

Village of Mamaroneck
Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023
Meeting held at the Regatta Conference Room
Minutes Prepared by Robert Stark

Present: Ryan Buck, Chairperson; Commission Members: Laura Abbate; David Brown; Richard Clifford; Robert Stark; Leilani Yizar-Reid, Trustee Liaison; Tina Maresca, Safe Routes to School; Andy LaRocco, Fire Department; Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager; and residents Hala Hassoun and Craig Langus from Union Avenue in person; Bernie Camarda and Tim O'Connor on Zoom.

Absent: Michael Star: Lt. Falcone, VOM PD representative

Ryan made a motion to open the meeting at 7:01 pm. Laura seconded. All in favor.

New Business

Vision Zero Program Presentation by Shannon Purdy

Issue: Shannon Hughes, a former Chair of the TC and an expert in the field of Transportation, gave a thorough presentation to the Traffic Commission of the history of the Vision Zero program and how the VOM adopted the Vision Zero program in 2018.

Discussion:

Action: At subsequent meetings, the TC will discuss how to encourage the VOM to reinstate this program.

Parking at Mamaroneck High School

Issue: As a result of increased student enrollment and an increase in staff, a request was made to Safe Routes to School to find additional parking for HS seniors.

Discussion: Tina Maresca asked the VOM Fire Department about allowing parking on Fulton Road, but the FD denied that request. Additional options are parking on Woodbine and parking on BPR by the Kemper Memorial.

Action: Tina will discuss these options further with Dan Sarnoff.

Old White Plains Road and Washington Street

Issue: Car accident involving young child near Washington and Grand in June 2023.

Discussion: Laura commented that this entire area in Washingtonville is unsafe, especially by the 5-point island at the corner of OWPR and Mamaroneck Avenue, and requested that Matt Carmody be involved. David recommended increased police enforcement in this area.

Action: It was decided that Dan will speak with Matt Carmody about the feasibility of doing a walking assessment from New Street to Hoyt on Mamaroneck Avenue.

490 Bleeker – Disabled Parking Request

Issue: A resident from 490 Bleeker with a physical disability requested a handicapped parking space.

Discussion: Robert spoke about the Fair Housing Law which provides that a person with a physical disability residing in a Condo or Co-op is entitled to reasonable accommodation from the Co-op or Condo based on their disability. Dan preferred that this be handled by the VOM BOT.

Action: Ryan requested that Robert reach out to the Board at 490 Bleeker and see if they can find reasonable accommodation for the resident.

Rockland Avenue – Child Hit by Car and Traffic Safety Updates

- Issue: Report of a recent car accident at the intersection of Waverly and Rockland involving a student walking to school, plus an update on the status of adding traffic calming measures based on the recent walking study.
- Discussion: Dan reported that DPW will add signage, flashing lights and crosswalks at the intersection of Waverly and Rockland.
- Action: Both Tina and Robert requested that 4-way crosswalks be added at the intersection of Waverly and Rockland ASAP.

4-Way Red at All Village Traffic Signals

- Issue: Request from Mr. Spadaro for more 4-way red traffic signals in the VOM.
- Discussion: Per Dan, there needs to be substantial pedestrian activity to warrant this. Because 4-way stops slow traffic on the main intersections and side streets, it is usually not a good idea.
- Action: All-way stops may be appropriate at specific intersections.

Daniel Warren Elementary School – Pedestrian Safety for Students

- Issue: Resident requested several traffic calming measures on Keeler and Harrison Avenues by the school.
- Discussion: As per Dan, Keeler and Harrison are state roads and would require NYS approval. Also, the school is responsible for any changes on school property.
- Action: Dan will need to look at to see what if anything the VOM can do.

Safe Routes to School (“SRTS”) – for Rye Neck

- Issue: David asked how to establish a SRTS program for Rye Neck.
- Discussion: Need to get parents involved – PTA too.
- Action: Tina and David will work to generate interest in setting this up.

Parker and Hunter – Obstructed View (Pedestrian Safety)

- Issue: Brian Williams requested that the TC look into traffic safety measures at this location.
- Discussion: James Barney of DPW said he would investigate it.
- Action: Mr. Barney will follow up.

St. Vito Church – Paving Request

- Issue: Resident requested to repave the road by the Church.
- Discussion: This is not really a TC issue. According to Dan, the Village expects to repave the road by the end of the year.
- Action: Ryan will follow up with the resident and cc Dan.

Pedestrian Safety, Stop Signs, Walkability and Crosswalk

- Issue: Issue raised by Ryan as a follow up on the email from Mayor Murphy regarding Stop Signs and general pedestrian safety issues.
- Discussion: Ryan mentioned emails from former TC Chair, Abby Roberts, the Comp Plan, Matt Carmody and the process utilized to control workflow.

Action: None. This dialogue transitioned into a conversation on how to respond to residents found in the following section and then into how Matt Carmody will assist the TC found under the first Old Business section.

Responding to Residents on Traffic Issues

Issue: Dave said the TC needs to provide timely responses to all residents when they contact the TC.

Discussion: Discussed various methods for responding to residents including (1) one TC member would be responsible at each meeting for all responses, (2) assign a different TC member to each specific issue and (3) generate an automated response such as, “we received your email, and we will follow up. Please complete the on-line form.” Andy LaRocco commented that responses from TC members can create liability issues for the VOM if the responses are not appropriate.

Action: David will provide suggested language to use for the automated response to residents’ email.

Old Business

Create Calendar of When Matt Carmody Will Attend Meetings

Issue: TC requested occasional presence of Matt Carmody at TC meetings.

Discussion: As per Leilani, BOT will allow Carmody to attend meetings on a quarterly basis. TC needs to be very specific as to what matters he can comment on; he cannot discuss matters involving the state or the county.

Action: Matt Carmody will attend TC meetings.

Union Avenue – Progress Report Update

Issue: Craig Langus and Hala Hassoun in attendance. They requested clarity between what was recommended after the walking study and what will be done, and when the work will be done. They also asked why the work to be done at the corner of Tompkins can’t be done now, since all the Con Ed work will be done at the other end of Union by Hinman Place.

Discussion: According to Leilani, everything that was recommended, that is what will be done

Action: Leilani and Dan will follow up.

Boston Post Road – Crossing at Fenimore and Delancey

Issue: Long term pedestrian safety issue at intersections of BPR and Fenimore and Delancey due to traffic signal not providing four-way stop to allow pedestrians to cross BPR safely. BPR is a NY state road. It is up to the NYSDOT to fix this issue.

Discussion: Focus on synchronizing the traffic signal to make it an all-way stop. Robert requested that the VOM install signage on Fenimore alerting drivers making a left from Fenimore onto BPR to “Yield to Pedestrians” crossing BPR.

Action: Ryan will speak with Leilani about the delay in getting the State to fix the traffic signal.

Sidewalks on Old Post Road

Issue: Ryan raised the issue of sidewalks on OPR.

Discussion: According to Dan, the sidewalk project on OPR is part of the 2024 budget for next year and will cost 1.5 million dollars.

Action: Work will be done next year.

Waverly Avenue Bridge Project – Impact on MAS

Issue: Preparation for the impact of the Waverly Avenue Bridge project on the MAS.

Discussion: The project was subsequently halted so any discussion was purposeless.

Action: None.

518 Carroll Avenue – Parking Issues

Issue: Mr. Caster's request to allow parking on the other side of Carroll.

Discussion: VOM Fire Department denied the request to allow parking on the other side of Carroll.

Action: None. Leilani will follow up with Mr. Caster.

Crown Court and Knollwood Avenue - Traffic Calming Measures Update

Issue: On May 21, 2021, residents asked the Traffic Commission to recommend traffic calming measures at this location. In December 2022, the TC was told that the matter would be referred to Matt Carmody for his traffic calming recommendations.

Discussion: Tina reported that more vehicles are parking on the Knollwood Avenue hill, creating a hazardous situation. Requested that Matt Carmody look at this location. Dave suggested installing speed humps at this location. Leilani suggested that Matt Carmody attend our meeting so we can ask him specifically about whether to add speed humps on Knollwood and other traffic related issues we are addressing.

Action: Dan will follow up with Matt Carmody. Should Matt Carmody attend our next meeting?

Brixmor Shopping Center – Traffic Calming Update

Issue: Need to add Stop Sign by Chipotle exit and signage on the sidewalk for pedestrian safety.

Discussion: The owners of Brixmor installed the Stop Sign at the Chipotle exit. Robert reminded everyone of the need to add signs on the sidewalk warning pedestrians about cars exiting Brixmor. Dan said he just needed to identify the appropriate sign and the DPW will install it.

Action: Dan to find the appropriate sidewalk sign.

FASNY at New Street and Underhill - Update

Issue: The hourly parking restrictions at the Bus Stop on Underhill have been corrected. However, the No Parking sign at the corner of New Street across from the church, recommended by the TC on May 10, 2023, has not been done. Also, the Stop Sign on New Street across from the Church, recommended by the TC on January 10, 2023, has not been planted.

Discussion: There was a discussion about adding sidewalks at New Street and Underhill. Later we reminded Dan about the Stop Sign issue.

Action: Regarding the sidewalk, Dan said the Village had bids out to do the sidewalk. Regarding the Stop Sign, Dan said he would follow up and get it done.

Palmer Avenue at Walters Hot Dogs and Mam'k High School - Crosswalk

Issue: Some months ago, Safe Routes to School requested adding a crosswalk on Palmer Avenue between the Mamaroneck High School and Walters Hot Dogs. The TC has been trying to get the crosswalk project approved by the County.

Discussion: Dan reported that he submitted to the County the appropriate documentation to move the project forward.

Action: Awaiting a response from the County.

Corner of New Street and OWPR – Remove Parking Space

Issue: Reminder to remove the parking space at the corner of New Street and OWPR.

Discussion:

Action: Dan will follow up to have the parking space removed.

Royal Place and OPR - Crosswalks

Issue: The TC recommended adding crosswalks at the intersection of OPR and Royal.

Discussion: Laura requested that Dan follow up and have the crosswalks added. Dan said it does not require BOT approval. Robert also reminded Dan about our previous request to trim the hedges at the corner house on Royal Place and OPR.

Action: Dan will follow up and have the crosswalks painted and the hedges trimmed.

Harbor Island - Speed Limit Sign

Issue: Speed limit was recommended by TC on April 11, 2023, but signs were not installed at Harbor Island.

Discussion: The Speed Limit signs are now posted at the entrance to Harbor Island.

Action: None. This matter is closed.

Taylor's Lane and BPR - Crosswalk Update

Issue: On May 10, 2023, the TC unanimously approved a motion to paint a crosswalk on Taylor's Lane at the intersection of BPR. However, Matt Carmody said that a study needs to be done before adding the crosswalk because BPR is a state road.

Discussion: According to Dan, VOM cannot paint the crosswalk without State approval.

Action: The crosswalk can't be painted until after the state repaves BPR in 2026.

Ryan made a motion to accept the minutes from July 19, 2023. Laura seconded. All voted in favor.

Ryan made a motion to accept the minutes from September 14, 2023. Laura seconded. All voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Commission, Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. David seconded. All in favor.