

# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM on ZOOM, by Alex McDonald, Board Secretary.

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

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

Advisory Board Members Absent: Joe Esposito, Resident; Sowmya Jairam, Resident

Mr. McDonald 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 8am on April 8th, 2020 by webinar."

Mr. McDonald inquired if the board had reviewed the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes. All reviewed, the motion was made by Dr. Burton and seconded by Ms. Prupis. Vote: All ayes.

Ms. Prupis advised the board members of a change in the leadership of the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board (PSAB). Ms. Duckworth will no longer serve on the PSAB. Mr. Hauptert has taken up the position in her place. Ms. Prupis resumed the role of PSAB chair for the time being.

Ms. Prupis asked if anyone had any update on subcommittees. Mr. Beckerman shared the train station was denied for receiving grant funds, Mr. McDonald advised many grant administrations were closed at due to the pandemic. However, any ideas could still be brought to the Township Committee (TC) for review. To add, due to the pandemic there have not been many train commuters.

Ms. Prupis advised the next meeting will take place on July 1, 2020, and the October 7 meeting will be an evening meeting, a time will be determined.

### Old Business:

The removal of the crosswalk at Holmes and Essex Street was confirmed by the county, the work would take place in the spring, and Mr. McDonald would follow-up with the county.

Mr. McDonald advised the town had not received the Rutgers walkability study; however, Ms. Duckworth advised a review around the train station would still need to be completed.

Ms. Bugel informed the board that a sidewalk would be installed on Whitney Road at the three-way intersection, she reviewed other options and a sidewalk seemed to be the most reasonable, since cars were already making left turns at the drop-off, this option was eliminated. The new sidewalk would serve as an additional drop-off point while still being safer than dropping students off on the street. Mr. McDonald added the plan was moving forward and did not have to be brought to the TC as it was not a

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major project. Ms. Bugel shared the issue was when the busses were turning into the school they crossed onto the other side of the road; however, was advised police officers control the traffic and once the busses were in the school lot there was no longer an issue.

Ms. Duckworth provided the report from the PTOC Safety Committee. Mr. Hauptert asked how the town would handle projects that were in motion prior to the pandemic; Mr. McDonald stated those projects would still move forward. Mr. Hauptert asked Chief Gilfedder if instead of passing summons could police officers give people warnings instead for school drop-off parking, Chief Gilfedder advised that was the plan until the schools closed.

Mr. McDonald and Sgt. Tavares anticipate having the crossing guard subject resolved and reviewed by May

Mr. McDonald updated the board that Old Short Hills Road could be milled and paved; however, it still remained an ambulance route and that would have to be reviewed. Ms. Duckworth asked Mr. McDonald what the process was to make a street one way for the drop-off period, Mr. McDonald and Chief Gilfedder explained what would need to be accomplished, they would review and have a plan on how to tackle.

Ms. Duckworth cited a few miscellaneous topics; the SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions) group were going to make stencils of the PSAB logo before schools closed. The township portal was featured with an email confirmation feature, however; did not have a traffic safety drop down option as of yet. The car pool video was being worked on.

Ms. Duckworth recapped the 2020 NJ Bike & Walk Summit on March 7<sup>th</sup>, she inquired if the board would be interested in hosting bike days or walk days. It was decided to table the subject until the board could meet in person again.

A resident questioned if the crossing guards were laid off and how the town planned to handle if the crossing guards did not return after the pandemic, since the town was already in short supply. Mr. McDonald advised that they were laid off with the intention of being brought back, and with the intent of privatization in the fall.

With no further matters to discuss, a motion made by Mr. McDonald, all were in favor of adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

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

Tara Prupis, Advisory Board Chair

Advisory Board Approved \_\_\_\_\_