

## **Traffic and Safety Committee Minutes of October 19, 2021**

Attendees: Chair Gordon Stuss, Chief Shaun Bennett, BOE Liaison Jen Scarpati, Councilwoman Audrey Lane, Lauren Brickner-McDonald, Eva Mesicek, Shaun Oliver, Lisa Duke-Lees

### Opening Remarks:

- Minutes were approved from June 15, 2021 meeting.
- TSC agreed to post draft (unapproved) TSC meeting minutes on the Borough website in an effort to get information to the public more quickly.
- TSC agreed that the January meeting will continue to take place virtually.

### Chief's Report:

- Line stripping is occurring across town, much credit goes to the DPW for creating a spreadsheet of all crosswalks in Mountain Lakes with priority rankings and a schedule, so areas don't get neglected.
- Paving currently being done around town.
- North Glen curb work will begin soon. Workers are expected to pause during school start and dismissal times.
- New county project at the intersection of Pocono and Blvd. Adding sidewalk landings and crosswalks around the intersection to make it safer. New LED traffic lights will be installed.
- Smaller turnout for the September bike rodeo held at the Esplanade as it conflicted with Rosh Hashanah. Might continue to have this event in September before school starts in addition to the one at Wildwood in the Spring.

### Old Business

- A "Children at Play" sign at Maple Way and Intervale Road is not visible due to a tree. Committee reviewed the photos sent in by a resident. The tree is on the resident's property so the sign will have to be moved to a better location. Gordon will reach out to the resident who contacted TSC.
- Discussed the need for more portable crosswalk signs as some of the older ones have become unusable and some have been moved around to replace them. The TSC budget will be used for these additional signs.
- A brown/yellow sign (like Federal park sign) that says "Entering Mountain Lakes" and a separate, but connected, sign with the 25mph speed limit (regulatory/black and white sign) was recommended by TSA and approved by council (Audrey Lane). The sign will be located at intersection of Crane and Morris. Chief Bennett will push this forward.
- Several speed limit signs on Morris Avenue that are located close to intersections will be moved/shifted to more visible locations at the intersections. No new signs will be purchased.
- Lisa noted that the police car in front of library has been effective in slowing cars down traveling on Morris avenue. However, Chief Bennett noted the current police car deficit so it is unlikely that this can be a permanent solution.
- A resident on Larchdell Road is concerned with cars driving the wrong way on this one-way road. Chief Bennett noted that traffic officers investigated the signage in September and noted that the problem was not the sign but that a stop line had to be repainted across the road. The DPW has likely taken care of this issue with the recent line paintings being done across town. Gordon Stuss will confirm that this line was painted and advise the resident.
- Eva brought up the possibility of using solar powered crossing signs for crosswalks on Blvd and/or Morris. It was noted that these crosswalks were recommended by the county when the study was

done on Wildwood school traffic. TSC discussed the possibility of a false sense of security from these signs. Additional research is required on placement, amount needed and safety measures.

- Wildwood – no update – not many complaints. Traffic has not been as much an issue as people have been walking to school in these warmer months.
- Zeris Inn – no update.
- Committee discussed traffic study request for the old Newsweek building (333 Route 46) as they plan to increase the amount of parking spots in their lot.

#### New business

- Lauren updated the TSC on donations for Halloween. Many people have donated candy at the library. Police will be dropping off their purchased candy which will be stored in two residents' garages. The candy will be divided up to the residents in the village who will be handing out. The goal is to give the residents enough, so they don't have to be replenished. The Halloween zone will have music at the corner of Crescent and Midvale. Chief Bennett said the final document with the plan will be completed this week
- Jen Scarpatti gave an update on subscription bussing and a potential request from Alex Ferreira (Business Admin for Board of Ed) for the TSC. The Board of Ed voted to permit subscription bussing on a lottery basis. The NJ statute says residents who are over 2 miles door to door are eligible for complimentary (free) bussing. The Board will allow residents in Mountain Lakes who are a bit closer to enter a lottery for subscription (paid) bussing. The school district is asking the TSC to determine if certain roads should be deemed "hazardous" and thereby excluded from the software used to determine the measured route to school for a resident. Chief Bennett noted that the ML PD has never used the definition of "hazardous" for a road in Mountain Lakes due to specific elements of that road (no sidewalk, etc). The MLPD works with NJ safe routes to come up with the best routes for schools but that doesn't mean other routes are not safe. It was also noted that excluding certain roads from the software may substantially increase the amount of seats that need to be made available for students and may result in the need for additional buses. There is no action item for this request at this time.
- Jen Scarpatti also summarized emails from residents related to road safety and bussing. One resident on Robinhood drive was told they would have bussing by an agent when they purchased the home but learned upon moving in that they did not qualify. A few residents asked about the Lockley bus stop and noted that they need to walk to the Lockley bus stop and the walk was hazardous. Chief Bennett said this is the best place for the bus to turn around because it's a u-shaped street and also that the NJ statute does allow for some students having to walk to a nearby bus stop. Lastly, one resident asked to clarify if the trolley route is one of the crosswalks.
- No comments on the Fall inspection of town by members. Eva will send out the map to committee members.

Next Meeting:

Virtual on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022