Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Minutes of January 15, 2019 Meeting

* In Attendance: Chairman Gordon Stuss, Chief Shawn Bennett, Borough Manager Mitchell Stern, Council Liaison Janet Horst, Members Lauren Brickner-McDonald, Eva Mesicek, Lisa Duke-Lees, Paul Odenwelder.
* Minutes of October 16, 2018 meeting were approved.
* New chairman Gordon Stuss spoke about his role as chair and newly created spreadsheet which will be used to track issues to conclusion.
* Chief’s Report

Chief Bennett described a new monthly enforcement plan that will later be broken down to weekly issues. It will follow the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) calendar E.g., September will concentrate on parking and traffic at schools, another month will be speeding. Funding can applied for to implement activities in the plan.

Lisa suggested that the police put this information on the school website, especially for new families.

Janet brought up question about how successful the targeted enforcement was in September at the schools. Chief Bennett reported that it was highly successful and will be repeated in subsequent September.

Crosswalk discussion ensued, highlighting crosswalk at Crane and Boulevard which had been the site of an operation along with AAA to issue tickets to drivers who did not stop for pedestrians trying to cross. Borough Manager Stern suggested that the more visibility of police resulted in more compliance by drivers.

* Old Business

Halloween in the Village was a highly successful event. The weather was spectacular and there were 1310 “Trick or Treaters.” Lauren will meet with Chief Bennett and Sgt. Benitez in August to discuss next year’s celebration. Issues such as walkie-talkies, candy jockeying, CERT participants, use of BOE vehicles will be addressed.

The crosswalk at Midvale and Morris will have painted islands on both sides of the road to increase pedestrian visibility when crossing.

The inclusion of a crosswalk somewhere on North Pocono close to the Boulevard was deemed inappropriate because crosswalk would not have a “landing” as required under Uniform Traffic Control Standards.

* New Business

Gordon presented issue-tracking spreadsheet to membership that will help to follow the disposition of issues from genesis to completion.

Speed data for Morris Avenue was discussed. It was tracked between Wilcox and Briarcliff. Generally, results were found to be within expected rates. It was brought up that many speed complaints are found to be due to perception, rather than actual speed.

Gordon brought up the process of evaluating need for sidewalks, particularly on Morris Avenue from Powerville to Briarcliff. A grant application will need to include both traffic and pedestrian counts in this stretch of Morris Avenue. There have been numerous questions asked by nearby residents concerning the possibility of a sidewalk in this area.

Paul brought up the two actions that TSC will participate in when the town submits its application to Sustainable New Jersey in 2020. Thee actions are: 1) Anti-Idling Education and Enforcement Program and 2) Safe Routes to School. TSC members are also asked to, if possible, participate in the town-wide clean up in April. It will take place on Eco Weekend, or at a time convenient to TSC members.

Janet brought maps of the lighting locations in town so that members could use them to check on streetlight outages in their assigned parts of town during the seasonal inspection. She also distributed council resolutions that pertain to the TSC Committee. A description of general responsibilities of town committee membership requires that TSC vote for the committee chair and the secretary, so Gordon Stuss was elected to serve as chair and the secretarial duties will rotate quarterly among the other four members.

Lisa brought up an instance of property lighting that was a disturbance to neighbors. It was recommended that the lighting ordinance, as well as the property maintenance ordinance be checked to see how these would impact the situation.

* The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 16th at 5:30 pm in Borough Hall.