



**NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Santi Condorelli in the Fireman's room at the Verona Community Center.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Mary Cooksey-Wilks, Louis Koenig, Nicole Quick, Anthony Lanzo FN Brown Principal and Nicole Stuto Brookdale Ave School Principal representing Rui Dionisio, Robert Rowbotham, Albert Rawding, Susan DeWitt, Sgt. Anthony Condorelli representing Chief Kiernan and Councilman Jack McEvoy were present.

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 March 6, 2019 meeting were approved. Motion Louis, 2nd Nicole all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion

Anthony Lanzo - FN Brown School Principal

- Enrollment is up which equals more cars
- Sampson being one way and no turn on Dodd creates a challenge
- U turns in teachers lot an issue as well as cars speeding through the lot, parents dropping off children in the lots and parents parking in lot taking spaces from teachers.
- School has started putting cones across teacher's lot to prevent the above issues. Some parents are upset with the cones.
- Parents can park across from FN Brown (West Side of Grove) and should walk to crossing guards but some jaywalk across Grove.

- Town DPW does a great job in removing snow from front of school which helps keep traffic flowing during bad weather.
- Drop and go area in front of school – some parents still park there and some double park causing traffic issues.
- Parking too close to corners is an issue.
- School places cones by area south of school parking lot on East side of Grove to deter parking as parents were blocking residents driveways and parking too close to corner.
- Side driveway is only supposed to be used by Special Education buses but some parents still try to pull in to drop off children.
- Kindergarten dismissal has not been an issue – they exit side door by playground and walk up to front of school. Some stay for aftercare so that cuts down on the number of students leaving at 3 PM.
- There were police in lot after cones were put out checking DL's and that seemed to wake people up that they should not be in the lot.
- Anthony was asked if he has any suggestions or recommendations to make things safer.
 - Possible electric arm on parking lot and side driveway but concern that it could back up traffic on Grove.
 - Sampson to Dodd right turn allowed maybe during drop off and pick up.
 - Considered a U in the front of school but some people were against it due to cutting trees and it being too close to building.
 - Cut out into sidewalk for a drop off/parking lane (1 car width deep). Jack to ask if town engineer can look out feasibility of this idea.
 - Would there be grant money available for this.

Nicole Stuto – Brookdale Ave School Principal

- Have U in front of school so drop-off is seamless
- Illegal parking (driveways, fire hydrant) on Brookdale during pickup – crossing guard does remind people
- Nicole was asked if she has any suggestions or recommendations to make things safer.
 - Asked if a stop sign can be installed on Brookdale Ct at Brookdale Ave., states there used to be one there but it is no longer there.
 - No left turn from Brookdale Ct is not enforced; Left Turns don't really have an impact, could sign be removed?

Louis is still looking at prices for reflective jackets, 3 in one jacket. Santi states UNICO will contribute. Jack will reach out to Lions to see if they will donate.

Andy discussed the “How Fast is to Fast” Program. It looks at Myths related to speeding, the 85th percentile speed, why do we speed, and why is it acceptable to speed. Program is approximately 1 hour.

Discussion was had to offer program in September and combine it with a school safety information session. Want to have VPD involved and possibly getting sponsors to supply handouts and have VRS and other community groups present.

Dates were discussed - pick something that does not conflict with back to school nights. We also discussed ways to publicize event including social media and through Board of Education notices.

Andy asked about the possibility of holding AAA driver improvement classes in Verona on Saturdays. Info will be forwarded to Town Manager.

Nicole asked about the results from the traffic box that was on Claremont Avenue after the last meeting. Chief Kiernan has results.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday June 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Verona Community Center Annex.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan DeWitt
Secretary