

Lower Makefield Township

Citizens Traffic Commission

November 20, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Virginia Torbert, Chairperson Richard Davino
Catherine Chia-Calabria Susan Herman
Arthur Cohn William Hogan

Mrs. Torbert called the November 2017 meeting of the Citizens Traffic Commission to order at 7:30pm.

Safety Issues at Railroad Crossings – Mrs. Torbert reported that there is a lot of discussion on social media about problems at the railroad crossings in Lower Makefield, including gates being up when trains go by and gates being down for 20 or 30 minutes, causing drivers to go around the gates. There were no CTC members who have observed drivers going around the gates when they were down. Regarding the “stuck” gates, Chief Coluzzi spoke to CSX about that problem, and they suggested that there can be legitimate reasons why the gates would stay down for an inordinate amount of time, such as work being done on the track or a backup at another station.

Mrs. Torbert suggested that the CTC members listen online to the discussion of the railroad crossing problems at the last BOS meeting, during public comment. She noted that Mr. Lewis raised the possibility of installing video cameras during that meeting to cut down on cars going around the gates. She suggested that cameras might help to show the extent of the problems and might slow people down. Mr. Benedetto said at the BOS meeting that there is a form on the LMT website for reporting quiet zone problems. Chief Coluzzi said to always call 911 first if the gates are malfunctioning.

There was a discussion of the chicanes installed near Sandy Run Road, and questions about their purpose. Mrs. Torbert suggested that one purpose might be to determine whether and by how much the chicanes will slow drivers down. That information could then be used to decide how far the Sandy Run road needs to be moved toward Schulyer to provide adequate site distance.

Makefield Road Safety Study - There was no new information available on the study. A concern was expressed by Mr. Davino that there was no mention of the location of right of ways when the foliage issue was discussed. Mrs. Torbert said they will look for that when the CTC receives a copy of the study.

September and October Minutes- September minutes were approved, with amendments. October Minutes were approved as written.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9pm. The next three meetings of the CTC will be held on Monday, December 18, Thursday, January 18 and Thursday, February 22.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Torbert, Chairperson