

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Santi Condorelli in the Annex Building at the Verona Community Center, 880 Bloomfield Ave.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Nicole Quick, Robert Rowbotham, Al Rawding, Louis Koenig, Susan DeWitt, Chief Christopher Kiernan, and Councilman Ted Giblin were present. Jennifer Deshazer and Rob Merkler were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting were approved. Motion Al, 2nd Bob, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion

- Speed Enforcement – Nicole brought up concerns due to all of the construction in our town and surrounding towns. Doesn't know if we need more enforcement, speed humps or more stop signs but feels that we need to have a plan for all the added traffic.
- Chief Kiernan stated Town has been in contact with the County as Bloomfield Ave has many traffic issues. Discussions have included where excess traffic is going to go and people speeding on side streets. Town is against speed humps based on engineering. Every new development has a traffic impact study. County Engineer feels traffic lights are properly sequenced. There will be a traffic study on Bloomfield Avenue end of this year/beginning of next year.

Waze and Google apps are putting more traffic onto the side streets. "Resident only" signs are unconstitutional. Town looking into weight limit signs to stop large trucks from cutting through. Whatever is done on one street will affect surrounding streets.

- Forest Ave resident expressed concerns to committee regarding the amount and speed of traffic on Forest Ave. Both have increased and it is affecting quality of life. There are a lot of children in the area do the school. Concerned about increase in traffic with new developments – it is impacting the community and is only going to get worse.
- Chief Kiernan stated new stop signs are going up at Pease, Marion and Gerdes.

- Resident asked if we could do a traffic survey before they go up to see if they have any impact. Chief reports Police Department has the traffic boxes out gathering data on various streets. Data from traffic boxes shows the speed is not the issue but rather the volume is the issue.
- Summit Road resident asked if the new speed signs on Elmwood have helped. Chief stated they have pushed more traffic to Otsego Rd.
- Santi suggested we do more Nixle messages regarding traffic safety. Chief stated there is a new town newsletter and Police will be highlighting Traffic Safety.
- Summit Road residents expressed concerns about getting out of Summit Road onto Mt. Prospect Avenue, especially during high volume traffic times. Trees obstruct view when looking south: left turns are very difficult. Feels that lights at Sunset Ave in Verona and Woodland Ave in West Orange could be timed better to allow a gap in traffic. Also stated it is very hard to see the street sign.
- Chief stated sightline is an issue, no left turn signs off of Summit Road really don't make sense. County has reinstated the "Red Signal Ahead" sign which has helped to decrease motor vehicle accidents in area. Chief will speak to the County about the timing of the lights.
- Al suggested a possible "Hidden Road" sign to assist people in seeing/locating the street.
- Louis is concerned about people making U-turns on Hillwood Terrace in the mornings after dropping children off at school. Also speeding on Durrell St. Suggests a crosswalk on Fairview in middle of block as lots of people cross there. Stated lighting is poor in that area. Chief stated engineers will not sign off on a mid-block crosswalk.
- Santi expressed concern about cars that park in the driveway but block the sidewalks. States he has seen children walking to school having to go out in the street to get around them.
- Forest Ave resident asked if we can bring in County representatives to meet with us. Chief stated the town meets with the County Engineer regularly. Majority of decisions are made based on engineering studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were made by the following residents during the discussion detailed above
 Alexandra Mavirdis – 37 Forest Avenue, Verona
 Charles Rysavy – 19 Summit Road, Verona
 Ellen Lev – 45 Summit Road, Verona

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next meetings are scheduled for Mar 10, 2020 at 7:30 PM and May 12, 2020 at 7:30 PM. Meetings will be held in the Annex Building of the Verona Community Center, 880 Bloomfield Avenue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan DeWitt
Secretary