

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chairman Condorelli via Zoom.

Open public meeting statement was read.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Jennifer Deshazer, Susan DeWitt, Chief Christopher Kiernan, Nicole Quick and Louis Knoetig were present. Councilman Ted Giblin arrived late. Alissa Randall, Robert Rowbotham, and Al Rawding, and Board of Education Representative were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- Nicole Quick asked about the “black boxes” (traffic counting devices). Stated many new residents in area may not be familiar with our speed limits. Has not seen any improvement on Claremont. Feels the stop signs may be helping on Elmwood. Also asked about stop sign at Claremont and Cumberland to slow traffic and speed humps in the area.
- Louis Knoetig asked about more signage by Walgreens as you exit the driveway onto Claremont. Some people don’t realize they can’t make a left out of the driveway. Also said he see’s people on Claremont Avenue merging to the left as they cross the intersection of Cumberland. Asked if a line can be painted to keep people to the right.
- Chief Kiernan stated we have scaled back on the traffic county devices as the counts will not be accurate with everyone home. Also was a manpower issue due to Covid-19. Will be starting to put them back out on a normal rotation. Covid-19 has been a great concern and very time consuming. Reported at one time there was a temporary stop sign on Claremont at Cumberland but it did not have enough data to support it so the sign was removed. Chief will look into more signage by Walgreens and also lines for traffic lanes at Claremont & Cumberland.

- Louis asked about Claremont and Pompton. It is a dangerous intersection with cars making lefts from W/B Claremont, illegal lefts from Pompton N/B onto Claremont and pedestrians crossing. Can we put up signs for do not block the box or do something to make it safer. Also stated it is difficult to make the left from Mt. Prospect onto Bloomfield Ave.
- Chief Kiernan stated that a business owner in the area paid for a traffic study at Claremont & Pompton. The County did accept this study and a traffic light is in the works.
- Nicole is concerned this light will cause more traffic on Claremont.
- Santi Condorelli asked if the lines on Bloomfield and Pompton can be repainted as they are very faded. Chief said he will bring this to the County.
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PUBLIC COMMENT

George Manousos – 37 Forest Avenue

- Expressed concerns about speeding and cut through traffic in S/W quadrant. Stop signs do help but can't be used to just slow down traffic. Asked for update on truck route.
- Chief Kiernan stated truck route on hold. There are limitations on it, the first step is to enact wording, signage and enforcement.
- Concerned about construction vehicles from Pine Street using Municipal side streets to avoid traffic lights. Chief will speak to supervisor to make sure they stay off side streets.
- Stated he bought a Wyze camera and has it outside his house and is able to capture two weeks of traffic counts by his house.
- Asked about Downtown Zoning that is currently being discussed within the Township. Chief stated VPD is involved in discussion.
- Stated speed humps do help but Enforcement is #1.
- Also suggested people review Montclair's Traffic Calming Policy which is available on the internet.
- Chief stated town has historically been against speed humps but will bring it to Council and see what the current position is.

Jessica Medina – 276 Linden Avenue

- Concerned about the volume and speed of traffic on Linden and Fairview. Also lack of crossing guards on Fairview for VHS students. We need to be more vigilant and find solutions to the issues.
- Louis asked if we could put ghost cars by schools. Misses the Click it or Ticket and distracted programs.
- Chief said VPD is stepping up enforcement.

Councilman Giblin stated he will bring the concerns of the committee to the Town Council for further discussion. He will also forward information about Complete Streets to the committee.

Santi asked if committee could be notified when this would be on the agenda so committee members could attend.

2021 MEETING DATES @ 7:30 PM via Zoom for the immediate future

Tuesday March 9, 2021
Tuesday May 11, 2021
Tuesday July 13, 2021
Tuesday September 14, 2021
Tuesday November 9, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeWitt
Secretary