

Walk Friendly Newtown Meeting

January 27, 2025

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Newtown Borough Hall/Zoom

Minutes

1. Opening/Introduction of Tim Jones and Christina Peterson as new members

- Tim and Christina will jointly take the lead on Marketing and Communications to – Christina focusing on materials and Tim focusing on outreach.
- Courtney and Don to compile existing notes and materials and schedule a transfer/next steps call with Tim and Christina

2. Updates

- 2024 Accident Data
 - 1 pedestrian/motor vehicle accident in 2024 (pedestrian in crosswalk; resulted in pedestrian injury)
 - Don to distribute 2023/24 data when available: group to discuss additional data request(s)
- Speed Board #4
 - Installation in the next 1-2 months; will be on telephone pole on Lincoln just south of Jefferson (southbound side)
- Frost Lane Sidewalk
 - Planning is complete; details being finalized prior to putting out for bids (1-2 months). Grant expires June 2026
- Frost Lane/Edgeboro Pedestrian Bridge
 - Collaborative work with Township continues; construction not likely to begin until 2026; integrates well with Frost Lane sidewalk.

3. Upcoming/New Activities

- Enforcement (Meeting with Chief Sabath, Emily Heinz, John Burke)
 - Still working with Mayor Burke to schedule; Laura to develop draft agenda; Consider active vs. passive enforcement baseline
- Existing Infrastructure
 - Sentinels – group to propose locations for 2 new sentinels
 - Speed Board #5 – to be ordered in early-2025; placement on Edgeboro
 - In the spring we will address:

- Sign overgrowth / visibility issues - Scott and Don to discuss timing of compiling list to be submitted to Borough Manager
- Crosswalk maintenance – Scott and Don to discuss timing of compiling list to be submitted to Borough Manager
- Jefferson/Liberty is most damaged crosswalk due to emergency vehicle traffic
- Sidewalk obstructions – Don and Scott to discuss timing of submitting list to Borough Manager; include reminder to trim back in Borough communications
- New Projects (Sidewalk Obstructions, North State St./Edgeboro Sidewalks)
 - Grant application in for N. State Street curve; will learn if we receive grant money in Nov. 2025 money. Sidewalk would be on the west side and connect into the Frost Lane bridge project.
- Future Project Priorities (Safe Route to School, SteepleView/State St. Corridor)
 - Steeple View: WFN will review the plans for crosswalk upgrade on S State St. @ Sterling St. (south side of Sterling) and plans for sidewalk/lighting upgrades from Stocking Works parking to Steeple View
 - Note for future discussion with Borough Council: we will also need to evaluate crosswalk upgrades at Center and State and ways of mitigating risks of mid-block pedestrian crossings, particularly on Centre between State and Sycamore
 - Safe Route to School – no progress to date; continue to explore options north of Washington Avenue while bringing needs south of Washington into scope

4. 2025 Budget Implementation

- 25 new “Slow Down for Newtown” signs ... when? Do we want to do this as a campaign (maybe work with Judy on the newsletter and ask for people to reply back if interested in hosting a sign) → Don will work with Jeff to order
- Sentinel → 3 new sentinels in budget; 1 will replace previous sign; 2 new locations TBD (see above).
 - Don to send out map of existing locations; committee to recommend 2 new locations
 - Maybe signs and sentinels will all go out together as part of early-spring campaign
- Small budget for printed materials and for activities
- Traffic study is not in the budget but we will determine the objectives of such a study and explore grants

5. Other Items/Next Steps

- Tim/Christina to reach out to Nicole/Newtown Experience to discuss partnering benefits
- Gina to ask solicitor what would be required to establish an official process whereby WFN provides input on new SALDO/individual new projects (similar to current Shade Tree Commission role)
- WFN to work with Gina on zoning opportunities in the State Street commercial corridor

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 24 6:00-7:30 p.m.

