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***By Darlene Brady at 9:14 am, Sep 30, 2022***

Town of Kent, CT  
Main Street Noise and Traffic Sub-Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom  
Thursday, Sept 29, 2022  
7:30 P.M.

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Members of the sub-committee in attendance: Chris Garrity, Glenn Sanchez, Andrea Schoeny, Ira Smith

Guests and members of the public in attendance: N/A

1. The Main Street Noise and Traffic Sub-Committee meeting, on Zoom, was called to order by Chris at 7:31 P.M. with a quorum of 3 sub-committee members. Andrea joined a few minutes later.
2. Motion to approve minutes from Sept 22 meeting, by Chris. Seconded by Glenn. Unanimously passed.
3. Update and discussion on our 2<sup>nd</sup> report recommendations
4. Ira moved to ratify the 2<sup>nd</sup> report, seconded by Andrea. Unanimously passed.
5. Next meeting is not scheduled and will be TBD based on needs/recommendations from BOS.
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Submitted by Andrea Schoeny  
Secretary, Main Street Noise and Traffic Sub-Committee  
Town of Kent, CT

**Town of Kent Main Street Noise and Traffic Sub-Committee**  
**Second Report for Board of Selectmen**  
**Adopted on September 29, 2022, at a duly warned meeting via Zoom**

By all accounts, the traffic is heavier in Kent than ever before and by extension, the volume of cars, motorcycles, cyclists, mopeds and pedestrians has increased both speed and congestion. Downtown's elevated activity and din spawned a subcommittee to take a look at the Noise and Traffic in the Village Zone in the center of Kent.

Traffic laws are not being obeyed; it is that simple. Enforcement of violations is required to help improve both vehicular and pedestrian safety in the village zone. Additionally, noise emanating from loud music, trucks, motorcycles, and cars has been voiced by the public as an ongoing issue of great concern.

In light of these concerns, the subcommittee's focus is the contractual relationship between the Town of Kent and the Connecticut State Police, specifically the Resident Trooper's protocol for patrol and enforcement within the Village Zone on behalf of the Town of Kent.

Eye witness accounts of numerous traffic infractions—from the mundane to the dangerous—is what the subcommittee is hoping to share.

Here are our Recommendations, Observations & Rationale, focused on the areas in which Connecticut State Trooper.

I. Resident Trooper Contract:

- Create specific language providing BOS with:
  - Specific directives on traffic area patrol in Village Zone;
  - Allotted times and days for Village Zone patrol;
  - Noise ordinance enforcement.

II. Village Speed Enforcement:

- Periodic large speeding stops on roads entering the Village Zone.
- Enforcement encourages compliance.

III. Patrol-Coverage:

- Patrolling on Main Street during high volume traffic days (Saturdays and Sundays from May through October, and Mondays on holiday weekends).
- Explore options to enhance the Resident Trooper's effectiveness:
  - Use of off-duty part time troopers on high volume days.
  - Review of a Constable program with how it works and at what cost to taxpayers.

IV. Noise Pollution:

- State statutes note that excessive noise is an equipment violation (not a moving violation).
- Establish enforcement procedure for noise offenses based on state statute.
- Provide law enforcement with a decibel meter and required training.

## **Observations:**

### V. Resident Trooper Contract:

- Existing three-year contract with State Police does not provide for specific BOS oversight or input.
- Taxpayers have no say on traffic areas to be patrolled, times or days for patrolling or enforcement of speeding or noise violations.
- Other towns in our area are also voicing concerns regarding effectiveness of the Trooper Program. (See “Are resident troopers worth the cost? Area towns assessing value associated with police coverage” article in the Republican-American, dated September 22, 2022.)

### VI. Village Speed Enforcement:

- During the last three-year contract period the ticketing of violators of speeding, crosswalk infractions and/or noise offenses has been considerably limited.

### VII. Patrol-Coverage:

- Since the onset of the pandemic Saturdays and Sundays from May through October, and Mondays on holiday weekends have seen significantly higher volumes of pedestrian, cyclist and motor traffic. This volume is estimated to become busier during the next three-year contract period.
- Police presence is sorely needed on Main Street on these high volume days.
- There is no additional policing coverage on Main Street beyond one Trooper.

### VIII. Noise:

- There is clearly excessive noise infringement on Main Street.
- The Trooper is neither equipped nor trained in monitoring noise infractions.
- State statutes regarding noise abuse and specific measurements are clear.
- Training is required and purchasing equipment (decibel meter) is available.
- There is no town-wide initiative/plan to educate non-offenders and offenders alike.

In summary, pedestrian and vehicular safety in the Village of Kent can be improved with the implementation of a few key measures :

1. Future State Trooper program contracts should include BOS input and direction on Trooper’s traffic responsibilities.
2. Implementation of period targeted large-scale ticketing enforcement.
3. Increased daily frequency of traffic violation patrol and ticketing.
4. Increased attention to patrolling during Kent’s high traffic season.
5. Review and Coordinate with State Trooper’s need for additional assistance.
6. Purchase a decibel meter and train the State Trooper in use and enforcement of law.