

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC & SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

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

Open public meeting statement was read.

ROLL CALL

Santi Condorelli, Louis Knoetig, Alissa Randall, George Manousos, Steve Cruz, Traffic Engineer John Jahr, Chief Christopher Kiernan, Township Manager Joseph D'Arco, Susan DeWitt, and Councilman Christopher Tamburro, were present. Robert Rowbotham, Nicole Quick and Board of Education Representative Laura Palmerezzi were not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- Chief Kiernan gave a presentation on Auto Theft and Car Burglaries in Verona. Main takeaway is that these incidents can be avoided by locking your doors and removing yours keys/FOB from your vehicles.
- Ordinance 2018-16 regarding committee. Committee is strictly advisory, no authority to spend money or to have a budget.
 - George Manousos questions duties of the committees, specifically Section 41-3A2. Should committee be reviewing plans and does committee want to review plans? Manager will speak to Township Attorney and get a clarification on this.
 - George Manousos questioned when last election of Chairperson and Secretary took place. Secretary to check minutes to see when last vote took place. Should we do it now or wait until June. Consensus was to wait until June.
- Meeting with Town Manager was delayed due to the change of managers. Will follow up. Suggestions should go to both the Council Liaison and the Manager, through the Chair. Prioritize essential needs vs wants.
- Vehicles blocking box at Montrose & Bloomfield – County roadway and they are aware of the issue. Offset intersections and timing of the lights contribute to this issue. County is scheduled to do a Bloomfield Avenue Study (Newark to Montville) hopefully in this budget year.
- Verona Master Plan Survey – everyone is encouraged to complete the survey. There have been many comments about traffic issues in the survey.

- Montclair/Hoboken Brochures for traffic calming methods.
 - Steve Cruz stated that Montclair is different from Verona and we need to remember that Bloomfield Ave is a County road.
 - We need to prioritize our wants and needs when we look at making a wish list. Committee must present a united voice with our priorities.
 - Suggestion to redo the videos that were made several years ago showing proper drop off and pick up procedures at each school in conjunction with the school principals.
- Santi Condorelli stated that many traffic laws have changed and consequences for infractions have been reduced. He suggested inviting the Verona Municipal Judge to a meeting to talk about these changes. Santi will reach out to the Judge to arrange a date for the meeting.
- George Manousos asked if we should be forming subcommittees to target different topics. After discussion George Manousos and Steve Cruz will attend the Master Plan Committee Meeting on March 29, 2022 and bring information back to the rest of the committee.
- Need to have more committee members attend meeting. Secretary to stress this when sending out agenda for the next meeting.
- Engineer reported on Claremont Ave Report – multi-way stop at Claremont and Cumberland. Also incorporate change at Derwent/Claremont/Bloomfield when Derwent Avenue Road project is completed this year. Will have to work with County as this involves a County roadway.
- George Manousos asked about the time line for the light at Fairview & Personette. Engineer thinks it will be late Summer or early Fall of 2022.
- George Manousos asked if the video from the meeting is posted on any of the town sites for viewing by the public. Secretary will check. Also stated all the minutes are not on the website. Secretary will check and have site updated.
- Santi Condorelli suggested a possible presentation topic for future meetings of What to do if someone approaches your car, What to do if you're in an accident, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jessica Medina – 276 Linden Avenue
 - Asked about carjacking incident in Verona. Chief Kiernan reported that it was not a carjacking but rather an individual asking people for money. The subject was identified by police.
 - Chief did state there was a carjacking in Cedar Grove earlier in the year. A female's vehicle was bumped from behind and when she got out of the vehicle an actor stole her vehicle. The Chief reminded everyone that if you are in an accident you should always call the police. Do not get out of your car if you don't feel comfortable.

Next Meeting – March 8, 2022 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeWitt
Secretary