

## CSAC CBDAC JOINT MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 16, 2025

CSAC Members: Anastasia Bamberg, John Prieto, Jane Remis, David Rosen, Elizabeth Rottinger, Marian Rutherford, Barbara Sacks

CBDAC Members: Glenn Carlough, Stephen DelPercio, Gary DiChiara, Louis Lembo, Nina Jerdee

Liaisons: Frank Mortimer (Village Council), Pam Perron (Village Council)

Advisors: Chris Piersa (Engineering), Chief Lyons (RPD), Captain Ender (RPD)

Visitors: John Frei, Chris Reid, Sue Schreiber, Pam Welch

### I. PROTOCOL STATEMENT

### II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A visitor who addressed traffic light and pedestrian safety on Maple Ave., at Marshall St., and Franklin Ave. intersections, stated that she sent an email to James Tedesco (Bergen County Executive). The response from the county stated that all traffic signals along Maple Ave. are currently owned and maintained by the village, while the Maple Avenue road belongs to the county. She further stated that she was scheduled to meet with Mayor Vagianos on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to observe the situation.
- A visitor stated that the crosswalk on Godwin Ave. in front of Whole Foods is unsafe and asked that a pedestrian crossing sign and signal be installed there.
- A resident stated that drivers are making U-turns in the middle of Warren Place and are parking illegally there.

### IV. WELCOME AND MEETING INTRODUCTIONS CSAC and CBDAC Members

### V. CSAC FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

#### Sight Triangle Obstructions

- Since the last CSAC meeting, 4 additional properties have come into compliance, 1 new notice was sent out, and 2 summons were dismissed as the sight obstructions were addressed.

- There have been a total of 118 new compliances since the village began sending notices and issuing summonses. 47 summonses have been sent out, 36 of which have been dismissed, and 23 noncompliances still outstanding.

#### Crosswalks

- CSAC has been focusing on ways to improve pedestrian safety at crosswalks.
- There are high visibility thermoplastic ladder style crosswalks widely used throughout the village.
- Many intersections have pedestrian crossing signs and additional striping at ADA ramps.
- The Signal Division has recently installed audible pedestrian traffic signals at the intersection of North Maple Avenue and Linwood Avenue.
- The Committees discussed pedestrian safety on East Ridgewood Ave. just east of Cottage Place, which has seen increased foot traffic (including mid-block crossing) following the opening of a new restaurant.

## VI. CBDAC FOCUS AND PRIORITIES

#### Special Improvement District

- The committee discussed the Special Improvement District, where commercial property and other owners may be assessed a fee for certain improvements. The village would collect the funds and then distribute them to the Ridgewood Business Alliance. The Directors of the RBA then decide how the money will be spent.
- The state statute regarding SIDs allows for 17 types of expenditures, several of which are safety related, such as repairing brickwork, adding more signage, or hiring contractors to shovel snow.
- All commercial property owners in the business district would be required to participate, although owners in the outskirts (such as Goffle Road) would be charged less.
- The projected budget is estimated to be approximately \$700,000.

#### Parking

- The village is hiring Walker Associates to review their previous findings and to advise with parking issues and potential solutions.
- CBDAC held a meeting in May with stakeholders and subsequently formed a subcommittee to put together a set of recommendations for Walker Associates to focus on.

## VII. AREAS OF CONCERN

### E-bikes

- Messaging to e-bike users from different authorities, such as the police, Village Council, the Board of Education and individual schools is important as e-bikes continue to proliferate. E-bikes speeding and being driven by younger kids (some without helmets) are of special concern.
- Police can no longer interact with or chase juveniles unless there is a serious crime (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, such as aggravated assault or murder) being committed since juvenile justice reforms were enacted several years ago. This was intended to keep juveniles out of the criminal justice system but has instead resulted in police being unable to approach young people and address risky behavior before it becomes more dangerous.
- In discussion with RPD Chief Lyons, the groups talked about a letter writing campaign to NJ state legislators and Attorney General regarding the need to change the rules, directives and AG guidelines regarding e-bike safety and juvenile justice in general.
- Riding ebikes or bicycles on sidewalks within the CBD is prohibited. The committees are considering targeted communications to parents regarding e-bike safety and regulations.

### CBD Intersections

- The County produced plans for signal upgrades at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Maple Avenue several years ago. The Village Council did not act upon them because land taking would have been necessary.
- Safety concerns at the intersection of East Ridgewood Avenue and Broad Street were discussed. Proposed improvements such as installing bump outs to shorten crosswalks, re-aligning crosswalks, and restricting left turns out of the train station parking lot were suggested by CBDAC and CSAC members. A 4-way stop has been considered but was deemed impractical due to potential traffic congestion and driver confusion about which car should go first. Also, NJDOT specific criteria would need to be met for a 4-way stop.
- It was noted that a number of pedestrians have been crossing Franklin Ave. at Broad St. (directly out of the Benjamin parking lot to reach the train station) rather than using the marked crosswalk.
- The Engineering Division is currently evaluating the feasibility and developing conceptual plans for traffic calming measures including

bump outs and shortening of crosswalks along East Ridgewood Avenue between Maple Avenue and Broad Street. A presentation by the Village Engineer to the Village Council is scheduled for October 22, 2025.

## VIII. DISCUSSION

### Lighting

- Streetlights at the intersection of North Broad St, and Franklin Avenue have been re-wired by PSE&G and are now working.
- Directional lighting on crosswalks has been installed at key intersections throughout the CBD.
- Some street lights at Garber Square remain out, but repairs have been completed at other locations. Several new power lines have also been installed.
- RPD will drive around the CBD to identify which lights still need to be replaced.

### Subcommittees

- CBDAC invited CSAC members to join their ad hoc parking subcommittee. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> remotely.
- Several attendees volunteered to join a new subcommittee tasked with drafting letters to the Attorney General, state legislators and governor regarding e-bike safety issues (in the context of juvenile justice reform).

## IX. OTHER

- The committees plan to have joint meetings annually
- David Rosen announced that he will no longer be able to serve as CSAC liaison to CBDAC.

## X. ADJOURNMENT

