

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

September 9, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Amy Gallagher
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Ian James
Leon Thompson

Also in Attendance:

Lt. Martial Belinsky, Township of Falls Police Department
Sgt. Ray Fanelli, Township of Falls Police Department

Lt. Belinsky opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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

Lt. Belinsky gave an update on Woolston Drive. He noticed a lot of spray painting on the road and there were numbers counting up from the railroad track overpass. They do that so they can count how many truckloads are going to go into paving. So, it looks promising, but we have not heard back from PennDOT.

There is no update on the new signs.

Sgt. Fanelli updated some of the previous complaints.

The parking complaint from 16 Yardley Avenue was closed out last month, and then a couple of days later they got a new complaint about this from the fire company. Sgt. Fanelli set up a meeting with the resident, who is disabled, at the firehouse. Lt. Belinsky, their mental health co-responder, the resident from 16 Yardley Avenue and his friend, the fire chief, the deputy chief, Joe Arnao, Public Works Foreman, and the firetruck driver who made the complaint were at the meeting. What makes this section unique is that across from the resident's house, someone started a decorative rock wall. The street was supposed to be 18' in width, but the rock wall is making it smaller. The fire department trucks are having a hard time getting through. Sherwood Taylor was the driver who made the complaint, and he is concerned that a fire truck may have to get rerouted if called to a fire. Each party was very respectful and even exchanged phone numbers. This will keep the communication channels open. Sgt. Fanelli will keep doing spot checks there. He will also do a 45 day and 60 day check in with both sides. If these issues persist, we may have to make both sides of the street "NO PARKING" zones.

Mr. Michael Davidson, of Hillside Lane, came in last month to talk about Tyburn Road between New Falls Road and Trenton Road. This area is a 35 mph and changes from 45 mph. It is very hard to do speed enforcement there because there is nowhere to sit, and we are very short on manpower. We could put out the speed trailer. We have two trailers, but one is down right now. There may be water in the electronics board. The animal control officer is moving the trailer every 2-3 days to all the schools to raise awareness.

There was a previous complaint about speeding on Thornridge Drive. The police did a speed study. The speed was 8 mph over the speed limit. Sgt. Fanelli spent about 5 hours out there and 2 vehicles were pulled over, which is not a lot. He may go out there one more time. While he was out there, the crossing guard told him she was nervous to step out with kids because vehicles can't tell this is a crosswalk. She would like a lighted sign for the pedestrian crossing. Her pedestrian crossing lines are dull. He is going to ask the public works department to repaint the lines. This is at Thornridge Drive and Turnabout Lane. Mr. Seeherman suggested painting piano keys instead of two lines. But they are more slippery because of all the paint. Lt. Belinsky will talk to Mr. Arnao (Public Works Foreman) about this.

Sgt. Fanelli reported that Mr. Arnao just got the stencils to do the stop bars, and the word STOP in the Vermilion section. He said he already has the reflective strips for the stop signs, but he hasn't had time to do it yet.

Sgt. Fanelli did a speed detail on the 600 block South Olds Boulevard, and he was stopping vehicles once they surpassed 18 mph over the speed limit. On Friday, he did the 200 block of South Olds, and he gave out approximately 14 citations.

Mr. Seeherman said the LSA grant he forwarded is good for just about anything including equipment. It is due in November. Sgt. Fanelli wants a speed trailer.

There is an ongoing complaint about a car revving its engine at 4:30 a.m. Sgt. Fanelli said the midnight officers are addressing this.

Sgt. Fanelli went to a weights and measures class. He has also done MCSAP (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program). You have to do 32 mentored truck inspections. Each inspection takes about 2 hours. So, he decided to go to the Waste Management scale house employees to learn more. The trucks come in off New Ford Mill Road, they get weighed, they go in and dump, then they get weighed on the way out. He was shocked at how many overweights they get per month. It was 1,400 per month! At least 800 trucks come through per day. A truck is not supposed to be over 80,000 lbs. in Pennsylvania. One overweight truck is equivalent to the damage of 500+ cars driving on the road. The employees at the scale house gave him an education such as some of the tricks the truck drivers to use. The scale house opens up at 2 a.m. and they close at 5 p.m. A truck can make 3 trips to/from NY in one day. He may start spending more time there to try to stem these overweight trucks. It is a very expensive ticket though. A 91,000 lb. truck is a dangerous truck and cause ruts in the road. Every time he works with Sgt. Killeen, they put about 1/2 the trucks out of service for various violations.

When Waste Management fines these overweight trucks, they fine them by weight, and they use the fine money for community improvement programs. To drive a CDL, you must be proficient in English. When they get to the scales, and are overweight, some drivers say they don't speak English. But if there is an officer there, they may tell the truth. But again, with a one-man unit, there isn't much time to do truck enforcement.

Lt. Belinsky reported that the road crew repainted the right turn arrows on Tyburn Road in front of the school. They also painted lines on S. Queen Anne at N. Olds to the Bristol Township line.

Mr. Seeherman reported that Falls Township was awarded \$260,000 for Hood Boulevard - the traffic light at Pennsbury High School is getting a left turn phase.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.