

Lower Makefield Township  
March 17, 2014  
Citizens Traffic Commission  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Virginia Torbert, Chairperson                      Craig Hyman  
Arthur Cohn, Vice Chairperson                      Kristin Tyler, BOS Liaison  
Richard Davino    Scott Weaner

Also in Attendance: Louisa Botteri, Hillside Terrace resident; Jeannette Kelley and Raymond Tiberge,  
Austin Road residents

Mrs. Torbert called the March 17, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission to order at 7:30PM.

**Hillside Terrace Turn Restriction/U-Turn Issue on Austin/Raab** – Ms. Botteri, Ms. Kelley and Mr. Tiberge were in attendance to discuss traffic issues in their neighborhoods. In 2007, signs prohibiting left turns onto Lower Hilltop Road from Monday-Friday, 7-9am, were installed at the corners of Austin and Lower Hilltop Roads, due to the excessive number of vehicles using the road as a cut through. Since then, according to Ms. Botteri, the cut through traffic has been much lighter, though it has begun to increase over the last few years. Ms. Kelley and Mr. Tiberge, who live at on Austin Road, are experiencing problems, which they feel are at least partly the result of the left turn prohibition. They report that drivers are doing u-turns just inside Austin Road, as well as at the intersection of Austin and Raab. In other cases, people are turning around in their driveway, as well as in the driveways of some of their neighbors. This is causing property damage as well as concerns for safety. Some suggestions they made for resolving the problems were removing the left turn prohibition or prohibiting right turns on Austin. It was felt by the CTC that the no left turn on Lower Hilltop is helping to reduce the traffic, perhaps by as much as 50% according to Ms. Botteri, so should not be removed. It was also agreed that prohibiting right turns on Austin would only cause the problems to move to other neighborhoods. It was also felt that there is no effective way for the Township to discourage u-turns, since they are not against the law in this case, and that the most effective action would be for the affected neighbors to monitor their own properties. One suggestion was to put a chain across the bottom of the driveway. Another suggestion was for residents to put no u turn signs on their driveways; apparently, this has been tried but has not been effective. Ms. Kelley and Mr. Tiberge asked that there be no further enforcement by the Police Department of the left turn prohibition at Lower Hilltop; they feel this would exacerbate their problems.

It was agreed that the problems stem from traffic at the intersection of Dolington and Main Street, caused by the excessive Scudders Falls Bridge traffic. There was a time, a few years ago, when there was discussion about installing a traffic light at that intersection. However, for unknown reasons that was never done. Mr. Hyman suggested that a light or signage at Dolington and Main may not help because the real problem is caused by the sheer volume of Scudders Falls Bridge traffic. Mr. Weaner asked Mr.

Hyman what could be done to show whether a light would help the traffic situation, and Mr. Hyman said there is a simulation that can be used. Mrs. Torbert suggested that these neighborhoods should be included in any discussion of the Dolington-Main Street intersection. Mrs. Tyler said she will talk to Yardley Council to see if that intersection is on their short list and possibly follow up with State Representative Santarsiero. She recommended that Mrs. Torbert send an e-mail to Chief Coluzzi and Captain Roche, with a copy to Mrs. Tyler, scheduling a meeting to discuss this and other traffic issues.

**Traffic Calming Guideline Status** – Mrs. Tyler said that the guidelines will be part of the BOS agenda in either April or May.

**Spring Safe Driving Event** – The 2014 Spring Safe Driving Event is scheduled for April 8 at Pennsbury High School. Mr. Cohn will follow up with Tim Philpot of Pennsbury LYFT to get further details. Mrs. Torbert encouraged all CTC members to attend at least one of the presentations if possible.

**Updates on Previous Resident Concerns** – Mr. Benedetto indicated to Mrs. Torbert that there is nothing new to report on the River Road situation.

Mrs. Tyler suggested that the CTC open communication with the LMT Police Department, so that Mrs. Torbert can go directly to them for information.

**Tracking CTC Action Items** – Following up on the discussion at the February meeting, there was a discussion about using a calendar that everyone can have access to, to track resident presentations to the CTC. Mrs. Tyler suggested using the Google calendar. Mrs. Torbert will follow up.

**Other Business** – Fieldstone (Harris Farm) presented a sketch plan at a recent BOS meeting. The Supervisors expressed concerns about the density of the project.

Freeman Farm (Big Oak Road) – There is nothing new to report on this project.

**Review and Approval of February 20, 2014 CTC Meeting Minutes** – The February 20, 2014 CTC meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

With no further business to discuss, the March 17, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission was adjourned at 9:15PM. The next meeting of the CTC will be held on Monday, April 21, 2014, at 7:30PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Torbert, Chairperson