

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2019

Present: Gordon Stuss, Chair; Eva Mesicek, Lauren Brickner-McDonald, Lisa Duke-Lees, Paul Odenwelder, Chief Shawn Bennett, BOE Liaison Jennifer Scarpatti, Council Liaison Janet Horst

- **Minutes** of July 2nd and July 30th meetings **approved**.
- **In opening remarks**, Chairman Gordon Stuss suggested that minutes still need to be uploaded to committee webpage.

- **Chief's Report:**

The Police Department will host a Holiday Party on December 5th at Zeri's.

Coffee With a Cop is being held at Hapgood's on October 16th from 8 to 11 AM.

- **Wildwood School Traffic Issue:**

On September 20th, four members (Lauren, Eva, Lisa, Paul) observed the traffic issue from four different vantage points starting at 2:30 pm. All four witnessed the fact that many parents arrive by or before 2:30 pm and park on the street across from the school and on both sides from the parking lot up to Briarcliff Road. By 2:50 cars are parked in the lanes of the teachers' parking lot. Dismissal occurs and by 3:05 pm, most traffic has left the area. Wanda moves the traffic through circle very efficiently and Officer Sims moves traffic out of the parking lot directing turns to the left and right, while assuring that students and parents cross to the opposite side of the street and across

the parking lot exit. Officer Benitez moves throughout the area, moving traffic, crossing children and parents, answering questions and giving directions.

The following suggestions were considered in follow up discussion:

- 1) At Briarcliff, school personnel could be assigned to help move traffic through the circle. Problem could occur when asking school personnel to be involved in directing traffic. Somehow parents need to move all the way to the end instead of stopping to let children go into front door, as is done at Wildwood
- 2) Possibility of staggered pickup, dismissing grades at slightly different times
- 3) Right turns only out of circles at both schools and parking lot at Wildwood
- 4) Meet with Dr. Azar to find out about subscription busing and staggered pick up
- 5) Moderated meeting open to public could take place with parameters set ahead of time, possibly attended by County Engineer and Acting Superintendent Azar (Chief Bennett would check on availability of County Engineer)
- 6) Creation of a video describing to parents what the rules are, as Principal Sanchez is doing/has done
- 7) Somehow get parents to follow the rules
- 8) Prepare a survey to find out what parents know and need to know

Chief Bennett said that there is no data to support a lack of safety issue. He also stated that data collection – speed and traffic counts – would be conducted on Kenilworth Road, where the counter would be placed and ultimately be used as a stealth data counter.

- **Further Old Business**

Morris Avenue sidewalk plans and grant money will be available to start in the spring. This work is expected to extend from the Library to Powerville Road

The Waterview Shopping Plaza is scheduled to open on November 6th. Traffic studies with regard to Intervale Road will take place after that date.

- **New Business**

Plans for Halloween are moving along. Signs, portable toilets, lighting are all organized. Street cleaning will take place before Halloween. Clean up of pocket park at Crescent and Midvale will take place. The CERT team will help out (reciprocity exists with Denville and Parsippany). Candy will be delivered to empty garage in Village on the afternoon of October 18th.

Requests: (Chief Bennett will check on feasibility)

- 1) Mirror at the end of Pollard Road on Midvale
- 2) Yield sign at the intersection of Pinewood and Pinewood
- 3) Speed limit sign at the entrance to Mountain Lakes on Crane Road from Route 46

Request for a High School liaison (student) will be made after potential responsibilities are determined. Suggestion was made that a high school student could be helpful in doing some projects, rather than having to attend meetings.

- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 5:30 PM, Borough Hall
Proposal was made to meet beforehand with Acting Superintendent Azar, if she and committee members are available. Gordon will facilitate.

