

**Minutes  
Township of Falls  
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee**

**May 8, 2023**

**Members in Attendance:**

Amy Gallagher  
Ian James  
Robert Leary  
Ariane Presser

**Members Absent:**

Leon Thompson

**Also in Attendance:**

Chief Nelson Whitney,  
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE Traffic Engineer)

Lt. Ward opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

The minutes from the April 10, 2023 meeting were approved with no changes.

Ideas for new signs were discussed. Ms. Gallagher had an idea of “SLOW DOWN, IT’S NOT A RACETRACK”. Ms. Presser had an idea of HEY Y’ALL, SLOW DOWN FOR FALLS”. Lt. Ward asked them to email their ideas to Chief Whitney.

As far as ongoing traffic calming, Lt. Ward reported the Police department will continue to target the same problem areas. They are bringing officers in on overtime to do special details and enforcement. One of the biggest problems right now is at the Pennsbury West Campus on S. Olds Blvd. The Administration has a traffic pattern that is causing them headaches. The problem is that since the pandemic nobody puts their kids on the bus anymore. So, the parents don’t want to get stuck in a parking lot, so they are just pulling over everywhere to let their kids cross anywhere but the crosswalk and cars are going around each other because of all the traffic. He said he told the Chief maybe they should have a meeting with the school admins during the summer and try to work something out. The crossing guards and parents are complaining about it, and we don’t want to see a tragedy happen there.

The program with cameras and the school buses is very problematic, but it is providing some good data. Now they can see that most of the violations are occurring on Oxford Valley Road, Lincoln Highway, and Tyburn Road, and not in the sections. Most of these violations are weak because if it’s a four-lane highway, with no physical barrier, most drivers coming from the opposite direction don’t realize they have to stop. They also fear that if they do stop suddenly, they will get rear ended. For example, on Lincoln Highway, next to the Township building, there is a housing development that had their bus stop on Lincoln Highway. The bus driver took it upon himself to drive into the development for pickup and drop off, and that is much safer. We will need to have a meeting with the district and discuss making the other bus stops safer like this one. There is no reason to pick a child up on Lincoln Highway. The other bus stop on Lincoln Highway is at Woodcrest Village Apts.

Lt. Ward hasn't heard of any traffic problems from the sections this month.

Mr. Leary asked if the left turn study was done at the high school. Lt. Ward said there was a study done, but he was not up on it and said to ask the Chief at the next meeting. He said traffic at both high schools is a problem. The school district says eventually a new high school will be built, but these issues can't wait until that happens. The parking on Hood Blvd. is such a big problem. Students do not have to have a parking permit for Hood Blvd, just for the lots. Lt. Ward said the buses are running almost empty because so many students are driving now.

Lt. Ward asked if there was any public comment. A resident, Ms. Mag Marino, from 399 Thornridge Drive, was in the audience to speak about Thornridge Drive. She said the students do speed down the drive after school. The other problem is the size of the road. There are 4 curves coming into Thornridge at the top of the drive. Some of the widths are 37' or 39', but the curve in front of her house is only 27'. In addition, the house across the street from her has a lot of trucks, so it creates more of an obstacle for drivers to see the curve, especially if they are speeding. She cannot let her grandkids play in her front yard because they have had several trees hit and other close calls. Her neighbors have lost trees too. She was wondering if changing the speed limit to 15 mph around the 4 curves and a stop sign at Twin Leaf and Teaberry Lane would help. The stop sign would also eliminate parking within 15' of each stop sign. Ms. Marino said they like to park their cars on the road so the kids can ride their bikes in the driveway. But it's too scary, especially if a FedEx or Amazon truck is trying to get through. The road is so narrow there. The North Park section has 7 stop signs (not even on curves, but on straightaways) and Thornridge has only one. Lt. Ward is unaware of why the street narrows to 27'. He would have to check with the engineer. Lt. Ward will have to inquire with PennDOT as to whether we can lower the speed limit to 15 mph. Lt. Ward recommended she go to a Board of Supervisors meeting or to PennDOT to discuss the stop sign situation. North Park has more traffic so that may be the reason they have more stop signs. Mr. Seeherman said that federal rules state clearly that multiway stops are not allowed for speed control. An allowable reason to install a stop sign would be multiple crashes at the site. In terms of getting PennDOT to put up a stop sign, it won't be justified. He is also unsure of why the road narrows here. It could have originally been to slow down traffic. It's like when you go through a tunnel. The more closed in the tunnel is, the slower traffic goes. Mr. Seeherman said there are suction cup signs that can be put out. Slow down signs have been talked about a lot with this committee. Lt. Ward said the Chief wouldn't object to suction cup signs being put up. Lt. Ward asked Ms. Marino to email the Chief. Ms. Marino has the Chief's email address. Lt. Ward said they do enforcement in her area, but according to their study, the results are well below the 80 percentile. Mr. Seeherman said Pennsylvania allows "Local traffic only" restrictions during certain hours of the day. Lt. Ward said this would be very problematic, as they would have to question someone's travels if they pulled them over. Lt. Ward said the police department is shorthanded right now and down to about 45 officers. Ms. Marino thanked the Committee and left.

Mr. Leary said one week ago on Saturday night there were small tornados, and one caused a tree to fall on an occupied school bus. Mr. Leary heard from the school bus driver that the police officer who responded did a great job and he wanted to inform the Chief about this wonderful officer. Lt. Ward will find out which officer this was, and let the Chief know.

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.