

Lower Makefield Township
Citizens Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2009

Present: Gary Gilman, Chair
Arthur Cohn
Richard Davino
Susan Herman
Heather Sherk, TPD
Virginia Torbert, Vice Chair
Scott Weaner

Also present: Andrea Meyers and Bill Denton

Ms. Torbert called the November 16, 2009 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission to order at 7:40PM.

Public Comment – Ms. Torbert asked Ms. Meyers, a resident of West Ferry Road and member of the West Ferry Working Group, to update the Commission on the status of traffic calming on West Ferry. She thanked the CTC for their efforts in support of resolving the traffic issues on West Ferry Road and surrounding neighborhoods. During the summer of 2009, it was determined that the only feasible traffic calming measure was the installation of speed tables, but the results of the survey to all residents of West Ferry Road indicated that 57% were in favor, with many not responding. Ms. Meyers pointed out that the residents were only given a week to respond. A second survey went out to those who had not responded to the first one, and only a few additional households responded to the second survey. The Township determined there was insufficient support among residents for the use of speed tables. Ms. Meyers noted that two pedestrian crossing signs have been placed in the center of the street, one on West Ferry and one on Oak Avenue. She felt that the signs had the effect of slowing drivers down initially, but after drivers ran over the signs, they were moved to the side of the road, and drivers are speeding once again. Ms. Sherk suggested that the road might be too narrow for the signs. Ms. Meyers said that there has been a greater police presence on the street, and, if that can be maintained, it could keep the speeds and volume down.

Ms. Meyers reported on meetings scheduled by Supervisor Jason Simon with representatives of the West Ferry Working Group. She said that Mr. Simon was in the process of scheduling a meeting for Wednesday night, November 18, right before the Board of Supervisors meeting, with two representatives from West Ferry and two from Arborlea.

October 24, 2009 Safe Driving Event – Wrap Up and Evaluation - Turnout was much improved this year: there were approximately 75 attendees, divided approximately evenly between parents and teens. Some comments and suggestions from attendees and Commission members were:

- Some of the speakers exceeded their time limits
- There should have been time built in for questions and answers
- Some of the talks could have been shorter
- The presentations could be more interactive

- Ms. Torbert would have liked to show the whole COW video, to demonstrate the contrast between the normal beginning of the teens' day and the deadly ending, as a result of texting while driving

There was discussion of the dramatic impact the videos seemed to have on the audience, particularly the young people. It was suggested that there should be a follow up so that the teens will remember the message. Ms. Herman will check with Lizette Morales-Chomicki to see if and how she will be using the videos in her work with the schools. Mr. Denton, who works with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and John's Driver Tags Auto School, suggested we try to change activities every 15 minutes or so; and if we can change the venue, that would be even better. He thought a discussion after the videos might have been beneficial.

Ms. Torbert reported that the legislation banning texting while driving and using cell phones for drivers under 18, which State Representative Steve Santarsiero mentioned, was voted out of committee in the Pennsylvania State House.

Ms. Bray will follow up with the Township to find out whether the Safe Driving Program is still being rebroadcast.

Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Discussion – Ms. Meyers reported on a program she discovered while she was in the process of researching things she herself could do to calm traffic on West Ferry Road. While searching for lawn signs to put on her own lawn, she came across this non-profit 501©(3) organization, Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25, founded by Tom Everson. The goal of this organization is to create neighborhood campaigns, involving residents and officials, that work to educate and actively engage citizens throughout the United States in a common commitment to create safer streets in neighborhoods, and beyond, for the benefit of all. This includes pedestrians, cyclists, children-at-play, motorists and their passengers. They work with and through neighborhood groups, law enforcement, public health agencies, schools, city/county/state government, public works, businesses and residential areas. Their mission is to end all deaths and injuries caused by speeding on all roadways. The campaign is to unite neighborhoods and communities throughout the U.S. with a consistent message about safe driving. Ms. Meyers has had conversations with Mr. Everson and feels this may be something that could benefit Lower Makefield. There are municipalities who have seen great results with the program; two that were mentioned were Reading, Pa., where the police chief was initially skeptical but has seen great results, and a study in CA which showed that lawn signs slowed traffic down by 16%. If Mr. Everson were to consult with us in person, he would only charge for his travel expenses, and for any items we would purchase from his organization. He would be happy to conference call with our group, at our convenience. Ms. Herman suggested that we need to find someone to take charge of this project and need our ducks in a row before we move forward on this. Mr. Weaner said we should all look over the web site between now and the next meeting. Ms. Bray will follow up on Middletown's program, which appears to have similar components. Ms. Meyers mentioned that Mr. Everson has some very large sponsors, including Ford and Geico.

Deer/Vehicle Collisions Project – Mr. Davino reviewed the information he compiled from the 1 year, 9 months worth of accident reports forwarded to the CTC by the Township. Ms. Torbert gave Mr. Davino additional information, on number of deer carcasses retrieved (from the State Game Commission), to further refine what he had already done. Mr. Davino asked that anyone who sees a deer carcass should let him know the location so he can put together more precise information. He also suggested that the

traditional deer leaping signs make less of an impact over time, and should, perhaps, be replaced by different signs. Ms. Sherk reminded the group that we would have to get permission from PennDOT for different signs. There was some disagreement about what, precisely, the leaping deer means in terms of where the deer are crossing. Ms. Torbert mentioned Newtown Township's software, which tracks deer/vehicle accidents by month, time of day, and other factors. Ms. Bray will get info from the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council on what software they are using.

Edgewood Crossing and Flowers Field – There was a discussion of the two developments planned for the Edgewood Village area around the intersection of Yardley-Langhorne Road and Stony Hill. Edgewood Crossing is a development planned for the property on the corner, where the white frame house is (formerly the Broadway property.) Flowers Field is directly across Stony Hill Road from the white frame house. Ms. Torbert was concerned that a traffic study has not been done, and Ms. Sherk explained it's because the development process hasn't gotten that far. Cameron Troilo has asked for an extension until February. Township Engineer, Jim Majewski, is currently looking at the stormwater issue. Ms. Torbert asked for thoughts on when it would be appropriate for the CTC to look at development plans. Ms. Sherk suggested that the CTC should see plans from the beginning, perhaps at the same time as the Planning Commission, or when the EAC receives their copies of the plans. Ms. Torbert will contact Karen Friedman, Chair of the Planning Commission and asked if the developers could get initial approval without a traffic study. Ms. Sherk replied that they could not. Ms. Sherk thinks some roadwork will have to be done but will be dependent on the results of the traffic studies.

Dogwood Drive – Ms. Torbert commented on this project at the BOS meeting; it is a small development on a cul-de-sac.

Octagon Center – It was noted that the next phase of development, which includes office buildings, will not require the developer to make significant road improvements.

Other Business – The CTC thanked Gary Gilman for his years of work as Chairman of the CTC; this meeting as a member of the CTC was his last.

Ms. Torbert will get in touch with Supervisor Greg Caiola regarding the need to fill the vacancies on the Commission.

There will be no Citizens Traffic Committee meeting in December. Due to the Martin Luther King and President's Day holidays, the January meeting will be Thursday, January 21, at 7:30PM, and the February meeting will be Thursday, February 18, at 7:30PM, at the LMT municipal building. The meeting adjourned at 10:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary

