

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM held via Zoom, by Alex McDonald, Millburn Pedestrian Advisory Board Chairperson. Advisory Board Members Present: Dianne Thall-Eglow, Deputy Mayor, Township Committee; Alex McDonald, Business Administrator; Brian Gilfedder, Police Chief, Millburn Police; Christine Bugel, Assistant Township Engineer; Mara Epstein, PTOC Safety Committee Co-Chair; Dr. Christine Burton, Millburn School Superintendent; Jeremy Sokop, Resident; Brian Sobelman, Resident

Also Present: Peter Smeraldo, Sgt., Millburn Police Traffic Bureau; Farah Kassim, Administrative Assistant; Rachael Lerner and Jesse Schachter, Resident

Advisory Board Members Absent: Sowmya Jairam, Resident

Mr. McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of last meeting held on February 15, 2022, to which Christine Bugel seconded.

Mr. McDonald invited Mr. Mike Lanzafama to give an update on the Chatman Project and to follow up on implementation and promotion of Pedestrian safety in that area during construction. As suggested at the last meeting, they were asked to reconsider implementing more warning systems at the sidewalk level for pedestrians crossing the entryway of the garage. Mr. Lanzafama reported the entryway of the garage would now be both illuminated with flashing lights as well as voice warning system, so that pedestrians will be made aware of the vehicles exiting the building. It was also suggested that adding rumble strips at the exit would also be helpful.

Mr. Lanzafama explained that during construction, a chain link fence would be placed around the building as well as scaffolding similarly to construction currently on Main Street and Millburn Avenue. When the building is near completion, part of the requirement is to reconstruct the curbs and sidewalks that run along Chatman and Woodland Rd. Mr. Lanzafama anticipate that the sidewalk will be inaccessible for about one (1) week. Ms. Thall-Eglow proposed having a Police Officer posted, to which Mr. McDonald agreed it would be wise to have an officer present for that particular period of construction, both Phase 1 and 2. Mr. McDonald suggested to Mr. Lanzafama to work along with the Police on details. Ms. Bugel added that the sidewalk diversion would also need to be ADA compliant. Mr. Lanzafama agreed to run the revisions by Engineering. Mr. McDonald will await Mr, Lanzafama to submit revisions to Engineering before issuing the memo to the planning board. Mr. Lanzafama to send over hard copies of the plans to the Board.

Mr. McDonald suggested to Ms. Bugel to discuss intersections of Myrtle and Elm and Ridgewood and Locust.

Ms. Bugel reported that the Engineering Department utilized Brightview Engineering who is the Township's Traffic On-call consultant to help us evaluate some of the intersections. Ms. Bugel reported that she along with Sgt. Smeraldo from Traffic met with Joe Fischer, Consultant at Myrtle and Elm. Brightview subsequently submitted memos, which included recommendations for an all-way stop at Myrtle and Elm that were shared with the Board for their review. A

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discussion resulted and Board agreed to the recommendation to make the intersection an 'all-way' stop. Ms. Bugel reported that another intersection that they evaluated was Ridgewood Road and Locust Avenue. Brightview provided three options and after a discussion, the Board agreed that Ms. Bugel would reach out to Mr. Fischer to get an updated layout with a larger island at the same time maintaining the character of the neighborhood, and to assess the area at night to see if there is sufficient lighting.

Old Business

Reports

Deputy Mayor Dianne Thall-Eglow reported on the Short Hills Train Station discussed at the last meeting, after discussing with the Township Committee they have agreed to have Brightview Engineering to review Ms. Bugel's original drawings, as it seems there is a lot of interest in having that area evaluated.

Mr. Sokop had to leave for another meeting, and Mr. McDonald invited him to give his report before leaving. Mr. Sokop wanted to discuss implementing the 'See Me' flags, Mr. McDonald suggested Mr. Sokop speak with Dan Cannon or Jim McKenna who may be able to suggest the intersection in need of flags.

Chief Gilfedder reported that the Police addressed from the last meeting, officers from the Traffic Bureau were sent out to Hartshorne to ensure people were not blocking the driveways.

Crossing guards working out well, they are in the process of doing traffic counts at each of their station to see how many children are crossing. The website was updated with crash data and the signs in the Wyoming section has been updated, if anyone notices signs to be updated, they can let us know. Sgt. Smeraldo added an update on bridges; Short Hills Avenue Bridge has been delayed as PSE&G are awaiting materials. Sgt. Smeraldo reported that work on the culvert at Marion is estimated to start in approximately two weeks and replacing the culvert should be completed in two months. This Sunday, Millburn Avenue will be closed for the Craft Fair.

Dr. Burton reported that bike walk is scheduled for May 4 and noted that crossing guards have been working well; lastly, she announced that Strawberry festivals are starting in a few weeks.

Christine Bugel

1. The Engineering Department is in the process of preparing construction projects for this year. The plans for Short Hills Avenue Improvements are in development. The limits of milling and paving start at Hobart Avenue and end at Van Winkle Brook culvert, which is

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the Springfield Town Line. Pedestrian safety improvements include new sidewalk from Hobart Avenue, along the tennis courts and connecting to the existing sidewalk through Crescent Park. Also included are upgrades to curb ramps within the project limits and a short run of sidewalk along the northwest corner of Crescent Place to connect to the new crosswalk that was built at Station Plaza.

2. This year's Essex County Community Development grant will upgrade curb ramps in the Glenwood Section of town at select intersections along Woodland Avenue and Baltusrol Way. The County approved consolidating unused grant money with this project so the Township will receive twice the grant amount for this year, so a total award of just over \$70,000.00.
3. Lastly, grant award notices are anticipated to be received in May for the grant request made to Sustainable NJ to upgrade the crosswalk on Brookside Drive at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

PTOC Report

Mara Epstein mentioned that residents are appreciative of police officer's presence at Hartshorne, any asked if there were any updates on the 4-way stop at the poet section, to which Ms. Bugel responded she is awaiting traffic counts but was not able to look at it yet, will have an update by next meeting. Signs at Wyoming were fixed and replaced will be closed. Ms. Epstein reported a request to have Police officer Cypress and Wyoming as backup to help direct traffic. Ms. Epstein inquired if there was any update on Ridgewood and Cypress to become an all way stop, Mr. McDonald advised that this request should be closed out, as it is not be possible. No updates on the Grant for Deerfield. Any updates on adding a crosswalk on Ridgewood and ivy, Ms. Bugel responded that in order to put in a crosswalk curb ramps will need to be built. This will need to be part of a larger project. Jennifer Duckworth met with Dr. Burton and Ms. Bugel to discuss pedestrian improvements, which will be ongoing discussions. We have received complaints about pick-up procedures at the High School; a suggestion is to have an officer visit a few times to discourage this behavior.

Ms. Epstein reported that there were twenty-two submissions for the poster contest and encouraged everyone to vote by the end of the week. Concerning the Crossing guard renewal, Ms. Epstein mentioned that PTOC are in favor of renewal and they would be open to attending that meeting if needed. Ms. Epstein reported that she would be putting together a district wide survey in conjunction with bike week to identify any safety issues that parents notice while walking around and also get interested parents to sign up for PTOC.

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Residents Report

Brian Sobelman spoke about crash data and asked how he would be able to get information on where the crashes occurred Mr. McDonald suggested that it may be wise to have a running tab but will discuss it further with Chief Gilfedder.

Mr. Sobelman reported that the pipe sticking out of the road on Ridgewood was still there; Ms. Bugel reached out to PSE&G, was told that they plan to remove the vent, and is awaiting the timeframe for that to be completed. Mr. Sobelman inquired about the adding stripping to the cross walk at Wyoming and Glen, Ms. Bugel responded that the request will be put in.

New Business

Bike Walk Day, Ms. Epstein spoke on that.

Poster Contest, reminder to vote

Educational Campaign, Mr. McDonald suggested everyone brainstorm some ideas to promote pedestrian safety.

Reminder the meetings will be all virtual for the rest of the year, the zoom link posted on the website.

Public Comments

Rachel Lerner suggested that she is in favor of adding crosswalks on Locust and Ridgewood. Regarding 'See Me' flags, she suggested it might be worthwhile looking into to getting new drivers to work on that project.

Dr. Burton was asked if there are any clubs or groups at the High School that can assist with this project; she confirmed that there is a group of students that have assisted in the past with PSAB projects.

Mr. McDonald opened the floor for questions.

Mr. McDonald called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, to which Ms. Thall-Eglow motioned and Brian Sobelman second.

Next meeting: June 15, 2022 9:00 AM via Zoom Conference

Alex McDonald, Advisory Board Chair

Advisory Board Approved -