

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

October 9, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Amy Gallagher
Leon Thompson

Also in Attendance:

Chief Nelson Whitney, Township of Falls Police Department
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)
Paul Watson, Vermillion Way Resident

Chief Whitney opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

A resident, Mr. Paul Watson, spoke to the Chief about NO PARKING signs in front of his house at 66 Vermillion Way. He believes these signs have been up for 33 years. He has nowhere to park because his neighbor calls the township if he parks on the street. She also yells at him if he parks in her spot. He has to go all the way to Vermillion Lane to park his truck and trailer. Chief Whitney will ask our solicitor about the procedure to have these signs removed. He will also drive by his house and try to research why these signs were put up and get back to Mr. Watson.

The minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were approved with no changes.

For item #3, the Chief passed out a speed study from Hamilton & Burgess Avenues from July. The Chief said this study graph shows there is not much of a problem with speeding at this location.

The Chief does not have a speed study for Chelsea and Devon. He will have to check and see if there is one or if we need to do one.

Mr. Leary said he saw the speed trailer out on Trenton Road right before Oxford Valley Elementary School. The Chief confirmed that it was out collecting data. There is no sense in not using it. We have two trailers, but the other one is out being repaired right now.

Item #4 was then discussed (new signs). We are still waiting for some new renderings of signs. We will probably have something for the next meeting.

Regarding item #5, the Chief is waiting for PennDOT to announce their October Aggressive Driving Wave. It should be announced soon, and we would like to participate. We have had two serious accidents happen on Route 1 since our last meeting. One was on Route 1 on September 18 – a Morrisville Borough police officer in a marked car pulled over to help Falls Police with a disabled

vehicle. The Morrisville Borough vehicle was hit, and the officer was in it. The driver should not have been driving. The driver had warrants and a suspended license (DUI related). This was distracted driving. The Morrisville Borough police vehicle was destroyed.

The other accident was on September 27. Two vehicles were involved in a road rage incident. One vehicle tried to pass the other on the shoulder, lost control and spun out and hit a third vehicle and a woman ended up losing her arm. It was a bright sunny day with no adverse weather conditions. Just people not driving properly.

The Chief reported he received a complaint about the trucks on Bristol Pike. He passed out a study that was done on Old Bristol Pike between Tyburn Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. There are a lot of large trucks passing through this area. The Chief often will contact the business if he gets a company name and tell them we are getting complaints about their drivers. We do have some speed lines on the road around there so we can run our speed timing devices with the painted lines. We also have an ENRADD laser device that we are sending out to be calibrated and then it will be put back into use.

The date of the study is 11/23/2022, so the Chief wants to check with Brian McShane to see if this is an old report, or a new report with an old date. The time of the study was 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. James commented that rush hour falls within this study and it's amazing the speed vehicles can attain with rush hour traffic on the road.

Mr. Seeherman inquired about PennDOT's Aggressive Driving Wave program. Chief Whitney replied that we get grant money from the County to cover some of the overtime costs for these details. Doing this on overtime means the officers won't have to respond to normal service calls. Mr. Seeherman inquired as to whether they must be done on a PennDOT roadway. Chief Whitney said no, it does not have to be a PennDOT road. It's usually done at a problem area.

Mr. Leary wanted to discuss the school crossing at New Falls Road and Hood Boulevard. The crossing guard was almost taken out there. Mr. Leary wanted to know if we can put an unmarked car there to keep an eye on this area. Chief Whitney said he attended the crossing guard union negotiations, and he handed out his card. He told the union representative to have the guards contact him with any problems. Mr. Leary said two separate vehicles challenged her while she had the STOP sign up. Mr. Leary said she should have one of the blinking stop signs. The Chief said he would like to stop by there himself and see what's going on. He wants the guards to feel appreciated.

Mr. Leary inquired about the Walk/Don't Walk signals. Can a crossing guard hit the button and have it lock at red (don't walk)? Mr. Seeherman said that's a big ask of PennDOT because they usually will not do all reds. Although they have one in the middle of the Villanova campus on Route 30 and Lancaster Pike because the students cross diagonally there. So, it's a long traffic light for vehicles. Mr. Leary wanted to know if it could be put on a timer just during the school crossing times. Mr. Seeherman said there is that technology, but we don't know if PennDOT would allow it. Chief Whitney said that is a very busy post. The hours needed for all red would be 7 – 8 a.m. and 2 – 3 p.m. Mr. Seeherman can work on the wording for this. He said during special events, the police can open the box and manually control the signal. The Chief said all his supervisors have a key to open these boxes. Mr. Seeherman said he's not sure a crossing guard can legally do this, maybe only police can. He will check with someone who knows more about it. Mr. Leary said the crossing guard by the 3 middle schools (the traffic signal near the Citgo in Lower Makefield) can get into the box and make it all red. Mr. Seeherman said that signal is very old and is about to be replaced.

Ms. Presser said they have an ongoing issue in her neighborhood at the three-way stop at Glenmar Road and Stanwood. The Post Office delivery truck parks too close to the intersection and blocks the stop sign. This happens every day including Saturdays. The mail vans are higher and bigger now. Chief Whitney will call the Postmaster to discuss this.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.