

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM at Millburn Town Hall, 375 Millburn Avenue, Millburn New Jersey, by Tara Prupis, Millburn Pedestrian Advisory Board Chairperson.

Advisory Board Members Present: Tara Prupis, Township Committee Member and Chair; Christine Burton, Millburn School Superintendent; Alex McDonald, Business Administrator; Sowmya Jairam, Resident; Jennifer Duckworth, PTOC Member; Christine Bugel, Assistant Engineer; Brian Gilfedder, Police Chief, Millburn Police.

Also Present: Jessica Almeida, Administrative Assistant; Gilbert Tavares, Sgt, Millburn Police Traffic Bureau

Advisory Board Members Absent: Michael Fattal, Lt, Millburn Police; Jeffery Beckerman, Resident; Joe Esposito, Resident

Ms. Prupis read the following statement, "in accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Laws, 1975, be advised that notice of this meeting was made by posting on the Bulletin Board at Town Hall and serving the officially designated newspapers, a notice stating that this meeting would take place at Millburn Town Hall at 8am on January 8th."

Ms. Prupis inquired if the board had reviewed the December 4, 2019 meeting minutes. All reviewed, the motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Ms. Duckworth. Vote: All ayes, except Ms. Bugel, who abstained.

Mr. McDonald advised the board that the town applied for a walkability study to be conducted around the Crescent Station Plaza and Hobart Avenue. Once a date is established, the board will be the designated contact.

Mr. McDonald spoke with the county regarding the removal of the westernmost crosswalk between Holmes and Essex; however, there has been no response yet.

Mr. McDonald and Ms. Bugel have looked at the Stantec's report, and suggested, by having vehicles turn left Haddonfield Road from Old Short Hills Road could alleviate the traffic by filtering cars away quicker. A discussion ensued on different methods to assist in student drop-off such as creating a sidewalk or having an island for students to stand on. Ms. Bugel will look into having a sidewalk put in place or an island; however, the island may cause an extra hazard for students. In conclusion, the left from Old Short Hills Road will be implemented in order to provide a safer option for cars and students.

Mr. McDonald advised the board, the town had draft bids for crossing guard privatization, Lt. Fattal and Mr. McDonald hope to have bids back by May 2020 in order to start by September 2020, for the new school year.

Calming measures will be implemented in the Wyoming school area between Elm & Myrtle (Cypress, Pine, Ridgewood area) such as repaving, ADA compliances, curbing, signage, and intersection improvements.

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Ms. Prupis suggested an automatic e-mail confirmation be delivered to residents who file a complaint online. Mr. McDonald will look into implementing the change. Ms. Duckworth shared concerns regarding the traffic issues surrounding the Wyoming School. She stated principals should not be involved with parking issues. Mr. Gilfedder and Mr. McDonald agreed that the principal should contact the police department when there is a mass problem in order to come up with a solution.

Ms. Duckworth provided the report from the PTOC Safety Committee. She addressed a problem occurring at the middle school, they have been receiving supply deliveries during the morning. The problem occurred when new drivers deliver the supplies; Dr. Burton will look into the issue further.

Ms. Duckworth addressed another PTOC issue where overgrown shrubbery and grass makes it hard for students to travel a path along South Orange Avenue near the Deerfield School. Mr. McDonald stated the shrubbery has been there and does not encourage students to walk along without a sidewalk or a path. If a path were created the shrubbery would have to be constantly maintained in order to avoid dangerous situations in the future.

(To view PTOC spreadsheet please visit link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/133Oot8l87rdvp5qeyrWEFISfYulDphWUYNxpKXWlKA/edit?usp=sharing>)

Mr. McDonald stated the township would budget for new signs in response to Ms. Duckworth's concern regarding missing or insufficient signage near the Hartshorn School.

Mr. McDonald stated the first social media post would be posted by the end of the week with the chosen logo. He suggested having a post every month. Ms. Duckworth added she met with SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions) and discussed ideas of stenciling the logo around town and having the high school conduct surveys.

The 2020 NJ Bike & Walk Summit will take place March 7th, 8am-4pm. Admission is \$75.00 and the township will cover the admission cost for board members that would like to attend.

On to new business, Ms. Prupis nominated Ms. Duckworth to take the role of Chairperson for the PSAB board. A discussion ensued; Ms. Duckworth and Mr. McDonald were selected as Chairperson and Secretary, respectively.

The board discussed the possibility of conducting an evening meeting to encourage public participation. A discussion ensued; a fall meeting would be a better option as students and parents would be back from summer vacations and into the new school year. Dr. Burton would verify no back to school nights were scheduled for the October 7 meeting.

Ms. Mallios, resident, shared concern of cars speeding around her house, she was advised to file a complaint with the court and provide the license plate number she obtained.

Ms. Jairam, inquired why students aren't taking the bus more often or at all. A discussion ensued where the board discussed starting a "cool to ride the bus campaign", a carpool video was shown to the board

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and it was detailed that the video was parent/adult focused. By having a kid friendly option and having them share it among themselves, it will create more publicity around the issue. If students think it is cool, they will want to do it too.

Ms. Gerardo, resident, shared her concerns on having traffic and cars parked in every direction while letting their kids off anywhere; she would like more guidance or some kind of presence to stop these problems.

More footage for the carpool video will be edited in order to be ready for showing at the film festival. Ms. Prupis asked Ms. Jairam to think of ideas to get children more involved. Ms. Prupis will contact video production.

A motion made by Ms. Duckworth, all were in favor of adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

Next meeting: April 1, 2020 8:00 am Millburn Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Jennifer Duckworth, Advisory Board Chair

Advisory Board Approved _____