

Village of Mamaroneck
Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023
Meeting held at the Regatta Conference Room
Minutes Prepared by Robert Stark

Present: Ryan Buck, Chairperson; Commission Members: Laura Abbate, David Brown; Tina Maresca; Hillary Short; Robert Stark; Erica Swansen; Leilani Yizar-Reid, Trustee Liaison; Lt. Gatta, PD; Andy LaRocco, Fire Department; Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager; Michael Smeets; Tim O'Connor; and Diana Reilly

Absent:

Ryan made a motion to open the meeting at 7:06 pm. Laura seconded. All in favor.

New Business

Welcome Newly Appointed Commission Members

Discussion: Ryan welcomed Erica Swansen, Hillary Short and Tina Maresca, the three new members to the Traffic Commission.

Michael Smeets' Update on Bike Lanes

Issue: Mr. Smeets told the TC about his plan for a biking program that would include the VOM, the TOM and the Village of Larchmont. It will need the cooperation of the NYSDOT and funding from outside sources.

Discussion: the following points were discussed:

- Will be a 5-year plan.
- We need to change the NYSDOT model.
- Create a vision for the bike program.
- Encourage elected officials to support the project.
- BPR will be the main focus of bike lanes.
- BPR will be repaved in 2026.
- Turn a 50-million-dollar project into a 25-million-dollar project for Complete Street Plan.
- Dan recommended that the BOT consider Complete Streets for all of Route 1
- VOM must adopt a resolution requesting Complete Streets for BPR.
- Larchmont is considering applying for funding for the Complete Streets project.
- Larchmont applied for a \$100k grant to implement a Safe Streets for All program.
- VOM should apply for the same grant – due by July.
- The grant must be written by the VOM. It is a relatively simple application.
- TC needs to determine the best bike path to schools and other destinations.
- Consider which engineering firm will do the work.
- The website for Smeets' project is **Imbikelanes.com**.
- According to Tina, the Mamaroneck schools are on board.
- According to Smeets, the TOM and the Rye Neck schools are on board.

Action: Continue to discuss what the TC needs to do to support the bike program.

Vision Zero Project

Issue: The TC recommended that the VOM engage in a Vision Zero type program to educate residents on the need for both driver and pedestrian safety.

Discussion: The following points were discussed:

- Dan will speak to Greg in Planning to create a heat map identifying the location of accidents.
- Laura will reach out to neighborhood associations.
- Discussed doing a survey.
- Lt. Gatta suggested obtaining accident data from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
- Ryan said we need some talking points.
- Dan commented that parents do not let their kids ride their bike or walk to school because they feel it's too dangerous.
- Andy LaRocco shared that NBC Nightly News did a study on Vision Zero.
- Dan reminded us of the impact of turning driving into a conscious activity.

Action: Continue to discuss what the TC needs to do to support the Vision Zero program.

Rye Neck Safe Routes to School Program – David and Diana Reilly

Issue: At a previous meeting, David raised the issue of the need for Rye Neck to have a SRTS program.

Discussion: Diana Reilly and David each spoke about the newly created SRTS in Rye Neck. Both thanked Tina for sharing her experience and knowledge as the chair of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck SRTS. Dan recommended contacting Rye Y.

Action: Await follow up from David and Diana.

Spreadsheet

Issue: The spreadsheet was created earlier this year to enable the members of the TC to better understand the traffic and parking issues on our agenda in order to make appropriate recommendations.

Discussion: Robert explained the backstory of the spreadsheet. Ryan assigned Laura and Erica to convert the Spreadsheet from a static Word document to a shared document on Google Drive.

Action: Awaiting updates from Erica and Laura on converting the spreadsheet to a shared document.

Old Business

Washingtonville/Traffic Calming/OWPR

Issue: Residents requested traffic calming measures along Old White Plains Road around Highview Street and Grand Street. Pedestrian safety issues were previously raised by Laura and Tim O'Connor.

Discussion: Tim O'Connor repeated his request for traffic calming measures on OWPR in and around Grand Street. Lengthy discussion about the boundary line for the Town of Mamaroneck and Scarsdale.

Action: David made a motion to request that the TOM and Town/Village of Scarsdale consider restricting truck traffic on OWPR. Motion unanimously approved.

Fenimore Road and Bud Walker Park – Pedestrian Crossing

- Issue: Kate DeHaas, from the Committee on the Environment, told us about pedestrian safety issues at this location.
- Discussion: The following points were discussed:
- Tina commented that it is dangerous because there's no sidewalk.
 - Ryan agreed that it is very dangerous.
 - Laura requested that DPW make it safe to walk across. She suggested using barricades filled with water and placing them in between the two bridges.
 - Tina inquired if the footbridge was closed now, because that would be the bigger issue. This needs to be looked at and taken care of before that bridge closes.
 - Dan said he would check.
 - Dan commented that when the new Waverly Avenue bridge is complete, we will have some nice sidewalks on it.
 - Tina commented that there are no sidewalks when you get over the bridge in front of the UFC gym.
- Action: Consider appropriate traffic calming measures.

Communications and Response/Traffic Complaint Form/Procedures

- Issue: Discussion by TC members on how to improve communication and response to residents.
- Discussion: Robert commented on his experience attending a Traffic Commission meeting at the Town of Mamaroneck.
- Action: David will distribute his comments and suggestions to the TC for discussion at our next meeting.

Boston Post Road – Crossing at Fenimore and Delancey

- Issue: Concern over the safety of pedestrians crossing BPR.
- Discussion: Dan met with the state last month and asked them to look at an exclusive pedestrian phase for both intersections. They adjusted the timing at Fenimore and Boston Post Road and at the other intersection. They are going to come back and do a real review and analysis when the pedestrian activity is going to be at its highest, May or June next year, and produce a better data driven plan. The purpose of an advanced pedestrian phase is to give time for the pedestrian to establish their presence in the intersection. The pedestrian becomes more visible to the driver. According to Dan, the light at Delancey is more problematic. Ryan emphasized the importance of making crossing BPR safe.
- Action: We still recommend adding Yield to Pedestrian signs on Fenimore and Delancey.

Stop Signs and Traffic Signal Inventory

- Issue:
- Discussion: Discussion about the need for an inventory of all Stop Signs and Traffic signals in the VOM.
- Action: Dan will decide whether to take any action on this issue.

Boston Post Road and Rockland Avenue – Crosswalk

- Issue: Tina requested crosswalks at this location.
- Discussion: Dan stated that the County is responsible for this and needs to do a study. Erica responded that because it is a legal crossing there should be no need for a study.
- Action: Dan will follow up.

Hoyt and Mamaroneck Avenues - Update on Lane Directionals

- Issue: Follow up on resident's request to clarify which traffic lane on Hoyt will lead to the train station entrance; it is confusing to drivers.
- Discussion: According to Dan, as part of the Waverly Avenue Bridge Project, the Town is hiring HVEA to do a traffic study in January. They'll be looking at whether to extend the turning lane from Hoyt to Mamaroneck and add directional signage.
- Action: Await traffic study by the Town and HVEA.

Palmer and Delancey - Crosswalks

- Issue: Request for crosswalks at this location.
- Discussion: Dan had previously reported that the crosswalks have been painted. Tina said they were not done.
- Action: Dan to follow up.

412 N. Barry – fix parking space by the driveway

- Issue: Need to resolve a misunderstanding with DPW as to how to fix a previously recommended issue at this location.
- Discussion: Dan reported that DPW will add the recommended buffer space at the driveway.
- Action: Awaiting action by DPW.

Mount Pleasant and Stanley Crossing -Tina

- Issue: Tina reported that this is a safety issue and was an accident waiting to happen because you cannot see pedestrians.
- Discussion: Tina stated that the new crosswalk was dangerous. Coming from the train going towards the Post Office, one cannot see pedestrians waiting to cross because you're going up the hill. She recommended flashing lights and painted lines because cars do not stop before the crosswalk.
- Dan stated that as far as painting goes, that's the county section and we would need their permission. As far as the flashing pedestrian beacons that are at Fenimore and Prospect, he would need to determine if it was technically and logistically feasible.
- Action: Awaiting update from Dan or from Elaine Du when she joins our meetings.

Speed Humps - Additional Locations

- Issue: The VOM is looking to add speed humps or bumps at various locations in the Village to slow traffic.
- Discussion: Ryan requested this be part of the TC solutions. He inquired if the TC is authorized to recommend speed humps as a traffic calming measure.
- Dan commented that he recently told the BOT where you shouldn't put speed humps. For example, on N. Barry Avenue or a collector road, which carries significant traffic or emergency vehicles. He is creating a guide or a manual for applying speed humps, based on what was done on Old Post Road. The cost for each speed hump is about \$5,000 a piece in terms of the asphalt and all the accoutrements.
- Action: Awaiting Dan's follow up and learning who will be responsible for recommending additional locations for speed humps.

Waverly Avenue Bridge Replacement Project - Update

- Issue: Follow up on the status of the project.
- Discussion: TOM resumed work on the bridge. HVEA will do a traffic study in January.
- David suggested making Waverly a one-way street facing Fenimore.
- Action: Awaiting completion of the project and the traffic study by HVEA.

Union Avenue – Progress Update

- Issue: Residents of Union requested traffic calming measures on Union. A walking study was done in March 2023. Updates on Union Avenue project.
- Discussion: Robert explained the issues at this location. In June, the Village Manager assured us and the residents of Union Avenue that all the work would be completed by the end of August. However, now we are told that that the work won't be done until April 2024 and that it requires additional planning and design. Leilani stated she would follow up with the Village Manager to find out why this was mishandled. According to Leilani, the problem was a miscommunication by the Village Manager.
- Action: The recommended traffic calming measures are scheduled to start in April 2024.

Open Meetings Law (OML)

- Issue: All VOM Committees must comply with the OML.
- Discussion: Ryan explained the basics of OML and reminded everyone that all Commission members must comply with OML. Essentially, OML prohibits three or more commission members from meeting to discuss Traffic Commission business outside of a duly authorized and noticed meeting.
- Action: Comply with OML.

AKRF to attend Traffic Meetings

- Issue: The TC had requested that a traffic engineer be present at our meetings to provide expert advice on traffic issues. Matt Carmody suggested that Elaine Du, one of his associates, attend our meetings instead of Matt.
- Discussion:
- Action: Elaine is expected to begin attending our meetings in early 2024 on a quarterly basis.

Minutes

Issue:

Discussion: Robert distributed Minutes from our November meeting. Unfortunately, we must wait until next month to approve them. He also gave Minutes from our July and October meetings to Erica and Hillary.

Action: November Minutes will be approved at our next meeting.

Old Post Road – Sidewalk Project

Issue: The VOM has been considering adding sidewalks on Old Post Road for children walking to and from school.

Discussion: Dan explained that the BOT will have to discuss whether there is money in the budget to fund this project.

Action: Awaiting response from the BOT.

Possible Federal Grant for Sidewalks at MAS School

Issue:

Discussion: Dan reported that there may be a federal funded project for improving sidewalks around the MAS school.

Action: None at this time.

HVEA - Halstead Avenue Sidewalk Project – Update

Issue: This is a project to improve sidewalks and other traffic calming measures along the Halstead Avenue corridor.

Discussion: Dan reported that the VOM submitted the draft design to the state DOT. They just sent back their comments. Maybe 2025. We are at the mercy of DOT because they had to approve every phase.

Action: The project will go out to bid after the final approval.

New Street and Underhill – Update on Stop and No Parking signs

Issue: Follow up on previous requests by the TC to add a No Parking sign and a Stop Sign.

Discussion: Laura reminded Dan about the Stop Sign request on Underhill and the No Parking sign requested at the corner of New Street and Grand opposite the Church.

Action: Dan will follow up on both the Stop Sign and the No Parking sign.

The minutes from November 14, 2023, will be approved at the next meeting.

There being no further business before the Commission, Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. Tina seconded. All in favor.