

Lower Makefield Township
Citizens Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2010

Present: Virginia Torbert, Vice Chairperson
Richard Davino
Susan Herman
Scott Weaner
Arthur Cohn

Greg Caiola, Supervisor Liaison
Heather Sherk, TPD

The February 18, 2010 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission of Lower Makefield Township was called to order at 7:35PM by Ms. Torbert, Vice Chairperson. Ms. Torbert asked Mr. Caiola for clarification on procedure, i.e., whether it was required that the Commission elect a Secretary, along with the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Caiola indicated that there is no requirement, as long as there is an accurate record of the meeting taken by the Recording Secretary.

Public Comment – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Reorganization: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman - the first order of business was CTC reorganization. Ms. Torbert asked for nominations for CTC Chairman; Ms. Herman made a motion to nominate Ms. Torbert, and Mr. Cohn seconded the motion. Ms. Torbert asked if there were other nominations or any objections, and hearing none, Ms. Torbert was elected unanimously. Ms. Torbert made a motion to nominate Mr. Cohn as Vice Chairman, and Ms. Herman seconded the motion. Ms. Torbert asked if there were other nominations or any objections, and, hearing none, Mr. Cohn was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

Approval of November 16, 2009 CTC Minutes – Ms. Torbert moved to approve the November 16, 2009 minutes of the Citizens Traffic Commission, Mr. Weaner seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously without changes .

Ms. Torbert asked if Mr. Caiola knew of any results that came from the meeting that then-Supervisor, Jason Simon, had held with members of the West Ferry Working Group. She mentioned that one outcome had been two pedestrian crossing signs, which had been removed after being run over by drivers. Mr. Caiola was not aware of any further activity.

Safe Driving Event Discussion – Ms. Torbert suggested they discuss the best way to handle the event this year. In response to Mr. Caiola's question about the cost of last year's event, Ms. Torbert said it was around \$500. Mr. Caiola suggested that the CTC shouldn't have to pay for the event; he will work on finding sponsors and is confident he will be successful. He believes one sponsor would be preferable, perhaps an insurance company, to finance the entire amount, ideally an insurance company native to

Bucks County. Mr. Cohn will check with his agent and other insurance companies, as well as AAA. There was discussion of adding activities to the event, such as simulators, which can cost \$1,000 per day. Mr. Caiola believes that the Commission may need to plan on having a \$500 version, because of budget considerations, but suggested that they prepare two different budgets, one more bare bones, and one a step above. The LMT police suggested that one of LMT's middle schools be used next year because of the large turnout and that possibly a Jaws of Life presentation could be included in the program. Ms. Herman will follow up with Mike Pell of the Police Department for other ideas.

Ms. Torbert asked Mr. Weaner whether they should use the same video game again. Mr. Nemeth, a Pennsbury driver's education teacher, surveyed the students who attended, and found that they liked the videos but felt the video game was very similar to the games they play at home. Mr. Weaner will look into other video games which might work well. Ms. Sherk suggested that they might try to vary the program a little this year. Ms. Torbert will get more information from CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia),-which sponsors **National Teen Drivers Safety Week**.- This year, CHOP is emphasizing a school-based program around the theme "Ride Like a Friend.". Torbert suggested that the CTC, between now and the next meeting, think about what kind of event they would like to have.

Deer/Vehicle Collisions Project – Mr. Davino distributed updated accident information from LMTPD he had compiled. There are now two complete years of data, 2008 and 2009. Mr. Davino explained to Mr. Caiola that the CTC objective was to find areas where there are enough accidents to justify deer crossing signs. Ms. Sherk looked into requirements for deer crossing signs and found that the Game Commission has to, first, determine that an area is actually a deer crossing before giving approval for a sign. Mr. Caiola thinks the CTC needs to be very precise about the information they are gathering. Ms. Bray will check with the Chairman of the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council to find out if they use precise locations for deer/vehicle accidents in their mapping, and, if so, where they get that information. Ms. Sherk will research deer crossing signs that might be more compelling than the one we currently use. Mr. Weaner will try to map the information.

CTC Role Discussion – The CTC was established to produce a report of traffic priorities in the Township, and update it annually. Since then, the Commission has taken on other things, such as following up with residents' traffic concerns referred to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors. They also review development plans, but not consistently. Ms. Torbert feels that it is important for citizens to have input early in the land development process, and that the most productive way to do that is for the CTC to see the plans when the Planning Commission does, and to then forward any comments/concerns to the Planning Commission, according to their deadline. Mr. Caiola believes that the CTC should see all the plans or none and does not think it would be unreasonable to give the CTC a copy of all plans. Ms. Sherk commented that this process would have to be codified. Mr. Caiola will think about it between now and the next meeting.

Other Business – Scudders Falls Bridge Project – Ms. Torbert submitted comments to the DRJTBC (Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission) supporting State Rep. Steve Santarsiero's request that the Commission do an impact study before approving any tolls. Mr. Caiola believes that the DRJTBC is supportive of including pedestrian and bike paths. One of the biggest concerns had been the toll, and

the traffic back-ups that could result, but the decision has been made to make it a camera-based toll, most likely southbound, coming into Pennsylvania, which should keep the traffic moving.

Ms. Torbert announced that Pennsylvania House Bill 67 passed the House; it bans hand held cell phones and texting while driving, and adds restrictions for young drivers. It will now go to the Senate.

The Board of Supervisors will be interviewing Mr. Bill Hogan in March for one of the vacancies on the CTC.

The Citizens Traffic Commission will resume its schedule of meeting on the third Monday of every month. The next meeting will be on March 15th at 7:30PM at the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary