

Walk Friendly Newtown Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022; 12-1 pm

In attendance via Zoom: Don Hayden, Scott Williams, Emily Heinz, Amy Lustig

[Brief pre-meeting discussion about placing signs at borough entry points announcing that we are a walk-friendly/pedestrian-focused community]

Emily (Education & Engagement): Getting a concrete plan together to purchase magnets and a plan to distribute stickers to businesses. Unsure where the assessment stands; Don will check in with Rebecca.

Don (Evaluation): Will be able to answer assessment questions without community input; suggests holding off on conducting surveys until a little later (next couple of months). All present agreed.

Amy and Scott (Enforcement): Whole group discussed electronic speed board placement on Washington Ave; problematic as it covers "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign and is under a leafy tree, which partially obscures the sign and possibly impedes solar energy flow. Has already been moved once due to poor placement. Chief is away for training but is aware of the placement issues; will check in with him in the next few days. Chief Sabath also let WFN that the police department earned a grant for a May 2 – May 15 pedestrian enforcement program (believed to be used for overtime pay – will confirm); Amy will email Chief to request time for Don and/or Amy to talk with Chief about how WFN can support and amplify the department's work during these weeks. Scott inquired about crosswalk ordinances; Don has the state ordinance and will circulate.

Don noted that the month of May seems to have lots of pedestrian-centric events (police enforcement program, Memorial Day parade) and suggested that WFN take this as an opportunity to roll out some low-hanging fruit actions [consensus agreement]. Emily asked if we have an operable list of those actions; **Don requested that each person present in the meeting send their Top 5 quick turnaround ideas to the group.** Amy mentioned that Councilor Tara Grunde-McLaughlin has 30-40 yellow and black "SLOW DOWN FOR NEWTOWN" yard signs that we could ask residents along Washington Ave., Lincoln Ave., and State Street to place in their yards. Agreement that we should use the signs as they're free and at our immediate disposal; Amy will pick up on Monday. Signs will need to be cleaned. Amy will ask Council permission to circulate and place the signs at the May 4 Council Work Session (5:30 pm at Borough Hall).

Don shared the news of an official and dedicated volunteer applicant, Matt Neuman. All in attendance supported adding Matt to the WFN committee and capping the number at 7 members (full).

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11. 12-1 pm via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Amy Lustig, 4/28/2022