

Village of Mamaroneck
Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024
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. Galvin, VOM PD; Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager; Elaine Du of AKRF; Residents Abby Roberts and Jean Hee Chung; and Diana Reilly of the Rye Neck SRTS

Absent:

Ryan made a motion to open the meeting at 7:02 pm. Tina seconded. All in favor.

Introductions

Issue: Ryan welcomed Elaine Du from AKRF and residents Abby Roberts and Jean Hee Chung.

New Business

Trucks Hitting the Metro North Bridge

Issue: Long-term problem of trucks getting stuck at the Metro North Bridge.

Discussion: The following options were discussed to mitigate the problem.

- Everyone suggested more and better signage on the bridge.
- Erica suggested adding more signs **before** approaching the bridge.
- Dan suggested reflective signs.
- Tina – increase visibility of signs for night driving by using flashing and reflective signs.
- Elaine recommended reaching out to local trucking organizations and companies.
- Metro North is responsible for signs on the bridge.
- Dan is working with DPW on signage. There are 3 bridges.
- Get crash analysis from the PD.
- Chain devices were recommended in 2021 but were not implemented. Abby spoke about chains too.
- Elaine Du said the chains are not as effective as reflective signs.
- Ryan recommended that Elaine resend her memo to Metro North emphasizing the frequency of trucks getting stuck under the bridge. We should all review her memo then resend it to Metro North.

Action: Dan, Erica, Elaine and Jean Hee will review the data.

Check if crash data is available from the Police Department.

According to Ryan, we should all review and consider the suggestions discussed and be prepared to make specific recommendations on signage and other options at the next meeting.

Use Harbor Island for Parking

Issue: Issue of lack of sufficient parking in the Village, especially on Mamaroneck Avenue.

Discussion: Abby Roberts suggested utilizing Harbor Island as a source of additional parking for residents shopping on Mamaroneck the Avenue.

Action: None

Traffic Calming Measures at Orienta and Rushmore Avenues

Issue: Resident from Orienta requested traffic calming measures at this location.

Discussion: the following issues were discussed:

- Dan stated that NYSDOT will be analyzing the traffic light sequence on Orienta in May and will make recommendations.
- As per Abby, a walking study of the entire Orienta area including Orienta and Rushmore Avenues was done in 2019.
- The Orienta intersection is extremely wide, making it hazardous to cross the street.
- There has been a substantial increase in student and auto traffic at this location.
- Dan commented on the funding issue regarding adding the sidewalk on OPR. The BOT is trying to prioritize which projects to fund.
- Tina commented that crossing Orienta at the BPR is hazardous and requires traffic calming measures such as an island or bump outs. Dan pointed out that that location is the responsibility of the State, and they are considering adjusting the timing of the traffic signal. The traffic signals at both Delancey and Orients must be coordinated.
- Tina emphasized the need for a crossing guard at Orienta and BPR.

Action: Ryan and Dan will reach out to Leilani. David made a motion that the Traffic Commission supported the funding of the sidewalk on OPR. Robert seconded – all voted in favor.

Lorena Street – Student Safety Walking to Bellows School

Issue: Request to add a sidewalk on Lorena Street.

Discussion: Jean Hee said there is a stretch of 1 to 2 blocks from Florence Park to Bellows school without a sidewalk on Lorena and it was covered in the 2018 walking study. Erica stated that funding for sidewalks on Lorena was previously approved. Dan reported that this issue was in the Capital budget for 2023-2024.

Action: Rye Neck SRTS will investigate this issue. Ryan suggested that Jean work with Rye Neck SRTS on this issue. Dan will request a design for the sidewalk from AKRF.

Park Avenue and Hunter – Pedestrian Safety Issues

Issue: Issue of pedestrian safety measures at this location previously raised by Brian Williams.

Discussion: Robert commented that James Barney of DPW previously indicated that he would see what can be done at this location.

Action: Dan will speak with James Barney of DPW and request that he follow up on this issue. Await an update from Dan.

Request to Remove a Parking Space on Royal Place from Resident at 814 Hall Street

Issue: One resident requested removing a parking space on Royal Place.

Discussion: All the other residents on Royal Place sent letters to the Traffic Commission objecting to the removal of the parking space.

Action: The Traffic Commission decided not to remove the parking space. Ryan will write to the resident.

Old Business

Excessive Truck Traffic on OWPR

- Issue: At a previous meeting, the Traffic Commission approved a motion that the TOM and Scarsdale consider prohibiting trucks on OWPR.
- Discussion: Dan spoke with the engineer from the TOM. Dan determined that it was not necessary to contact Scarsdale.
- Action: Await response from the TOM.

OWPR/Grand/5-Way Stop – Walking Study Recommendation

- Issue: Pedestrian and traffic safety issues at this location. Dan distributed the AKRF study for the TC to review.
- Discussion: Tina recommended adding a small island. Elaine reported that she wrote the traffic study at this location in 2022. She determined that due to the limited size of the area, a true “roundabout” was not feasible. She recommended a smaller traffic circle. She also recommended (1) crosswalks, (2) curb extensions and (3) a traffic signal. Dan suggested that part of the solution is to move the Stop Sign on OWPR back.
- Action: Follow up on Elaine’s recommendations. Laura will forward the recommendations from the Washington Neighborhood Alliance (“WNA”) to the Traffic Commission and to Dan.

Royal Place and OPR – Adding a Crosswalk and Trimming Hedges

- Issue: TC previously requested (1) adding a crosswalk at Royal Place and OPR and (2) trimming the hedges at the house on the corner of Royal Place and OPR.
- Discussion: Robert reminded Dan about the crosswalk and trimming the hedges.
- Action: Dan will follow up and endeavor to get them both done. Ryan recommended that we table any further discussion about crosswalks until March.

Rockland and Waverly Avenues Intersection - Adding a Four-way Crosswalk

- Issue: Traffic Commission previously recommended adding a four-way crosswalk at this location.
- Discussion: Discussed adding crosswalk. Tina requested that the VOM staff paint the crosswalks because they do a better job than the County does, and the paint lasts longer. Erica mentioned the crosswalk by her home on Hillside Avenue - after only a year the crosswalk is barely visible. Lengthy discussion of how to ensure that the crosswalks in the Village are painted in a timely manner.
- Action: Ryan recommended that we table any further discussion about crosswalks until March.

Mt. Pleasant and Prospect Avenues - Adding a Crosswalk

- Issue: Tina previously recommended adding crosswalks at this location.
- Discussion:
- Action: Dan reported that he will speak with Gino to get the crosswalks painted. Ryan recommended that we table any further discussion about crosswalks until March. Tina stated that she will create a Village wide list of crosswalks. Ryan suggested that we form a sub-committee to handle crosswalks.

I -95 Exit at Mamaroneck - Adding a Crosswalk

- Issue: Traffic Commission previously recommended adding a crosswalk at this location.
- Discussion: Tina reported that the roadway was recently repaved, and it is now more dangerous because cars are going faster since the roadway is flat. Tina also stated that crosswalks are usually painted in the spring. Ryan recommended rumble strips.
- Action: Elaine reported that AKRF plans to add crosswalks and more signage at this location. Ryan recommended that we table any further discussion about crosswalks until March.

Brixmor Shopping Center – Pedestrian Safety

- Issue: Traffic Commission previously recommended adding signage on the street in front of Brixmor warning pedestrians about cars exiting the shopping center.
- Discussion: Tina commented that there is a safety issue at both exits. The problem is that drivers have limited visibility when exiting Brixmor. Discussed adding signage on the sidewalk warning pedestrians about cars exiting Brixmor. Dan does not believe that the street signage is necessary because there is no record of any accidents.
- Action: Erica suggested that we all take a look at this location and continue this discussion at our next meeting. Dan will ask Matt Carmody to take another look at this location.

Crown Court and Knollwood Avenue – Pedestrian Safety

- Issue: Many residents have requested pedestrian safety measures at this location. The Traffic Commission has requested the traffic consultant to look at this location and make appropriate recommendations.
- Discussion:
- Action: Dan will ask Matt Carmody to look at this location.

FASNY at 145 New Street – Adding a Stop Sign and No Parking Sign

- Issue: Traffic Commission previously recommended adding a Stop Sign and a No Parking Sign at this location.
- Discussion: Leilani suggested that Dan work with DPW to create a schedule of traffic tasks that can be shared with the Traffic Commission.
- Action: Dan will follow up with DPW on both signs and will report back to the Traffic Commission on a schedule of traffic related tasks assigned to DPW that can be shared with the Traffic Commission.

New Street – Replacing a “No Commercial Parking” Sign

- Issue: Traffic Commission previously recommended replacing a No Commercial Parking sign on New Street.
- Discussion: Discussed replacing the sign. According to Dan, the sign may not be authorized or needed at this location.
- Action: This matter should be removed from the active spreadsheet.

Grand Street and Ailing – Parking Enforcement Issues

- Issue: Resident previously requested enforcement of parking violations at this location.
- Discussion: Discussed increasing police enforcement for parking violations.
- Action: Lt. Galvin stated that the VOM will endeavor to enforce parking violations at this location.

AKRF – Attending Quarterly Meetings

- Issue: Elaine Du of AKRF will attend Traffic Commission meetings on a quarterly basis.
- Discussion: Tina stated that we needed to make better use of Elaine’s expertise. Dan suggested that the agenda and Minutes be sent to all TC members in advance of the next meeting.
- Action: Elaine Du will attend our April 2024 meeting. Dan will reach out to Elaine when we have specific questions.

Vision Zero Project

- Issue: What are the next steps to implement the Vision Zero Program?
- Discussion: Elaine is very familiar with Vision Zero. According to her, step one is for the VOM to pass a Vision Zero resolution and pursue the Safe Streets for All program. Step Two is to develop a plan for all Village roadways based on a data driven approach. After implementing a plan, Step Three would be applying for implementation federal grants. It was pointed out that both Vision Zero and Mike Smeets’ bike program have similar goals.
- Action: Follow Elaine’s recommendations.

Communications with Residents/Traffic Incident Form/Procedures

- Issue: The Traffic Commission is considering the most effective and appropriate social media tools to communicate with Village residents.
- Discussion: Lengthy discussion followed. As explained by Ryan, the TC is limited in using social media and it must be approved and authorized by Robert Ingenito and the Villager Manager. According to Dan, Robert Ingenito handles the VOM website and Cliff Cazes handles SharePoint. David distributed templates for the Traffic Commission to use when responding to residents. There was a lengthy discussion on how to best utilize the Incident Form.
- Action: Ryan will speak with Robert Ingenito about using social media and the Incident Form. All these issues need further discussion. The plan is for Traffic Commission members to respond to residents utilizing the template provided by David.

Spreadsheet – Conversion to a Shareable Format

- Issue: The spreadsheet was created earlier this year to enable the members of the TC to better understand traffic and parking issues and assist them in making appropriate recommendations.
- Discussion: Lengthy discussion of how to store the Spreadsheet on the VOM website. Dan explained the options are using either OneDrive or SharePoint. Elaine recommended using SharePoint. According to Dan, Robert Ingenito handles the VOM website and Cliff Cazes handles SharePoint. We also discussed establishing user privileges and deciding who has access to the Spreadsheet.
- Action: Decide how to use the Spreadsheet on the VOM website. Awaiting updates from Erica and Laura on converting the spreadsheet to a shared format.

David made a motion to approve the Minutes from November 14, 2023 and December 12, 2023. Seconded by Robert. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business before the Commission, Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm. Tina seconded. All in favor.