

**MORRIS TOWNSHIP
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2021**

The January 13, 2021 Zoom meeting was called to order by Secretary Jenny Mantek at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, Township of Morris, New Jersey.

Statement of Adequate Notice

Secretary Jenny Mantek issued the following statement of Adequate Notice:

“Adequate Notice” of this meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Township of Morris was given as required and defined by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

Written Notice was given on December 27th, 2019 to the Daily Record, by email at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting, and a copy of the Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building of the Township of Morris by the Township Administrator, and a copy of the Notice was likewise filed in the Township Clerk’s office. Copies of this Notice were mailed by Certified mail to all persons who have requested individual notice, pursuant to N.J.S.A 10:4-19, all of which Notices were given at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting, and said notice will be retained in the Office of the Township Clerk. “A copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building of the Township of Morris and on the Township of Morris website; I hereby hand to the Secretary a copy of the notice which was given as above set forth for appropriate retention in the Transportation Advisory Committee files, all of the above in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 (d), et seq. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.”

Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office:

The Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office were administered to the following Transportation Advisory Committee members by Jenny Mantek, Secretary: Jim Hunt, Alida Karas, Dan Nunn, Nora Santiago

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jenny Mantek, Secretary.

Roll Call taken by Jenny Mantek, Secretary:

Members present:

Richard Bye
Randall Emond
David Curnow
Alida Karas
Dan Nunn

Mark Gyorfy
Nora Santiago
Cathy Wilson
Jim Hunt

Also Present:

Timothy Quinn, Township Administrator
Mark DiCarlo, Chief of Police
Bill Foelsch, Director of Parks & Recreation
Jenny Mantek, Secretary

Absent:

Jim Slate

Appointment of chairs

A motion was made for Mark Gyorfy to be nominated as Chair by Rick Bye, seconded by Dan Nunn, and Nora Santiago was nominated as Vice Chair by Mark Gyorfy, seconded by DJ Curnow, and with no other nominations both were unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Randy Emond, seconded by Rick Bye and unanimously carried, the minutes as amended of the December 10, 2020 meeting were approved and placed on file in the Administration Office.

Public Commentary

None at this time.

On a motion made by Cathy Wilson and seconded by Randy Emond and unanimously carried, Public Commentary was closed at 7:09 PM.

General Business

2021 Finalized Meeting Dates: the second Wednesday of the month except for November. A motion was made to accept these meeting dates by Randy Emond, seconded by DJ Curnow and unanimously carried.

- February 10, 2021
- March 10, 2021
- April 14, 2021
- May 12, 2021
- June 9, 2021
- July 14, 2021
- August 11, 2021
- September 8, 2021
- October 13, 2021
- December 8, 2021
- January 12, 2022

- Subcommittee Appointments: the following subcommittee appointments were made.
 - Walking: Rick Bye (Lead), Alida Karas, Cathy Wilson
 - Biking: Randy Emond (Lead), Jim Hunt, Nora Santiago
 - Driving: DJ Curnow (Lead), Mark Gyorfy, Dann Nunn
 - Parking: Dann Nunn (Lead), Mark Gyorfy, DJ Curnow

- TAC Mobility Survey Results
Randy Emond summarized and provided a review of the survey results, and added that the data gave a good stage for recommendations and it has uncovered mobility issues within the Township. The Township needs to start with short term, and also take a bigger step long term to create a blue print with this data. Traffic speed, access and safety were the main issues. People are calling for vehicle speed reduction and more information including access and getting around paths. Randy added he wants to move forward with seeking agreement with the Township Committee to take short and long term action that ensures mobility safety and access. Mr. Emond continued to point out

more of the findings, in particular the Northwest section, and how residents see themselves in neighborhoods. He split the Northwest it into 5 areas: 1. Lake/Lake Valley, Sussex, Ketch, Patriots' Path, 2. Fairchild, 3. Butterworth, 4. Summit, 5. West Hanover and continued to provide survey results for these areas. Mr. Emond reviewed some of the creative long term solutions listed in his presentation for the Northwest section and brought up long term and creative ideas listed in the presentation.

Mr. Emond asked for questions and comments. Mark Gyorfy agreed the importance of long and short term goals and commented some of the issues are funding and various jurisdictions, and asked if there were thoughts on best way as a committee to start narrowing down short and long term goals to get a realistic top tier list. Randy Emond recommended for short term, to come up with 3 short term ideas for 2021 and long term ideas to go into a bucket, what can we do with these things. Some long term would require major construction/reconstruction, each tract should blue print ideas and turn over to one or a panel of experts who can provide what the cost and timing would be. A discussion was carried among committee members regarding long and short term goals and bringing findings in front of the Township Committee and how they will be addressed in the long term.

Rick Bye added for part of the longer term, we need to put in policies and procedures to move things forward. For example, a traffic calming policy, sidewalk improvements, there should be a more uniform set of guidelines so there is a process for it. Tim Quinn agreed looking at a traffic calming policy is the most beneficial and definitely a first step. A discussion was carried regarding traffic calming policies, criteria for creating one, and the difficulty of lowering speed limits, how governing body follows MUTCD, 85th percentile, speed bumps/tables, and if there are considerations to lower the speed limit. Tim Quinn reminded the committee that the governing body is obligated to follow the MUTCD in establishing speed limits.

Mark Gyorfy asked the committee if an assignment could be for the Driving Subcommittee to start working on the traffic calming policy, working with the professionals, finding examples of what would benefit the Township, what we could propose and implemented down the road if it meets all of the requirements. Jim Hunt added there is a wealth of material of what could be done, and that there are a broad range of options to look at that may be less costly and more effective. Mr. Hunt added it is not the speed limit, it is the traffic calming piece that could fit in and how it can be used. Rick Bye mentioned what a traffic policy could include, a specific mention of one from Pennsylvania, and how traffic calming measures can be effective. Randy asked is it true there cannot be a solution or one that requires such a dramatic change. Alida Karas mentioned articles from 2008 regarding setting speed limits, how the state turned over some decision making to municipalities for a couple of reasons, they were being inundated with residents wanting speed limits lowered, and also, they realized at the state level they couldn't see what the problems were. The municipality could say there are other considerations to get around the 85th percentile decision and set the speed limit. Tim Quinn added that is partially correct, as long as the governing body follows the MUTCD with an engineering study to support it, including data from the police department for the speed limit, accident history, road configuration, explaining how it is all data driven. It does not deal with "what if's " but it has to be pliable data to use. Jim Hunt added the traffic calming piece does fit in and provided Delmar as an example of it working. Tim Quinn added regarding Delmar agreeing, to address speeding complaints

they did put in the intersection for traffic calming. Mark Gyorfy thanked Mr. Emond for his input, asked DJ Curnow to start laying ground work for the Driving Subcommittee for a proposal from TAC recommending a plan for traffic calming, where the subcommittee will be working with professionals and start setting goals to have materials to present to TAC.

Randy Emond offered to put together everyone's analysis and would present it to the Township Committee. Mr. Emond is willing to collect the analysis by mid-February to condense it and prepare a presentation to be presented to the Township Committee, in March or May. Randy Emond will summarize and identify low hanging fruit and ideas and a discussion was carried what is currently in the works in the Township.

Mark Gyorfy recommended each subcommittee would come up with a list of short and long term goals based on the "low hanging fruit" from the analysis and make short term changes that are not a burden to the budget. The committee carried a discussion on how the best way would be to provide the information by geographical subgroups and decided to use the tract analysis to provide the recommendations. In the West: Rick Bye, Mark Gyorfy, South: DJ Curnow, Jim Hunt, Dan Nunn, East: Alida Karas and Cathy Wilson, Northeast: Cathy Wilson and Nora Santiago. Mr. Gyorfy summarized for the committee that by mid-February analysis for each section could be provided. Ms. Santiago recommended to go through and flag if it is walking biking driving is main issue, then the subcommittees will provide wish list for short and long term goals.

Nora Santiago presented on the Northeast, indicating specific locations in the Northeast, issues residents identified and solutions. Most issues revolved around safety, solutions were varied, bike lanes were high on the requests. Ms. Santiago showed how she organized the data based on location, issues and the solutions and suggested subcommittees can look at each issue once the solution is identified. The committee continued to carry on the discussion of different responses received in the survey.

- Received for the Record: nothing received.
- Ongoing Discussion
 - Old Glen Rd: Tim Quinn reported Jim Slate would provide an overview at the next TAC meeting with recommendations from both police and engineering aspects, Chief DiCarlo will have input as well. Mark Gyorfy requested talking points to be given to the ad hoc committee before the next meeting to figure next steps.
 - Highland Ave: Mark Gyorfy, 2 years ago there was a survey given to residents, asked what the solutions were, as there was/is a concern with Market place development. Tim provided an update, a significant increase in traffic volume was found, speed limits within normal range. There are different things we could do: double yellow line with white fog lines, lane narrowing to reduce speed limit, residents did not want but did want the markings "25MPH" on both ends of Highland on Cleveland and Monroe ends, but not on section of Cleveland and Martin Luther King Ave. Mark Gyorfy added that the Planning Board will have a say in this, we need to keep in mind and on our radar.
 - Sherman Ave: Mark Gyorfy provided an updated that Jim Slate will be putting together the meeting for residents this spring.
 - Old Turnpike Rd Sidewalk: Regarding the overgrowth in area along the sidewalk – Tim Quinn added this is a maintenance issue coming down Barberry road and will be

maintained by groundskeeper. Cathy Wilson was thinking of this as a topic, in the context of encouraging less cars and more walking, plantings, lighting. The Walking Subcommittee could put together ideas and make suggestions. Prescott – path to be cleared by association per Bill Foelsch, as we have taken over gatehouse property trying to make sure it gets done as well.

- o Inamere Rd Sidewalk: Issue with shoveling – Tim Quinn reported that Bill Foelsch had it resolved quickly, gave it a test run with the last storm. Bill Foelsch added they cleaned Township section of sidewalk to where county property starts and we continued down to Patriot's Path, we can get in to clear it out and will continue to do that.

Commentary by Committee Members

Cathy Wilson – happy to see productivity coming out of this group, and likes the new format with double public commentary

Bill Foelsch – if something comes up to maintenance of park area please forward it on to parks and recreation so it can be taken care of. Mark Gyorfy thanked Parks and Rec for installing Little Free Library at Hayward Park.

Mark Gyorfy received a comment from a resident on Normandy Parkway crossing at Normandy Blvd requesting signage, Township has looked into it before and it is costly. Mark will talk with Tim to see what types of solutions are available.

Jim Hunt commented the county was planning on doing a major project on Hanover from Ketch to Styles, may be some opportunity to slow traffic down coming towards speedwell -repaving or reconstruction possibly. Tim will look into what kind of project if there is one.

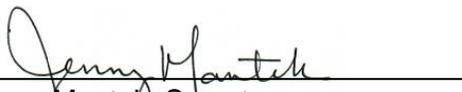
Public Commentary

Kris Ruggiero 33 Sunderland Dr – expressed thanks for the Inamere Road sidewalk being cleared of snow. Resident revisited topics from tonight's meeting, asking questions and providing comments and suggestions, such as regarding a sidewalk for Lake/Lake Valley, a four way stop for Lake/Lake Valley intersection, turning streets into one way streets (Belmar, Old Glenn).

On a motion made by Cathy Wilson and seconded by DJ Curnow and unanimously carried, Public Commentary was closed at 8:50 PM.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made by Rick Bye and seconded by DJ Curnow, the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, Township of Morris.



Jenny Mantek, Secretary
Township of Morris Transportation Advisory Committee
Approved: February 10, 2021