

Lower Makefield Township  
Citizens Traffic Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2009

Present: Art Cohn Ginni Torbert, Vice Chair  
Gary Gilman, Chair Scott Weaner  
Sue Herman

Also present: Heather Sherk, TPD; Alison Smith, Safe Driving Campaign Subcommittee; Lizette Morales-Chomicki, SADD

Absent: Dick Davino

The meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:30PM. The first part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion with Lizette Morales-Chomicki, SADD representative for Pennsbury School District and Project Coordinator for Pennsbury LYFT , an organization comprised of representatives from Lower Makefield, Yardley Borough, Falls Township and Tullytown, which was formed to identify key behaviors that put local youth at risk, and to proactively address those risk factors. Art had asked Ms. Morales-Chomicki to attend the meeting to share her ideas on ways we can improve our 2009 Safe Driving Campaign. Sue Herman's minutes from the Safe Driving Campaign Subcommittee meeting, which was held prior to the CTC meeting, and include the discussion with Ms. Morales-Chomicki, are attached.

**Additional CTC Members** – Gary suggested submitting a press release to the Yardley News and Courier Times advertising the openings. Jeanne will draft it and send it to the CTC for comments before forwarding it to the papers. Ginni said they need to discuss the CTC mission; there is agreement that it needs to be refined and updated. Gary suggested that the CTC should come to consensus on the mission and present it to the Board of Supervisors.

**West Ferry Update** – Ginni reported that, at the May 26, 2009 meeting of the West Ferry Road Area Working Group, Christy Staudt of the TPD presented a traffic calming plan that included three speed tables, placed roughly 350' apart, and one raised crosswalk at Oak Avenue. This plan raised concerns among the attendees who do not live on West Ferry Road that this would cause diversion to their streets. Ginni suggested to them that, after the traffic calming measures are installed, if the residents of the other streets notice an increase of traffic greater than 25%, they might ask the Board of Supervisors for mitigation. The meeting ended with Terry Fedorchak saying he would schedule the next meeting, with the objective of getting reactions from West Ferry residents to the traffic calming plan. Residents from the other neighborhoods will be invited to attend. The next step following the meeting may be a formal survey of all West Ferry Road residents, to gauge the level of support for the traffic calming measures presented in the meeting. Ginni suggested to the non-West Ferry Road representatives that they talk about the plan to the other residents on their streets. Ginni said she and Christy talked about putting blinking lights around the stop sign at Cherry Lane, since many motorists ignore the stop sign. Christy will follow up with Chief Coluzzi; the cost would be an additional \$3-4,000.

Some members of the CTC feel there are clear safety issues on West Ferry Road, and that the Township has a responsibility to take some measures to reduce both the numbers and speeds of vehicles using the

road. There is concern among these CTC members that the survey may show that a majority of West Ferry residents are opposed to the plan, and since this plan is considered to be the only remaining available option, the Supervisors will be left with no alternatives to resolve a hazardous traffic situation. Ginni suggested, on the other hand, that if there is no survey, people may feel that the measures are being forced on them, especially since it has been suggested during the last two meetings that a survey would be part of the plan. Gary suggested there should be guidelines before the numbers from the survey come in; Ginni said the percentage of resident approval required by Publication 383 (Pennsylvania Traffic Calming Handbook) is 70%.

**Stoopville Road** – Heather reported that the proposed traffic signal at Washington Crossing & Stoopville will not be interconnected to the existing signal at Lindenhurst or the proposed signal at Highland. Heather spoke with Eric Kaufman at Gilmore Associates who stated that traffic calming is the goal along this corridor rather than getting traffic through quickly. Heather agrees that signal coordination will not provide the desired traffic calming here and having standalone signals may force vehicles to slow down and stop at the intersections. Since Eric Kaufman was able to answer this question, Heather did not need to ask for the proposed signal permit plan for Washington Crossing & Highland.

**Vehicle/Deer Collisions** – There was discussion of the letter Sue had drafted to Terry Fedorchak on collecting data on deer/vehicle collisions in Lower Makefield; it was approved as written. Once the CTC begins receiving the data, they can analyze it and be in a better position to further identify ways to reduce the number of deer/vehicle collisions.

**Update to 2008 CTC Report** – The report is now completed. It was agreed that the next step should be a presentation to the Board of Supervisors at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. It will include a power point, which Ginni will do a draft of and then circulate to the CTC, with CTC accomplishments on one slide and another slide for upcoming projects. Ginni suggested one issue that should be included is the site of the recent fatal accident at the intersection of Big Oak and Township Line Roads, at the RR tracks, not far from Woodbourne. Ginni also suggested that the CTC should actively advocate that the Township pursue CAI grant money.

**2009 BOS Road Tour** – The 2009 road tour is Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited; Ginni hopes to be able to participate.

**Other Business** – Aria (formerly Frankford Hospital) will be discussed at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board; the last meeting will be held by the Zoning Hearing Board on July 21.

Ginni brought up the National Safety Council, which, for an annual fee of \$300, will provide a subscription to their magazine, videos, posters, etc. Given the expense, it may be more feasible to see if the Township would be interested in a membership.

Ginni asked Heather to send her an e-mail to confirm the before and after locations of the stop signs at the Lang & Hidden Oaks intersection.

Gary will follow up with Bob Johns, to see if he can provide materials for the Safe Driving Campaign 2009. Jeanne will follow up with Dave Kelliher, re filming outside activities for the Safe Driving Campaign, such as the road-e-o, and presenting the video from the 2008 Event at Community Pride Day.

It was agreed that there would be no CTC meeting in July but two in August – one on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the other on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Jeanne will reserve the rooms with Marybeth.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Bray, Recording Secretary