

Meeting Minutes for 1/28/2020

In attendance:

Henry, Nate, Erin R., Erin S., Mindy, Laura, Ann B., Kristin, Steven, Oliver

Police Representative: Detective Whitley, Det. Srgnt. Cocchiara

Several members of the Public

Public Comment:

- Local mother living in a neighborhood near Delaware Ave. spoke to the group about the difficult nature of crossing Delaware Ave. Very few motorists stop for pedestrians on Delaware.
 - Safety concerns related to crossing busy roadways, takes away from the walkable nature of the town.
 - There is a need to change both driver and pedestrian behavior.
 - Suggestions for additional marked crossings, flags and blinking lights.
- Committee discussed letter that was sent to the committee from Elsmere Ave. Ext. Neighbors. The letter indicated concerns with pedestrian visibility in area crosswalks. Members of the neighborhood also described incidents of concern that they had personally experienced or witnessed at the busy intersection of Elsmere Ave. and Feura Bush Rd.
 - Driver awareness is an issue.
 - Police Dept. will look into patrolling that may have occurred in the area in the past and might suggest that a car be placed at the intersection to assess safety concerns.
 - All agreed that this intersection has become increasingly busy and that safety concerns exist here.

Minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

Police Update:

- There was 1 fatal crash in 2019.
- 6 crosswalk citations made in 2019.
- Streetlight near scene of Dec. 2019 crash remains out (fixed as of 1/2020).
 - Committee discussed reaching out to National Grid to request a repair.
 - Social media campaign may help to spread word on the issue.

Planning Department Update:

- Town Board Presentation - Nate, Erin and Kristin met since the last meeting to discuss and develop an updated presentation to the board, outlining the Committees' work and progress. This presentation will be circulated to the Committee from Nate for comment. The presentation will occur on February 26th.
 - Members agreed to attend 2/26/2020 Town Board Meeting.
- New Committee Member - Nate informed committee that Ann Perry has resigned from the committee, so there will be a selection process for a new member.
- Traffic Calming Study - Draft was developed by committee members, planning department staff added to the draft. The hope is that this be used as a resource on how to handle complaints and other traffic/pedestrian safety issues that arise.
 - Suggestion was made to approach traffic calming solutions on a neighborhood basis to encourage participation from those in individual neighborhoods.
 - Sending the Traffic Calming Study to HOA's might be a good way to distribute the information as a neighborhood level.

- Bike/Ped master plan was suggested as a good place to expand on traffic calming solutions.
- Education was discussed as an important element of traffic calming

Walk and Roll:

- Police Dept. selected a date of May 16th, 2020 for the event.
- Det. Srgnt. Gina Cocchiara will be leading the Walk and Roll efforts for the Polic Dept.
- Event will be held rain or shine from 10-1, and all activities will be moved to the Community Care portion of the lot used in prior two years.
- Committee agreed to reach out to the same vendors from prior year, but to limit food vendors as they did not seem to get sufficient business, other than the ice cream vendor which assisted with rewards for completing the skills course.
- Gina will update flyer and website for FY20 and is also looking into purchasing T-Shirts for committee members and volunteers so that we can be more visible on the day of the event.
- Group discussed involving more high school students as volunteers and that it would be a good opportunity to introduce them to bike/ped safety as new drivers.
- Suggestion to do a large poster showing attendees how to check for a proper helmet fit.
- Steven asked if committee members would be interested in local bike shops offering demos of equipment, and there was significant support.
- Group discussed suggestions for new skills, including a noodle on a bike demonstrating the “3 Ft. Rule,” a mock crosswalk demonstration, and engaging drivers at the event (AAA safety video).
- Committee also discussed new ways to involve kids through local schools, including having them decorate signage to be displayed at the event.

Subcommittee Updates:

- Priority Network Updates – Nate told the committee that the Town Supervisor had recently requested a copy of the Priority Network for the strategic plan update work. The subcommittee has been discussing the priority of new sidewalks vs. maintenance.
 - Subcommittee will be undertaking a gap analysis to determine where connections to community attractions are missing.
 - Subcommittee has also been identifying routes they would like to gather additional data on. Group discussed use of Strava heat maps to get data on use of sidewalks and trails.
 - This type of analysis allows the town to think more strategically about its investments.
- Outreach and Education Updates – Erin will be attending the March Healthy Kids Committee meeting. As spring approaches subcommittee would like to promote the following:
 - Safe driving for younger drivers
 - Working with Det. Cobb on the School Safety Assembly
 - Walk/Bike to School Assemblies
 - Educate kids on bike/ped safety by partnering with the schools.
- Subcommittee will distribute Walk & Roll flyer to local PTA’s.
- Continue working on Roll Model pledge.

Next Meeting – 2/25/2020

Chair: Kristin Ackerman
 Recorder: Anne Benware