**Meeting of Eatontown ad hoc Complete Streets committee with NJ State Senator Vin Gopal and his policy advisor Aislinn M. Brennan**

**Date and Time**: 28 March 2018, 3PM – 4PM

**Location**: Council Chambers at Eatontown Borough Hall

**Attendance**: Senator Vin Gopal, Aislinn M. Brennan, Virginia East, George S. Jackson, Erik Brachman, Candace Faust, Janice Grasso, Stephen Fratini (minute taker)

**Apologies**: Ed Herrman

Virginia started the meeting by providing a summary of the work done so far by the Eatontown ad hoc group on walkability and bicycling:

* Virginia noted that this current effort started exactly four months ago on November 28th of 2017.
* Virginia stated that the intent was to formalize this activity into an Eatontown Borough committee. That will happen soon.
* Virginia and Candace, in the last few days, prepared and submitted a grant proposal to Get Active NJ (which is part of the NJ Prevention Network), see <http://www.njpn.org/initiatives/get-active-nj/>. The grant is in the amount of $3000.

Steve provide an update on the various walks done by the ad hoc group. Each work is documented, along with a listing of items that need improvement or fixing, e.g., addition of missing sidewalks and similar. The intent is to eventually organize walks for those in the Eatontown community.

Candace provided a summary of a project concerning the cleanup of Wampum Park:

* The plan is to extend the walking path from 1 mile to about 1.75 miles.
* The extended path would allow for an additional entrance to the park at Maxwell Road / Lewis St.
* There is a major issue with Knotweed (which will need to be removed manually) and other invasive plant species.
* Concerning the extension to the walking path, Janice mentioned that the railroad right-of-way is shared by Conrail and Eatontown.

With regard to Complete Streets, Candace mentioned that Eatontown wants to go from bronze to silver, and this will take a lot of work.

Senator Gopal asked about next steps. Erik stated that Eatontown needs to do a details “survey” (basically an inventory) of the current state of our walkability and determine what needs to be upgraded.

Follow-up Item: Senator Gopal said that he expects multiple NJ DOT grants to be available (for walkability and similar) in the November 2018 time frame and that we (Eatontown walkability folks) should be on the lookout for these grant offerings.

Follow-up Item: Senator Gopal said that we should get connected with the Tri-state Transportation Campaign, see <http://www.tstc.org/>.

Steve mentioned something call Vision Zero (basically a concept to get fatalities and serious injuries for pedestrians and bicyclists down to zero). This concept was started in Sweden (see <http://www.visionzeroinitiative.com/>) but is now very popular in the United States. See also the news article about NJ and a spike in pedestrian deaths in 2017: <http://www.nj.com/traffic/index.ssf/2018/02/safety_experts_nj_needs_nycs_vision_zero_in_nj_to.html>.