

**Milton Traffic Calming Advisory AD HOC Committee
Cannery Village Clubhouse
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Randi Meredith, Councilwoman (Chairperson)

Susan Fewell, Lisa Falzarano, Mary Quigley, Hunter Willis, Bonnie Bloomquist (scribe),

Liaison Non-voting members: Derrick Harvey, Chief of Police; Greg Wingo, Public Works Supervisor

Public Participants: Marc Polo, Eban Brittingham

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order by Councilwoman Meredith
2. Roll Call
3. Announcements:
 - George Cardwell will be joining our Committee; he will be appointed by the Mayor on March 1st; he is currently serving on the Town Planning and Zoning Commission, and is a retired transportation program manager, project manager, and certified professional planner from APA and ITE. George has more than 40 years of experience in local government and consulting to local, State & Federal agencies.
4. Agenda: Approved with no additions or corrections
5. Minutes of January 24, 2021 approved with no additions or corrections
6. Unfinished Business- Discussion and possible vote on the following:
 - a. *AGENDA ITEM: Potential new approaches to accomplishing the responsibilities of this Ad-Hoc Committee; comprehensive plan/report, newsletter, survey, research, etc.*

Discussion

Survey - Broader Scope

- Councilwoman Meredith reported a second survey mailing was sent to property addresses with renters
 - Surveys have been received from Town visitors, anyone can respond to the survey (e.g., friends, guests, merchants)
 - Councilwoman Meredith placed surveys in the Mercantile shop today
 - H. Willis requested more outreach to marginalized community members to include direct contact, to canvas to other neighborhoods w/higher occupancy
 - S. Fewell volunteered to canvas Ship Builders Village
 - Survey response cut-off date – TABLED
- b. *AGENDA ITEM: Review traffic measures already in place and future plans in motion; law enforcement, signage, intersection improvements, others*

Updates

- The crosswalk striping at the Wharton & Chestnut intersection was approved by Town Council. Streets and Sidewalks did not recommend stop signs to council. Randi was unable to attend the council meeting where this came to a vote. Randi has put the installation of stop signs back onto the TC agenda for March 1.
- TOPIC: Town Radar Sign Status: The Town owns three (3) radar signs that are no longer in operating condition and have been taken down, they were purchased by Former Police Chief Longo:

- One (1) was purchased refurbished, a Wi-Fi model that is out-for-service due to failing LEDs, it is under warranty and will be repaired, data retrieval efforts have not been successful.
- Two (2) were purchased used, they are older Bluetooth models and will not be repaired Councilwoman Meredith spoke to Jim Meek, a representative from RadarSign.com to identify different model types, features and recommendations
- To activate the Bluetooth models, you have to be physically right next to the sign. They don't use this technology in their new signs and they recommend all the Bluetooth models be refurbished/rebuilt to use Wi-Fi as this is a better technology.
- G. Wingo reported the Town has a radar sign in the \$400 range, a battery wire version model; no more blue tooth models will be used; a solar radar sign is in front of the New HOB School
- S. Fewell spoke to the Lewes Chief of Police, they have a \$12K model; more details later
- M. Quigley requested that a speed radar sign be placed on Federal Street

➤ TOPIC: Speed Data

- Councilwoman Meredith presented some speed data from Oct 31-Nov 4, 2019 on Mulberry Street. Due to on-going speeding complaints on Mulberry Street, Chief Longo borrowed Millsboro Police Department's "covert radar box" as a secondary data source. The former Chief would review this data and report back to the Mayor and Town Manager.
- The *Speed Enforcement Evaluator* data was handed out; although it tries to show, via a graphic, that speeding was not an issue, the actual data reveals a different picture. Randi provided a graphic that illustrated that with a speed tolerance of 0 mph over the speed limit, the data shows that **most vehicles were speeding** during the time data was collected:

0 mph Tolerance

0% higher than the posted speed limit



Discussion

- Committee members agreed that any speed tolerance level is not appropriate in the Town Limits, especially in the Historic District near commerce and pedestrians
- A 10mph tolerance in a 25mph zone allows drivers to exceed the posted limit by 40%.
- Councilwoman Meredith noted that if a vehicle hit a pedestrian at 25 mph it could be fatal, every mph over the speed limits increases the severity of injuries and the likelihood of fatalities.
- Councilwoman Meredith noted that people don't complain that "no one is going 35 mph on my street" they complain that "no one is going 25mph on my street" and they are correct, according to our own data most vehicles they see are exceeding the posted speed limit.
- Public participant Marc Polo recalled in the 1990s people knew not to speed because they would get a speeding ticket

- It was noted that speed tolerance levels are at the discretion of the arresting officer
 - Chief Harvey remarked that speeding vehicle enforcement has been handled differently over the years; there has been community push back and complaints that Milton became a “police state,” speeding traffic has also been difficult to enforcement due to limited resources
 - M. Quigley remarked that the point of the ad hoc Traffic Committee is to identify changes to improve the traffic issues (e.g., lowering speed limits, installing speed detecting systems); she is hoping that at least five (5) concrete ideas will be proposed to Council
 - L. Falzarano remarked that there should be a happy medium for everyone; while people may be upset if we don’t address traffic issues, they will only get worse
 - H. Willis agreed that people become upset either way when traffic enforcement is not what they expected
 - B. Bloomquist suggested creating public awareness about the Town Traffic Calming Ad Hoc Committee such as letters to the Cape Gazette editor or articles, press releases, etc.;
- ACTION ITEM: Councilwoman Meredith to follow-up
- Public participants:
 - Eban Brittingham: Speed tolerance in confined areas is genuinely dangerous, the street in front of his house on Chestnut Street becomes narrow leading to a blind alley next to a driveway; there is not enough margin for error for speeding vehicles to stop, going any direction they could hit a pedestrian, car, or house.
 - Marc Polo: reported he is afraid to sit out on his porch for these reasons and can’t hear people speak, the heavy traffic shakes his house foundation, another factor are distracted truckers on cell phones. He reported following trucks to see where they were going; once he asked a trucker who stopped where he was going and he reported he had become lost. Signs need to be bigger, and trees obstruct signs.
- TOPIC: Police Dept Monthly Report on Traffic Violations, reported by Councilwoman Meredith for January 2021: 55 Traffic Violations, 53 Warnings.
- She asked Chief Harvey about how Traffic Violation Warnings were tracked, and if the same people are getting multiple warnings but from different officers?
 - He reported that traffic warnings are tracked in a separate state system and did not have information
- TOPIC: Update on Intersections from Town Manager, Kristy Rogers: The Fast-Track Program (Funding Accelerating Safety in Transportation) is a partnership between Sussex County and DeIDOT.
- The county completes and pays for an improvement now that is years down the line in DeIDOTs capital project schedule and then DeIDOT reimburses the county for the project. The pilot project of this program is the intersection of Cave Neck/Hudson/Sweetbriar Roads.
 - The next project for Milton on DeIDOTs capital project list is the intersection of Route 1 and 16; this is gauged between 2021 and 2026.
 - There are no in-town projects on DeIDOTs capital project list.
 - The Town is working with DeIDOT consultants on the Route 16 Coastal Corridor Study. For Milton, Mrs. Rogers has flagged the need for improvements at Route 16 & 5, and Route 16 & Mulberry Street. Councilwoman Meredith noted that these areas are also reflected in survey responses as a concern

c- AGENDA ITEM: *Research on traffic management: ite.org*

- H. Willis -reported that ite.org doesn't have much relevant information from what he saw. Instead, he identified Vision Zero Network, a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to help communities eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries involving road traffic. A handout was provided that identified the core elements, strategies and priorities

ACTION ITEM

Committee members to review for discussion at the next meeting

d- AGENDA ITEM: *Large Truck Traffic; issues, impacts, solutions*

Councilwoman Meredith reported on her contact with Dogfish Head (DFH) to discuss some ideas for how we can work together to reduce Truck Traffic and Truck Traffic concerns:

- She emailed **Benjamin Loverin**, Warehouse Security Control Technician, topics included:
 - Signage specific for DFH Deliveries on Route 1 that directs them to Cave Neck Road. This cannot be added to the Billboard there at Rt. 1/Rt. 5 due to jurisdiction restrictions
 - Suggestions discussed to re-route DFH truck deliveries included:
 - i. Making a Custom Google Map to distribute to drivers via a link
 - ii. A simplified directions handout/PDF that is 1-page only with a really good, simplified map and large text with the directions
 - iii. Ask the drivers which Trucking GPS Apps they are using and contact those companies to adjust the route to go around the Milton Historic District
 - Mr. Loverin passed on her message to **Eric Beck the Director of Operations, Matt Eisenmann, Brewery Services Manager** and **Corey Mills, Warehouse and Distribution Manager** for follow-up
- She attended a virtual meeting with **Eric Beck, Director of Operations** They very much want to be good neighbors and are onboard with coming up with ideas for addressing these concerns and issues.

Truck Traffic Directions

- He has already updated the language on the directions they send to drivers to ask them to go around the Historic District. Before it said "*All truck traffic should be directed to our trucking/commercial entrance: 25740 Cave Neck Rd. Milton DE 19968.*"
- Now it says "*All truck traffic coming from points West must take Rt. 16 East to Rt. 1 South to Cave Neck Road. All traffic from points North must stay on Rt. 1 until Cave Neck Road. Do not use Rt. 5 to Milton – No truck zone*"
- He noted that sending the trucks on 16 to 1 to Cave Neck adds 12.8miles / 20 minutes to a truck's route, stating that if there isn't any penalty for going through town, that's what they will do.
- He has also condensed the 3-page direction handout to 2 pages.

ACTION ITEM: She will further revise this and forward draft to DFH.

GPS Apps

- Mr. Beck also said they could start asking the truck drivers which GPS apps they are using and will provide her the list, but shortly after he followed up to report that he checked with their Logistics team about GPS software that shippers might use; there's 100+ different types of equipment used and for it to have the greatest impact, each shipper would have to manage it. Given the state of the trucking industry, and based on this feedback, this direction would not be the most practical or effective in alleviating traffic through town. She requested the app contact list of 100+, the Committee could split up the list and make the task less daunting

- He noted that there is really heavy demand for trucks due to COVID at this time so they don't have a regular crew of drivers and take basically any driver who is available

Signage

- Mr. Beck said from a marketing perspective they would not want to add the trucking information to the billboard on Rt. 1 @ Rt 5 as it is for Brewery Visitors. He asked about how other types of directional signage gets added to Rt. 1.
- He inquired about adding signage to Rt.16 and Rt. 5 for trucks and about how other towns deal with truck traffic

ACTION ITEM: Councilwoman Meredith to follow up on Rt. 1 Signage and inquire about how signage could be added to Rt16 and Rt5 for trucks.

Discussion

- It was noted that the Sam Lucas route would be ~3 miles less than taking Sand Hill route
- Trucks have been observed starting to go down Mulberry Street to DFH, it's a straight route
- S. Fewell stated than multiple signage is required, at both Union & Mulberry
- Chief Harvey shared an example where a woman headed to DFH couldn't locate it on her GPS
- Chief mentioned a Hit and Run thru Cannery that received wide-spread attention
- Public Participant Marc Polo noted that news spreads quickly in the trucker network if truckers are given tickets
- Chief Harvey reported that the truckers he has stopped are going out-of-state
- Questions about fines were asked and the penalty against the trucker's driver license, no information as provided
- Suggestions were made to assign officers to enforce traffic laws at peak traffic hours
- H. Willis noted that changing routes will discourage truckers, making it unappealing to travel through town

- TOPIC: Laws regarding local deliveries: S. Fewell researched Law 209-123, she reported there are fines for non-local deliveries but the challenge is that there are no practical routes through town if not a local delivery. She contacted the key community leaders to ask about other laws/ordinances and how they managed the challenges.

TOPIC: How other towns manage truck traffic, S. Fewell reported the local contacts were very knowledgeable, forthcoming and offered support:

- Gene Dvornick, Georgetown Town Manager, who lives on Chestnut Street.
 - Georgetown requires trucks over 2 axles to use truck routes to keep NON-local delivery trucks out of the center of Georgetown. Milton has the same requirement, but it is not enforced or it is difficult to enforce.
 - Signage to achieve this is essential.
 - Mr. Dvornick suggested putting signs at the junction of Federal St. and Sand Hill Rd. are turn right and immediately right again into Dogfish Head's truck entrance.
- Kenneth Cimino, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development for the Town of Ocean View; more important, he is a former traffic engineer for the state of Maryland.
 - In response to concerns about heavy truck traffic on our residential streets, he said to post R12-3 signs restricting trucks of a certain size by reference to their empty weight. He said that this could be decided by our town manager and police chief. This regulatory sign would require a town ordinance and addition or amendment to Chapter 209 (vehicles

- and traffic) of the town code. The sign might read: No trucks over 7000 lbs Empty Weight.
- Other ideas based on the vehicle code 209: Loading time restrictions: 209-24--from 6am to 11am Mon--Fri only. 209-102 Speed Limits Established--25 MPH in business and residential districts, but change the truck speed limit to 20 or 15 MPH.
- Once proper signage is up, truck drivers who are fined will get the word out to the other drivers as acknowledged previously at this meeting.
- John Horsman, from the Department of Highway Safety, He had lots of experience with truck noise and interference in the town of Felton.
 - He said that the process must include the Delaware Department of Transportation. He said that if we had any problems with DelDOT, to call him at (302) 222-6642.
 - He sees our problem in terms of short term and long term: 1st=GOOD SIGNAGE; 2nd= TRAFFIC STUDY. He suggested that lowering the speed limits on town streets ALSO saves roads [wear and tear].
 - He wondered if we had an ordinance against air brakes. We do have a decibel reader and that we have firm limits on the amount of noise allowed within the town; more details to follow later

e. *AGENDA ITEM: Survey; progress report, analyzing data*

- Councilwoman Meredith, received 127 Surveys to date, they were distributed via:
 - Property Tax Bills
 - Town Rental license addressees, for residents who are renters
 - Principals of HOB Elementary, Milton Elementary, Mariner Middle
 - 302 Bicycles
 - Lisa will put some at the Mercantile
- Other Local businesses identified: Shops in the Ace Hardware Shopping Center, Post office, Restaurant, Churches
- Interesting Emerging Preliminary Data, but will not be presented yet.
 - Data analysis is underway, a spreadsheet is updated everyday as more surveys are submitted, most have been returned by mail
- She is sorting information into usable data (e.g., charts, graphs) results; ratings are ranked #1-12 and will be weighted to identify top biggest concerns
- Cutoff date established: 1 week before our next meeting?

ACTION ITEMS:

- Councilwoman Meredith to sort comments from Questions 14 & 15, and to research other town's skateboard laws to identify how we can update ours which do not allow skateboards on municipal property.

f. *AGENDA ITEM: Create a digital newsletter; website, post survey results, publicize*

Updates:

- Town Manager, Kristy Rogers, is creating a page for this committee on the Town of Milton website
- Survey submission reminders are posted on the Town of Milton homepage and on the Milton PD Facebook page
- There was a Cape Gazette article about this committee on February 19, 2021. Councilwoman Meredith has clarifications regarding:
 - The online picture showed no moving vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians.

- The term “traffic” was referenced; however, most people will visualize a “traffic jam;” she will clarify that we are discussing improving safety for all modes of transportation.
- Correct a sentence in the article that says, “the survey will also be sent out to rental property owners...” she actually said the survey was additionally being sent to rental property addresses, as in the tenants of town licensed rental properties.
- The survey is not just for property owners. If you know anyone who hasn’t received a survey but should have, let her know and she will get one to them.

g. *AGENDA ITEM: DeIDOT Traffic Studies; how-to, recommending it, funding it*
Updates

Councilwoman Meredith reported on the exchange of information with Greg Wingo via email:

- DeIDOT shot down a 4 way stop on Mulberry/Magnolia and Lake Dr, they said we could add extra signage but did not want to slow traffic flow in that area.
- Lowering the speed limit on Mulberry St was not an option as DeIDOT wants to keep traffic flowing. No traffic study that he’s aware of has been done in the area of Magnolia, Mulberry and Lake Dr.
- If any changes on State Maintained Roads are discussed—whether signage, striping, speed change and signal light installation—DeIDOT will need to perform a traffic study to complete their review
- There was likely a study from when the New HOB School was in design
- A traffic study was performed for RT16/Mulberry and RT16/RT5 but he has not ever seen it.
- Regarding Wharton/Chestnut/Atlantic St for a four-way stop DeIDOT said:
After an agreement is completed that the Town could install Stop signs then the signage would become the Town’s responsibility to maintain
- Adding a 4-way stop intersection is on the March 1st Town Council Agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

- Greg Wingo to obtain DeIDOT Traffic Studies for: during the New HOB School design, Rt16/Mulberry and Rt16/Rt 5
- Councilwoman Meredith to ask **Peter Hobb, DeIDOT** about their decisions to not slow traffic flow.

h. *AGENDA ITEM: Conduct Walk Audits / Multi-modal Audits: what it is, scheduling audits; plus discussion on Sidewalks “Milton’s Missing Links Map”*

- **TOPIC: Conduct Walk Audits:** Councilwoman Meredith presented a handout from the AARP Walk Audit; it is a Tool Kit with a worksheet that specifies areas to study with a Walk Audit. There is a short video on AARP website, it recommends using a diverse group, and the use cellphone photos & measuring tapes. Walk Audits are most effective when public officials and community members of varying backgrounds, ages and abilities are intentionally invited and welcomed along so they can experience and react to the conditions directly.
- She recommended specifying areas and having one member from Town Council in each group including inviting Steve Smyk and Ernie Lopez, from Parks, Streets & Sidewalk Committee to participate

ACTION ITEM

M. Quigley to volunteered to look into AARP Community Challenge Grants to see if the Town is eligible

- **TOPIC: Sidewalks, “Milton’s Missing Links Map”**

- Jeff Evans, music coordinator for Town events, redlined on a map where there are no sidewalks
- There are Programs for “Complete Streets,” for improving safe mobility for all users. G. Wingo reported that grants may be available
- Town Code & Charter would need to be changed to transfer sidewalk ownership to property owners;
- Raised Pedestrian Crossings and Differentiated Material Crossing are at crosswalks in Lewes on Savannah Rd. and near the outlets in high traffic areas, Bethany Beach has brick cross walks; some local sidewalks have differentiated material and colored concrete to indicate traffic flow changes
- Greg has concerns about maintenance and snow removal. Randi looked up statistics on these concerns in far northern areas like Boston and Canada where they have significantly more snowfall and found that they have no significant maintenance issues.

ACTION ITEM

L. Falzarano volunteered to research Complete Streets for ideas and grants

7. TOPIC: Public Participation

- Marc Polo, 408 Union Street: His home located on Union St is dangerously situated, it is a “perfect storm” for a traffic related incident. It is a challenge to get out of his driveway, especially between 3-7PM when he feels he takes his life in his hands. Complained about water and snow hitting the house windows during DelDOT snow removal; he has previously lived on busy streets but has never experienced the daily near-misses and hazards he’s encountered while living in Milton over the more recent years
- Eban Brittingham, 420 Chestnut Street: Lowering speed limits is necessary for traveling on narrow roads with significant changes in elevations & road surfaces/potholes, and the blind intersections make traveling at 38-40mph unacceptable especially with so many variables including children playing, and pets being walked. He has lived in Milton 10-11 years; his grandparents are from Milton and he has small children and is familiar with unpredictable pedestrian behavior and concerned also with the large vehicle traffic. He has noticed a big difference in speed tolerance limits over recent years. There are no excuses for traveling over the speed limits; people overestimate how well they can drive and there are more distracted drivers due to technology. Speeding is the greatest threat to the safety of Milton residents on a daily basis.

8. Requests for agenda items to be included for the next meeting, research on:

- Vision Zero Communities and Complete Street Program grants

9. Scheduling the next meeting. Wed Mar 24, 2021 @6:30PM

10. Adjournment. 8:22pm