

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

April 8, 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 6:34 p.m.

The minutes from the March 11, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Sgt. Fanelli reported that he will be putting the speed trailer out on Woolston Drive next week. The truck traffic is definitely reduced. He is keeping an eye on this area.

Lt. Belinsky asked Mr. Seeherman if there was any movement about louvres for the traffic light on Woolston. Mr. Seeherman replied that he is still asking his boss to schedule a meeting with the Township manager and PennDOT. He said that PennDOT may not be too keen on doing this because the louvres make the signal head very heavy. That means that they also have to replace the mast arm to support the signal head.

Lt. Belinsky said the new signs are still a work in progress.

Lt. Belinsky asked Sgt. Fanelli for any updates regarding traffic calming and enforcement. Sgt. said he met with a company called Urban SDK. This company can give you almost instantaneous speeds. So instead of putting the speed trailer out, you would log on and pick your area and they can give you all the same data that the speed trailer does, but for EVERY street. They use vehicle infotainment systems and communications with satellites. The problem is this program costs \$22,500 per year. He sent a proposal to the Chief, but isn't hopeful for approval, unless we get some kind of grant for it. Mr. James asked if there is any state or federal money available. Mr. Seeherman said his company writes grants but it's cheaper for us to do it in-house. Sgt. Fanelli said he never wrote a grant before.

Sgt. Fanelli went to another sign company and got a quote for 15 yard signs. They will say things like “HARM REDUCTION AREA – EXPECT POLICE ACTIVITY – MOVE OVER FOR STOPPED EMERGENCY VEHICLES” They will be marked at the bottom – PROPERTY OF FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE – DO NOT REMOVE.

Sgt. Fanelli asked the Public Works Department if they would paint more speed lines for him. It helps the police time the vehicle’s speed for enforcement. He is also out marking potholes with brightly colored spray paint, mostly on the state roads. He asked the Chief if he could buy “Pothole Ahead” signs. He showed a prototype and Mr. Seeherman advised him of different colors he should use. Blue is usually associated with an informational sign, such as here is a rest stop, lodging, or gas station. Orange is a temporary construction color. The approved official color for incident management is bright pink.

Ms. Gallagher asked if any one used Operation Blue Ride on St. Patrick’s Day. Sgt. Fanelli said none of the Lyft rides were used. There was a very mellow vibe that weekend. Not very festive. It could have been the criminal incident that happened in the township and the consequential cancellation of the parade.

Sgt. Fanelli then spoke about a speeding complaint from a caller at 640 Lincoln Highway. He had the speed trailer put out there and the 85th percentile was 52 mph. They also did a lot of enforcement on Lincoln Highway that week. He also mentioned that there has been an orange dirt bike that is zooming around causing a lot of complaints. He had a report that it hit something or someone at New Falls Road and Vermillion Drive, but the bike left the scene of the accident. This is the time of the year when dirt bikes and motorcycles start coming out and that generates a lot of complaints. Falls Township has a ‘no chase’ policy for motorcycles and they all know it too.

Lt. Belinsky reported the township had a fatal pedestrian accident Friday night on West Trenton Ave. in front of Castle Club Apartments. This occurred around 3 a.m. It is believed the driver was intoxicated. They pulled film from surveillance cameras, and it showed the pedestrian stumbling and laying down in the middle of the roadway. The driver did nothing wrong, he just was driving straight ahead, but he was impaired. In most cases like this, the driver will be charged with a basic DUI and not homicide by vehicle.

The Chief asked Sgt. Fanelli to look at the township fatalities to see if there is any causation or commonality. He found that they are usually at night, usually involve intoxication, and usually involve a vehicle and a non-vehicle (such as a pedestrian or bicycle). Lt. Belinsky added that in most cases, the accidents are not the vehicle drivers’ fault, but the bicyclist’s or pedestrian’s fault. It is a PA state motor vehicle law that a bicyclist must have a bike light on after dark, but the ones involved in accidents mostly do not. But unfortunately, these accidents don’t happen in the same location, they are sprinkled all over the township. There has been a big influx of e-bikes in the township. Per PennDOT, if it’s over 50cc’s it’s considered a motorized vehicle.

Mr. Leary commented about the Montessori School on Tyburn Road. The parents are still making lefts off of Tyburn Road to go into the school even though there is a NO LEFT TURN sign there. The sign is on the right side of the street and barely visible. Sgt. Fanelli asked Mr.

Seeherman if they could ask PennDOT to spray paint a NO LEFT TURN onto the roadway. Mr. Seeherman can check on that.

Mr. Leary said just about this time last year we lost a school bus over on Oxford Valley Road due to a pothole. A car hit a pothole and went up onto the grass but hit the bus driven by Ed Copper.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.