

**Traffic and Safety Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020**

***Present:* Chair Gordon Stuss, Chief Shawn Bennett, Lauren Brickner-McDonald, Lisa Duke-Lees, Audrey Lane, Eva Mesicek, Paul Odenwelder, Jennifer Scarpatti**

1. *Minutes* of February 11, 2020 meeting approved.

2. *Opening comments:* Gordon opened by reviewing the events of the past 8 months that prevented us meeting in person - the Covid19 pandemic. As a result of this it was observed that the school traffic is not an issue. There is a reduced number of students attending the schools in person.

3. *Chiefs report:*

- Shawn reported on the residents requesting a sidewalk between Sherwood and Intervale roads. They feel that it is not safe for children to walk along the busy roads. Also speed bumps are desired to slow down the traffic. The police measured some slight speeding, enough to be concerned about the kids safety. The borough is hesitant to get involved. The town engineer would have to conduct a study. Parsippany, who owns one side of the road would have to be contacted.**
- The Halloween Safe Zone is canceled due to the virus. A police officer will be stationed in the Village to help with rules enforcement. Trick or treating is allowed throughout town. The Halloween rules will be posted on social media.**
- Crosswalk on Woodland has been completed.**
- It is expected that at some point Sgt. Benitez will be temporarily pulled back from monitoring the school's traffic due to staffing shortage. The crossing guards are not allowed to direct traffic. There could be some trained volunteers available.**

4, *Old Business:*

- Discussion whether we should proceed with the county engineer 's recommendations regarding Wildwood school traffic congestion listed in the last minutes.
- Paul would like to proceed with the bike racks implementation.
- Shawn stated that the down trend for traffic is temporary. The police are expecting staff shortage due to officers retirements and it will take time to find replacements. In the meantime the police have to balance between the CDC quarantine guidance and the need for intervention.
- Discussion on the need of new road signs by the schools, Kenilworth, Powerville, Morris and other sections of town. Shawn explained that the directional and speed limit signs we can do, for the Stop signs the borough has to pass an ordinance after the town engineer conducts a study..
- Morris Ave sidewalk construction is progressing as planned. The work is estimated to last 9 weeks.
- Police will install mirror at Midvale and Pollard.
- Paul asked about the possibility to install a sign at the lower portion of Martin Lane and Pinewood because of the drivers underestimating their speed .
- Based on the builders plans, the police are not expecting significant impact on traffic from the new construction by Zeris Inn.

5. *New Business:*

- Lauren expressed concern about the safety of walkers, suggesting posting reminders to walk against the car traffic side of the road.
- Gordon inquired about TSC budget and if we still have leftover money from last year. The portion allocated for the bike rodeo was not used. Suggestion for using the money for purchasing bike racks and street signs.
- Committee members to send email to Gordon with recommendations where to place speed limit and directional signs, who will forward it to Shawn in return.
- Committee to continue with town inspection: check for lights, obstructing shrubs, roads in disrepair. Report problems to the borough.

Next meeting - Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30 PM