

Lower Makefield Township
Citizens Traffic Commission
January 23, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Virginia Torbert, Chairperson Craig Hyman
Arthur Cohn, Vice Chairperson Kristin Tyler, Supervisor Liaison
Susan Herman Scott Weaner

Absent: Dick Davino

The January 23, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission was called to order by Mrs. Torbert at 7:30PM.

Reorganization, Election of Officers – A motion was made, and seconded, to elect Mrs. Torbert Chairperson for another term; the motion was passed unanimously. A motion was made, and seconded, to elect Mr. Cohn Vice Chairperson for another term; the motion was passed unanimously.

Traffic Calming Guidelines – Mrs. Tyler will give a copy of the draft Guidelines, with the attachments from the Township Traffic Engineers, to the Township Solicitor, for his review. Once she has his comments, she will ask Mr. Dobson to put the presentation of the guidelines on the BOS meeting agenda. Ms. Kaminski will make the presentation, with follow up comments by the Solicitor. All CTC members are encouraged to attend.

Resident Concerns –

East School Lane – Mrs. Torbert reminded the CTC that the BOS had directed the Township Traffic Engineer to prepare information on possible turn restrictions during peak hours, reducing the 25 mph speed limit on East School Lane during school hours and restricting commercial traffic. Currently, Mrs. Tyler is waiting to hear from the Engineers. In the meantime, she has asked the LMT Police Department to increase enforcement.

Mrs. Tyler will look into the timing of the lights at the Black Rock/Edgewood and Yardley-Morrisville Roads intersection, as well as the Makefield and Edgewood Roads intersection, particularly during peak hours.

Heacock and Stony Hill Roads Intersection - Mr. Hyman has observed the signal timing at this intersection at various times of the day and has noticed that during the peak hours, the green time given to each approach is not properly distributed. There is an abundance of green time given to the Stony Hill Road approaches that should be given to the Heacock Road approaches as evidenced by the amount of traffic that queues on the respective approaches

Traffic Signal on Oxford Valley Road near Kohl's – There was a discussion of why the near side traffic arm for the Big Oak Road WB approach has a “conflicting” traffic signal head that sometimes displays a different color signal face than the left-turn and/or through movement. Mr. Hyman noted through field observation that the far side signal for this approach is visible at approximately 540 feet. At a posted speed of 45MPH, the signal should be visible at 460 feet. Therefore, due to the sight distance and horizontal geometry of the road, a supplemental signal head was installed to give motorists the proper sight distance to the signal. Mrs. Torbert talked about the high number of accidents at this intersection. She acknowledged that there is no proof that the accidents are the result of the signal, since that type of detailed information is not available to the CTC. In response to a question from Mrs. Torbert, Mr. Hyman indicated that PennDOT would have to take steps to change the signal if there was proof that the signal is causing the accidents.

Yardley Estates – Mrs. Tyler thinks this project is with the Traffic Engineers; she will confirm.

River Road and Temple Drive – Mrs. Tyler will follow up on these two projects.

332 Bypass and Stony Hill Road – Mrs. Torbert distributed an update on Newtown Bypass from State Representative Steve Santarsiero's office. He is working with PennDOT and others to improve the flow of traffic on the 332 Bypass. There was discussion of how the problem with the light at the 332 Bypass and Stony Hill Road intersection fits in. Mrs. Herman offered to contact the State Representative's office to let them know of the CTC concern about the number of accidents at the Stony Hill Road and 332 Bypass intersection. In response to a question about extending the left hand turn light to allow more cars to move onto Stony Hill Road, Mr. Hyman suggested it would not be a good idea to add seconds to the left hand turn light, because it would result in less green time for the other approaches and would cause various other delays.

Approve December 2013 Meeting Minutes – The December 16, 2013 CTC meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

Other Business - Mrs. Torbert has reviewed the DVD of the October 2013 Safe Driving event, but she feels the DVD needs work before it is given to Chief Coluzzi. Mrs. Herman will follow up with Maura Papazian from LYFT. Mrs. Herman will also work with Maura on a date for the Spring Safe Driving event. Mrs. Tyler suggested that the student club which edited the DVD be asked to enhance it, and that parts of it be used to promote the Spring session, to generate enthusiasm among Pennsbury High School students for the event.

Mr. Weaner raised the issue of the intersection of Reading Avenue and Oxford Valley Road, which has been discussed previously. Mr. Hyman said he will make a visit to the site and provide feedback.

There was further discussion of the accident reports provided to the CTC by the LMT Police Department. It is felt that the reports would be much more effective if there was more information, including specific information on what types of accidents occurred (rear end, sideswipe, fixed object, deer, etc.). It is not possible for the CTC to get the actual police reports because of privacy issues. Mrs. Torbert mentioned that a comprehensive compilation of accident reports was given to the CTC by the LMT Police Department in 2006, but the CTC has not received any more recent summaries.

With no further business to discuss, the January 23, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission was adjourned at 9:25PM. The next meeting of the CTC will be held on February 27, 2014, at 7:30PM, at the LMT municipal building. The February meeting was moved from its regular night because of Presidents' Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Torbert, Chairperson