



**NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairman Santi Condorelli in The Council Chambers at Verona Town Hall

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Mary Cooksey-Wilks, Louis Koenig, Nicole Quick, Tom Lancaster, VHS Vice Principal representing Rui Dionisio, Susan DeWitt, Chief Christopher Kiernan, and Councilman Jack McEvoy were present. Matthew Cavallo and Robert Rowbotham and Albert Rawding were absent. Gerard Shimonaski has resigned from the committee.

Guest present at the meeting was Arnold "Andy" Anderson of the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved with one correction. The statement should have read Question was asked if Sampson Drive could be made one way going eastbound instead of westbound. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion

- Andy Anderson introduced himself to the committee. Andy has 28 years of Law Enforcement experience. He has been involved with Essex County Community Traffic Safety Program, Teen Safe Driving Programs and has many free programs available. Andy stated there are programs available that can be done in the schools. Chief Kiernan noted that Detective Martin has programs in place at the high school.
- Andy stated that engineering changes take a long time. Essex County is the deadliest county for pedestrian and bicyclist deaths.
- Group feels traffic flow has improved at HBW.

- FN Brown cars park blocking the driveway to the rear of the school. Parents use teacher's lot to turn around causing a hazard. Can exit be blocked with cones to deter this? Question was asked if right turns were allowed on Dodd Ter from Sampson Drive would this help the issue in the teacher's lot?
- Still an issue with vehicles illegally parking near Franklin causing sight issues for cars coming out of Franklin. Also states cars parking too close to stop sign on Franklin St causing an issue.
- All schools seem to be running smoothly since full day kindergarten has started.
- VPD has been monitoring all schools with gentle reminders being given to parents. Will be doing fixed posts at each school.
- Speeding on Claremont, Elmwood and Otsego a big issue. Feel that motorists are not stopping at stop sign at Otsego and Claremont. Suggestion made to put blinking stop sign at this location. VPD only has one set of the blinking stop signs. Very Expensive \$3200. Andy stated he has reflective strips for the stop signs free through a grant.
- Parents making U and K turns on Gould Street during pick up and drop off an issue. Also have observed delivery trucks making deliveries during drop off time in the mornings causing a traffic problem. Can Board of Education contact delivery companies and have deliveries made at another time?
- Slight issue on Elk Road with drop off and pick up between 2:50 and 3:15 PM. Problem self corrects.
- Andy stated speed humps have been used in Livingston by one of their schools. Speed humps are a liability concern for engineering departments. Paint is a cheaper option and does help. Town needs to buy in for speed humps and council would need to approve.
- Traffic count shows avg speed of 33 MPH and top speed of 35 MPH.
- Suggestion to put traffic counting boxes on some of the streets previously mentioned as problem areas. Chief Kiernan said they would be put out. Chief also said he would like to take committee out and show them how radar works.
- Andy said he could do a program "How Fast is To Fast?" for the public. Will target a date in May for this at the Verona Community Center. (Date has been set as May 21)
- Suggestion was made to redo videos of school drop off and pick up procedures for each school as was done in the past.
- Discussion on new reflective coats for the crossing guards. A sample was shown - 3 season jacket which costs approx. \$300 each. Suggestion was made to have community groups donate towards the purchase. Andy stated there are grants available from insurance companies, AAA and Partners for Health that could possibly help with the cost.
- Chief Kiernan gave some statistics from 2018. 3026 MV Stops and 4459 summonses issued. 26,000 CAD entries up 6000 from 2017. There were 652 motor vehicle crashes, 428 were on County roadways. Criminal Justice reform is causing officers to spend more time inside doing reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine McGrath asked about the possibility of making Forest Avenue one way during school drop off/pick up. Chief Kiernan stated it would only move problem onto surrounding streets and all street in that area are narrow.

Christine also suggested advertising above program through SCA's.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday April 24, 2019 at 7:30 PM. Meeting will be held in the Fireman's Room at the Verona Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan DeWitt
Secretary