

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

March 11, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Amy Gallagher
Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Leon Thompson

Also in Attendance:

Lt. Martial Belinsky, Township of Falls Police Department
Sgt. Raymond Fanelli, Township of Falls Police Department
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)

Lt. Belinsky opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

The minutes from the February 12, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Sgt. Fanelli reported that he met with Britton Industries to discuss the truck problem. He said they were very responsive. He spent over four hours there and met with the CEO, the operations dispatcher and got a tour.

He learned that in the warm season coming up, they add seasonal drivers. They agreed voluntarily, when they can, to alter the truck routes. They will take the jug handle for Route 13 to get onto Route 1 and avoid Woolston as much as they can. They are worried about adding to the traffic during school dismissals on Tyburn Road, so they agreed after 2 p.m. they will take any other route except Tyburn Road.

Sgt. Fanelli waited about two weeks and then he called Ms. Kerner to ask if she noticed any difference in truck traffic. She said she had noticed a reduction in truck traffic from Britton, but the residents still felt there was a lot of truck traffic. This may have been caused by a construction project at Hedgerow and Makefield Road. They are digging out a new sewer line, but that is pretty much finished. Lt. Belinsky said they will be repaving there but there is nothing we can do about that.

Mr. Seeherman said the area is on the state paving schedule for July. That will make the road smooth.

Sgt. Fanelli looked at the sink hole in front of the Commons @ Fallsington. He reported it to Melissa Haxel from the Township's Code Enforcement Department and she said she will handle this.

Regarding the complaint about stop sign running at Woolston and Makefield, he ran a detail there and the officers did make some traffic stops. The officers reported back that it is not a big problem. This detail was covered by a seat belt grant.

The Sgt. also went out last week to watch the traffic and he only saw one large Britton truck in 1.5 hours. Britton said they will have 300 trucks per day at their peak. So, to see only one truck seems like this problem may be resolved. He has scheduled a follow up for one month.

Ms. Gallagher asked about the speeding problem in this location. Mr. James asked what the speed limit is on Woolston Drive. The speed limit is 35 mph, and the top speeds are 7-8 miles over, so it may not be as severe a problem as the residents perceive.

Mr. Seeherman brought up the request the residents made to have a louver put on the traffic signal. This would make the color of the light harder to see until you were closer, thereby slowing traffic down. He asked his boss about setting up a meeting with the township manager, but it kind of fell off. He will bring it up again.

Lt. Belinsky said regarding the new signs, he got them approved by the Chief, and they will be ordered shortly. Then residents can come in and get them. Ms. Gallagher asked if they would put this information on the township website and Facebook. Lt. Belinsky said yes to both.

Regarding complaints, Sgt. Fanelli received a complaint about a line-of-sight issue turning right at Trenton Road and Andover Road towards the golf course. When he went out there the corner house had a truck parked on the greenbelt between the sidewalk and the street and a large camping trailer in his driveway. It definitely was not a line-of-sight issue for a vehicle turning right from Trenton Road onto Andover. The resident also informed the Sgt. that he is moving to Tennessee in five months.

Regarding traffic calming areas, they are still in their 90-day program. The 90 days end on April 1. He hasn't looked at any of the numbers yet but hopes the number of accidents will be down at Tyburn and New Falls Road and also N. Oxford Valley Road and Lincoln Highway.

Since Sgt. Fanelli can't buy expensive signs, he asked the Chief if he could buy business cards. He will place messages on these cards, and that shouldn't be expensive.

The Police are going to do Operation Blue Ride again for St. Patrick's Day as they did for Superbowl Sunday. The Police Department puts \$200 towards free rides with Lyft to drive people home from bars so they don't drive drunk. None were used on Superbowl Sunday, but Sgt. Fanelli hopes they will all be used for St. Patricks.

He also spoke to the Chief about having a roving DUI detail this Friday and Saturday nights. Perhaps one or two officers can come in and drive around town, looking for vehicles driving erratically. They will do four-hour shifts. The Chief will let him know if he approves this.

Sgt. Fanelli did not have an exact ticket count in the harm reduction areas. He doesn't feel every stop needs a ticket; many can just be a warning. But he is pleased with the progression of his traffic unit.

Ms. Gallagher mentioned she did see the speed sign on Queen Anne. Sgt. Fanelli said ACO Brian McShane placed it there and the speed was only 5 – 6 mph over the limit. The minimum speed a vehicle must go over is 6 mph on a 25-mph street before they will issue a ticket.

Sgt. Fanelli plans to monitor every State highway first and then every Drive for every major section.

Sgt. Fanelli informed the committee they can do a 1-hour ride along with an officer. They must sign a waiver first and wear a vest. You cannot get out of the car to approach another car with the officer, but you will get to see a lot.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.