

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM via Zoom.

Open public meeting statement was read.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Nicole Quick, Louis Knoetig, Alissa Randall, George Manousos, Chief Christopher Kiernan, Board of Education Representative Laura Palmerezzi, Susan DeWitt, and Councilman Christopher Tamburro, were present. Robert Rowbotham was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- Chairman Condorelli explained the function and scope of the committee as we have new members to the committee.
- Chief Kiernan reported he met with John Jahr regarding all issues that were brought up at the last meeting.
- Safety around schools – Verona Police will have zero tolerance for violations. Education then enforcement. First few days of school are normally difficult. Police have made several social media posts to remind parents to follow traffic rules.
- Santi Condorelli asked if the Board of Education has provided the new parents with information about the procedures at each school. Per BOE Rep Laura Palmerezzi, this has been done.
- Louis Knoetig asked about no left turn sign that used to be in front of the Civic Center and if it could be returned. Chief reported an enforcement issue with the sign and that it was removed after it was damaged from a traffic accident.
- Louis Knoetig also reported that with Claremont Avenue being closed many motorists are using the Richfield Regency parking lot as a cut through to Bloomfield Avenue.
- George Manousos asked if town could post “suggestion” signs (example – proceed to next intersection to make left turn). Chief stated he would speak to the engineer. Also stated Town is not in favor of sign pollution.

- Chief stated Engineering, Education and then enforcement are steps used to try and keep everyone safe.
- Laura Palmerezzi thanked Verona Police for quickly addressing a parking issue that occurred at VHS recently.
- Councilman Tamburro stated there are several issues on Sampson Drive with turns and speeding. Seniors can leave and return at any time of the day and all students are allowed to leave for lunch so this is causing an increase in traffic throughout the day.
- Chief Kiernan stated last traffic study for traffic signal at Fairview and Sampson did not warrant a light. It is a county road. The last study was done before the townhouse complex was built in Cedar Grove.
- Chief Kiernan stated Fairview and Personette is in the que for a traffic signal in 2022.
- Councilman Tamburro asked about the flashing pedestrian signals near VHS and if they could be left on during the day since students are leaving school throughout the day. Chairman Condorelli directed Sue DeWitt to write a letter to Commissioner Luciano asking about an upgrade to the lights and also inviting him to our next meeting.
- Chief Kiernan reported we need crossing guards. We currently have 17 posts and 15 guards plus 2 substitute guards who we are using full time. Please spread the word. Pay is \$19.80 per hour. As we hire more guards we can increase the number of posts.
- Lakeside Avenue update – Town asking County for new counts and long-term traffic plan for limited turns and truck traffic. Must submit more studies and documentation. Not sure if studies will be done at this time. Traffic enforcement is being done by Verona Police. County was not receptive to angled parking or a road diet. The engineers feel we need 4 lanes for traffic flow as Lakeside Avenue connects to Rt. 280.
- George Manousos asked about no left turns off Lakeside. Chief reported this needs a traffic study.
- Traffic Study costs money and needs to be budgeted. After discussion, it was decided for everyone on the committee to send their list of suggestions for studies to Sue by October 1, 2021. The list will then be prioritized by the committee and then will be presented to Councilman Tamburro to take back to the Town Council for discussion. Suggestions that were mentioned at the meeting: Nicole Quick – speeding and volume on Claremont, Alissa Randall – Lakeside Ave, George Manousos – SW quadrant.
- George Manousos mentioned a concern about truck/commercial traffic from the Cameco develop traveling on residential streets. Chief Kiernan reported that is being addressed in the RFP.
- Chief reported that if we do anything on a side street that intersects with a County roadway, the County must be involved.
- George Manousos requested to show a video he was given by a resident showing a traffic issue at Linden and Fairview. George was advised that video must be reviewed by Town Attorney prior to showing it at the meeting.

- Louis Knoetig asked if Town could send letters to businesses on/near Bloomfield Avenue asking them to schedule deliveries during off-peak hours so as not to disrupt traffic flow during rush hours or school drop off/pick up times. He has seen large trucks parking on Bloomfield Avenue disrupting traffic.
- George Manousos suggested that the committee set goals for the coming year. Also feels we need to improve communication with residents, additional social media and improve committee web page. George feels that we need to have better posting of meeting info, he stated he contacted Municipal Clerk to have meeting info posted and was advised that she needs to get approval to post. After discussion it was suggested that we invite Steve Neale to next meeting to discuss the Town's social media procedures. George asked if Town Manager receives a traffic complaint that it be forward to the committee. Chief Kiernan stated that all traffic complaints will go through the Police Department not the committee.
- George Manousos feels the committee should have some involvement in the town's Master Plan. Councilman Tamburro will let committee know when the public meetings are taking place regarding the Master Plan. He also stated the company has an excellent public comment program.
- George Manousos asked about flashing red lights or lights imbedded in roadway at Linden and Fairview. Engineer would have to sign off (its also a county road) and imbedded lights create a plowing issue.
- Claremont Avenue roadway sustained damage during Tropical Storm Ida. Contractor has been secured and repairs should be made in the near future.
- Discussed dates for future meetings. Will stay with the second Tuesday of the month every other month. Meeting dates for 2022 will be:
 - January 11, 2022
 - March 8, 2022
 - May 10, 2022
 - July 12, 2022
 - September 13, 2022
 - November 8, 2022
- Chief Kiernan explained the process to get a traffic study done.
- Santi Condorelli thanked the Verona Police department, Rescue Squad and Fire Department for their service during Tropical Storm Ida.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lynn Halsey – 53 Linden Ave
 - Safety concerns on Linden on the Eastern Part (Elmwood/Otsego areas), speeding, illegal parking and volume of traffic. Wants to make sure all of Linden is included if there is a traffic study.
- Jessica Medina – 276 Linden Ave
 - Concerns about traffic and pedestrians at Linden and Fairview. Cars making right and left turns without looking for pedestrians crossing.

Asked about possibility of crossing guard or something to bring attention to crosswalk and pedestrians especially during school hours.

Next Meeting - November 9, 2021 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeWitt
Secretary