

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM 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; 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;

Advisory Board Members Absent: Sowmya Jairam, Resident replaced with James Feins

Absent: Christine Bugel, Assistant Township Engineer

Mr. McDonald started the meeting and advised that he will be presenting Christine Bugel's report in her absence.

#### Board Business

Mr. McDonald asked the board if there were any changes to the meeting minutes of the meeting held on April 20, 2022. Dianne Thall-Eglow made a motion to approve the minutes to which James Feins seconded.

Vote: All Ayes

#### Reports

**Deputy Mayor Dianne Thall-Eglow** had no report at the time.

**Mr. McDonald** reported that they are in the process of putting bid specs for the sign project - Replace Street signage and introduce Pedestrian signage in key locations. Money for this project will not be available until late July to early fall. Dianne Thall-Eglow inquired about the dimensions of a new street sign. Mr. McDonald responded and advised that we are only required to have them reflective. Dianne Thall-Eglow mentioned that the signs are too small. Mr. McDonald reported that a pedestrian beacon was struck by a motor vehicle, Essex County is aware and in process of doing repairs to the pedestrian pole.

**Chief Gilfedder** reported that they are working with the schools addressing minor traffic issues. Over the summer, they are going to fix issues at Hartshorn. Chief Gilfedder advised if there are any issues, report to him immediately so that it can be addressed in a timely manner. Mr. McDonald reminded the board that there is also the SDL portal where you can 'File a Concern'.

**Dr. Burton** reported that there is tremendous improvement in the area of crossing guards in terms of coverage. Additionally, the District is appreciative of the work the Police have been doing. The Fire Department has been helping our seniors going off to college - with presentations on 'The dangers of Fire. Looking into signage around our schools to see what needs updating. Christine Bugel, Jennifer Duckworth and myself did a walk through outside the High School. We plan to put a crosswalk on Rector Street and take down a segment of the

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fence by the entrance to the baseball field, which will assist kids making their way into the High School.

There was a pedestrian and dog who were struck that morning at Whitney and Hobart during drop off, the man suffered minor injuries and the dog was rushed to the vet. Chief Gilfedder disclosed that the driver was making a left and did not see the pedestrian.

### Christine Bugel

1. The plans for Short Hills Avenue road improvements are complete and have been sent to NJDOT for review and approval, which is required since the project is funded with a grant. Construction is planned for this summer with a completion date of August 31.
2. Engineering is in the process of developing the construction plans and specs for the Essex County Community Development grant, which includes upgrading curb ramps in the Glenwood Section of town along Woodland Avenue and Baltusrol Way. The County grant total is just over \$70,000.
3. The Township was awarded a Safe Route to Schools grant in the amount of \$600K to construct a sidewalk on the eastern side of Old Short Hills Road from South Orange Avenue to Talbot Court. The proposal includes concrete sidewalk, Belgium block curbing, ADA curb ramps, lighted crosswalk warning signs and new crosswalk striping.
4. The Township was awarded a Sustainable NJ grant for \$2,000 for pedestrian safety improvements at the Paper Mill Playhouse crosswalk on Brookside Drive. Improvements will include, lighted advance warning signs in advance of the curve east of the existing crosswalk, new signs and pavement markings. The grant will be used toward the cost of materials and equipment. In-house staff will install the equipment.

### PTOC Report

Mara Epstein inquired about the 4-way stop in the poet's section, Mr. McDonald responded that it is on the list and Brightview is currently looking into it as well. Ms. Epstein asked about Wyoming projects and when those recommendations will be implemented, to which Mr. McDonald answered most likely in July as it has been approved by the Committee.

Ms. Epstein asked about 'Safe Routes to School' grant to which Mr. McDonald answered that there are a lot of factors involved, however, fall is reasonable, but for sure by end of the year and in keeping with the timeline of the grant. Ms. Epstein inquired about a possible realignment of crossing guards for next year; Mr. McDonald confirmed that the crossing guards would be keeping the same positions. Ms. Epstein also inquired if there are plans to add more guards in areas that would benefit, Mr. McDonald replied that would have to be part of the discussion prior to rebidding, he added that there are floaters at the moment to fill in when necessary. Ms. Epstein queried if there were any updates on Washington School, the walk audit is being pushed to summer or fall due to lack of volunteers to assist. Ms. Epstein reported we could reapply to Safe Route to School in two (2) years.

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Ms. Epstein reported that at the last PTOC Meeting, Tom Lauton, Transportation Supervisor for Millburn district suggested a Pedestrian Pilot program making Whitney Road one-way during drop-off and pick up time, may assist to alleviate some traffic issues. Sgt. Smeraldo reported that the way it currently works seems best considering all residents in that area.

Ms. Epstein reported PTOC announced winners for the poster contest, Mr. McDonald to prepare the Certificates. Ms. Epstein stated she had an ongoing survey for the district with 48 responses so far, asking 'where do you see issues'. The survey will stay open until the end of the school year, and will share the results.

### Residents Report

Mr. Sokop followed up on the Pedestrian Flags. Mr. Sokop reached out to the Boy Scouts, and they are interested in assisting. Mr. McDonald advised Mr. Sokop will direct them to him and he will coordinate with Public Works. Ms. Thall-Eglow inquired where they were planning on putting them, Mr. McDonald replied that they plan on putting them on larger intersections, and busier roads as a test.

Mr. Sobelman followed up on efforts with DHTS to get Crash Data, Mr. McDonald advised that efforts were made to get the 2021 crash data for the Township but unsuccessful because of they did not have the data uploaded to their website we are going to continue working on getting that information. Ms. Bugel and Jesse Moehlman from his office are working on getting that information.

Mr. Sobelman reported that the pipe sticking out of the road has been removed all thanks to Ms. Bugel.

Mr. Sobelman reported that on the PSAB page, there is no crash data statistics for 2020. He inquired if anyone had any objections in providing the location. Mr. McDonald replied that Wyndham and Lackawanna are the ones that seem to be problematic intersections; he suggested it might be best to start keeping tabs going forward rather than go back to evaluate the instances. Chief Gilfedder suggested to Mr. Sobelman that, if he was interested in assisting the data to be forwarded to him so that he could create a spreadsheet. Chief Gilfedder to send over data for pedestrian accidents.

Mr. Sobelman also inquired when to expect striping on the crosswalk where his wife was struck to be completed? Mr. McDonald replied that it would be done as a larger project hopefully by the end of summer.

### New Business

Ms. Thall-Eglow asked Mr. McDonald 2-way traffic

The Township Committee is considering a proposal by Colliers for doing an evaluation of two-way circulation on Essex Street only

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A discussion ensued about pedestrians crossing under the bridge, there were suggestions to move the crosswalk, to implement orange flags or remove the crosswalk. Mr. McDonald suggested we start with the implementation of the orange flags to see how it works.

Ms. Thall-Eglow inquired if the speed limit can be added to electronic speed sign by the High School, Mr. McDonald responded that they are working on it taking into consideration that signage has to be a specific height. Dianne-Thall Eglow suggested implementing more speed-humps around schools, and noted that the new speed hump on Ridgewood, the sign is behind a tree and is not visible.

Ms. Thall-Eglow raised discussion on Right on Red on Ridgewood Road, she proposed reviewing the signage, Mr. McDonald suggested Sgt. Smeraldo look into it further to maybe have signage updated to No Right On Red Monday - Friday.

### Public Comments

Ankur Manglik - proposed a few suggestions as follows:

- Putting up cones on the left lane turning on to Hartshorne
- Find a cost effective way to encourage more people to take the bus to school
- Coming from the Train Station to the east side of Lackawanna place, instead of taking the stairs down and crossing over Lackawanna place, an idea is to have an overhead bridge staying on the same level as the Train Station.
- To add speed humps to the crosswalk

Ms. Thall-Eglow noted that the steps at the train station have deteriorated; Mr. McDonald noted that NJ Transit is responsible for those repairs. Ms. Thall-Eglow asked if someone could reach out to the Lackawanna Coalition, Mr. McDonald advised he would reach out to them.

Jen Duckworth asked if the recommended route is piloted at the intersection where pedestrian and dog were struck be improved, Mr. McDonald replied that we would have to take a further look.

Mr. McDonald reminded the board to reach out to the Chief Gilfedder if there are any concerns and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, to which Ms. Thall-Eglow motioned and Brian Sobelman second.

Next meeting: September 21, 2022 9:00 AM via Zoom Conference

Alex McDonald, Advisory Board Chair

Advisory Board Approved -