

Lower Makefield Township
Citizens Traffic Commission
April 18, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Present: Virginia Torbert, Chairperson William Hogan
 Arthur Cohn, Vice Chairperson Kristin Tyler, Supervisor Liaison
 Catherine Chia-Calabria Scott Weaner
 Susan Herman

Also in attendance were Shetland Drive residents Michelle Buonomo, Joe Buonomo, Chelsea Chen, George Gornick, and Gail Ivaniski and Esther Lane resident, Meg Pieslak

The April 18, 2016 CTC meeting was called to order and Mrs. Tyler welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

Shetland Drive Cul-De-Sac – Residents of the Shetland Drive neighborhood, in Lower Makefield, had previously been in contact with the CTC with regard to concerns they have around several different safety, and quality of life, issues on their street. Shetland Drive is a cul-de-sac, and abuts a field which leads to Afton Elementary School. Their concerns about safety result from the many neighborhood children, and children from surrounding neighborhoods, who walk through the Shetland Drive neighborhood and across the field to get to the School. As part of the Traffic Calming Guidelines process, Shetland Drive neighbors were invited to attend the meeting to provide more information.

The Shetland Drive residents who were in attendance spoke about their concerns and gave an overview of what has been done to date. The concerns were:

The large number of cars on a neighbor's property and in the street – The residents spoke about the neighbor who collects cars, leading to overflow parking on his property and in the street. They view the cars, and the occasional flatbed trailer, as “eyesores” and as a safety concern because of the children walking by the empty cars on their way to, and from, school. In addition, residents exiting their driveways have reduced sight distance due to parked cars. Mr. Cohn reported that he had visited the site, and all cars on the street were tagged, but there was a truck parked in the driveway with the hood up and a vehicle on top of a flatbed trailer. This matter is being handled by the Police Department, the Zoning Department and the Township Solicitor.

Parking on the cul-de-sac – The neighbors reported that there are two different issues related to non-residents parking on the cul-de-sac. The first is that some non-residents find it easier, and faster, to park in the cul-de-sac and walk their children across the field to the school and sports fields rather than dropping them off in front of the school on regular school days. The other issue is that, on special

events days at the school, there are a great many more cars, causing stacking, as well as some cars parking in the middle of the street.

The neighbors believe that this creates an unsafe situation, with children walking in front of, and between, cars. In addition, there was a question raised about the possible blocking of the path in and out for the emergency vehicles when there are so many cars on the cul-de-sac. The neighbors spoke about getting “no parking” signs or “no loading” signs on the cul-de-sac. Mrs. Tyler said installing those signs would have to be very carefully investigated.

It was agreed that the CTC would use the Traffic Calming Guidelines to move the process along.

Middle School Project – Mrs. Pieslak, of Yardley Crest, was in attendance to discuss her concerns about the Middle School Project. She feels that the changes that will take place as part of the Project do not address the safety concerns that she has about her daughter walking, or riding her bike, to school at Pennwood. Mrs. Torbert asked Mrs. Pieslak to complete the Traffic Calming Request/Problem Report and forward it to her, and Mrs. Tyler suggested that she talk to Joshua Waldorf and Deb Wachspres of the Pennsbury School Board.

Meeting with New Traffic Engineer – Mrs. Torbert, Mrs. Herman and Mr. Cohn met with Phil Wursta, LMT’s new Traffic Engineer, and discussed the light at Oxford Valley Road and Big Oak Road, the upcoming Scudders Falls Bridge project and other traffic issues in the Township. Mr. Wursta was given a copy of the Township bike path plan and he will update it with a view toward prioritizing improvements. He reported that the adaptive light system for the Newtown Bypass has been delayed until April 25-29.

Mrs. Herman spoke about information received from a resident of Lindenhurst Road, who reported that there is a lot of truck traffic and noise in the early morning hours. Mrs. Herman visited a friend living in that area and confirmed that the traffic is non-stop between 3:30am and 7 am.

Approval of March 18, 2016 Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes – The March 18, 2016 minutes were approved, as written.

Other Business – Mrs. Torbert distributed copies of a Traffic Calming Request/Problem Report received from a resident who has concerns about the intersection of S. Homestead and Makefield Road. She asked the CTC members to visit the intersection and has invited the resident to an upcoming meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the April 18, 2016 Citizens Traffic Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:15PM. The next meeting of the CTC will be held on May 16, 2016 at 7:30PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Torbert, Chairperson