

Lower Makefield Township
April 21, 2014
Citizens Traffic Commission
Meeting Minutes

Present: Virginia Torbert, Chairperson Craig Hyman
Art Cohn, Vice Chairperson Kristin Tyler, Supervisor Liaison
Richard Davino Scott Weaner
William Hogan

Also in Attendance: Sara Spengler-Campanella, LMT Resident

Absent: Sue Herman

Mrs. Torbert called the April 21, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission to order.

Traffic Impact of New Senior/Community Center- Ms. Spengler-Campanella was in attendance to make the CTC aware that drivers are using Oxford Valley Road as a cut-through to Reading Avenue, in an effort to avoid what can be long waits at the railroad tracks on Stony Hill and Edgewood Roads. She will be attending an upcoming Planning Commission meeting to express how important she feels it is to include a traffic impact study as part of the development approval process for the new community center slated for construction on the Samost Tract with access from Oxford Valley Road. Ms. Spengler-Campanella is also closely watching the ongoing discussions between the Township and CSX and Septa on adding a third rail in the Township. With the third rail creating additional train traffic, and the recent vote by the AAR (Assoc. of American Railroads) to reduce the speed of trains going through towns from a high of 65mph to 35mph, she believes there is real potential for a traffic pattern change. There was discussion of the potential increased traffic from the senior center, once it is built, as well as the increase in train traffic, though it was agreed that the greater impact will result from the increased train traffic. Mrs. Tyler will ensure that a traffic impact study is being done for the senior/community center, but noted that it will likely not include information on the impact of railroad expansion. Ms. Spengler-Campanella and Mrs. Torbert agreed to share information as discussions move forward.

Recap of April 8, 2014 Safe Driving Event – Due to a security issue at the high school, Mr. Cohn was not able to attend the Pennsbury LYFT meeting which recapped the recent End Distracted Driving event sponsored by LYFT, St. Mary's, the CTC and others.. However, it was agreed, by everyone who attended, that the presentations went well and were very powerful. All Pennsbury Sophomores and Juniors attended. There was discussion of offering the program to younger children; Mr. Hogan said the younger you get to influence the kids, the better, but the key is getting the parents involved. Mrs. Tyler mentioned that Josh Waldorf is the liaison between the Pennsbury School Board and the Township, and might be able to play a role in getting the parents involved. There was discussion of the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) in Council Rock School District.

Recap of March 31, 2014 Meeting with LMTPD – Mrs. Torbert and Mrs. Tyler met with Chief Coluzzi and Captain Roche to discuss the possibility of getting more detailed information on certain accident reports. LMTPD agreed to provide the Commission with a narrative on circumstances surrounding accidents at a particular intersection requested by the CTC every month, along with the accident report. The CTC had already received the first quarter’s 2014 accident reports, with the narrative on accidents at the Oxford Valley/Big Oak Road intersection. It was suggested that it might make the most sense to receive the narrative on the same intersection for a period of time, in order to get a more complete picture of whether or not improvements might be warranted.

Traffic Calming Guidelines Presentation to BOS – Mrs. Tyler will request moving the presentation on the Traffic Calming Guidelines to the May 21, 2014 BOS meeting. The Traffic Engineer is making the presentation; Mrs. Tyler suggested that representatives from the CTC should also be at the table.

Approve Minutes of March 17, 2014 CTC Meeting – The March 17, 2014 CTC meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

Other Business –

Deer Accident Report – Mrs. Torbert asked Mr. Weaner if we would be able to make up a chart similar to the one done by Newtown Township. Mr. Weaner will take a look at the way Newtown presents their information and provide feedback to the CTC.

Deer Vehicle Collision Write-Up – Mrs. Torbert had forwarded her revisions to Mrs. Bray, who will make the changes and have the write-up placed on the CTC website.

Reading Avenue Intersection – Mr. Hyman had visited the site of the Reading Avenue/Oxford Valley Road intersection, and agreed with Mr. Weaner’s assessment that restricted sight distance makes it necessary for traffic turning onto Reading Avenue from Oxford Valley to encroach into the intersection to check oncoming traffic. Mr. Hyman suggested that, because of the topography, there is not much that can be done to increase the sight distance, for example, cutting back foliage/removing obstructions. He agreed that making the intersection a three way stop would be a possible solution. The location of a third stop sign would be in Yardley Borough. Mrs. Tyler suggested following up on this matter with a letter to the Borough. Mr. Hyman said that the number of accidents would be one of the main criteria that PennDOT would consider when evaluating the need for a third stop sign at that location.

With no further business to discuss, the April 21, 2014 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission was adjourned at 8:45PM. The next meeting of the CTC will be held on **May 19, 2014**, at the LMT municipal building, at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Torbert, Chairperson