrian lead time with push button at Cambridge/Pompton to give pedestrians a little more time to cross.

Nicole (via email) stated she feels stop signs have helped on Elmwood. Asked if we can rethink signs on Claremont and other busy residential streets. She also feels signs would help traffic slow down on Claremont near Cumberland as there was a big crash there recently.

How Fast is To Fast Presentation - attendance was ok, program was filmed. Santi feels the schools should be encouraged to run this program or something similar in the

schools. Video of presentation is on VTV and also YouTube (video appears to be blocked on YouTube due to copyright infringements)

Louis feels there should be some type of blinking lights on Sampson Drive at Dodd and Sampson and Fairview when there are events going on as it is very dark in those areas. Also feels they are needed at Fairview and Franklin as it is also very dark in that area.

Santi asked if something could be done by the banks, Verona Diner, Civic Center and exit from Lot 1 onto Bloomfield Ave as cars stop over the sidewalk impeding pedestrian traffic. Feels a speed bump or something similar just before the sidewalk would slow traffic and make cars stop. Chief will ask engineer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

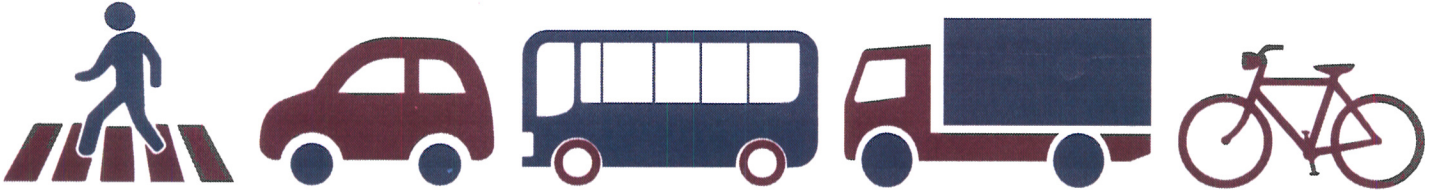
Reminder that all committee meetings are open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday December 3, 2019 at 7:30 PM – at the Verona Community Center (most likely in the ballroom).

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan DeWitt
Secretary



FREE TRAINING: Implementing Complete Streets at the Local Level

COMPLETE STREETS are roads designed for all users, all modes of transportation, and all ability levels. These strategies help improve safety for people walking and biking, while generating many other benefits. ⚡ This training will provide an overview of complete streets and the many resources available to assist local officials and community members in advancing complete streets initiatives. ⚡ The training is a collaborate effort by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Sustainable Jersey, the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- 8:30am – 9:30am **What are Complete Streets and Why are They Important?**
- 9:45am – Noon **Introduction to Complete Streets Implementation**
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **Policy and Design Guidance for Implementing Complete Streets**
- 3:15pm – 4:30pm **Funding and Technical Assistance**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

8:30AM – 4:30PM

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
One Newark Center, 17th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

8:30AM – 4:30PM

NJ Highlands Council
100 North Rd
Chester, NJ 07930

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020, 9:30AM – 4:00PM

Rowan College of South Jersey – Cumberland Campus
3322 College Drive
Vineland, NJ 08360

Register online: bit.ly/2019CompleteStreets



This training qualifies for New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Continuing Competency credits (CPC's) and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification Maintenance (CM)—self-reporting credits through Rutgers University.