

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

December 9, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Ian James
Amy Gallagher
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Leon Thompson

Also in Attendance:

Lt. Martial Belinsky, Township of Falls Police Department
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)
Kevin Golden, Falls Township Resident

Lt. Belinsky opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

The minutes from the October 14, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

A complaint from a crossing guard at the Oxford Valley School was discussed regarding speeding vehicles and an improperly timed school zone warning on Trenton Road. This has been a tough school for the police department and the crossing guards. It's a very busy road. Last year they added a second crossing guard. They have school crossing lights. Lt. Belinsky gave the crossing guards portable A-frame stands to put out. Sgt. Fanelli spent some time up there. He reported that the flashing school signs are improperly timed. Lt. Belinsky sent a request to change the times to Joe Arnao, Public Works foreman. Mr. Arnao will then send the request to PennDOT. So hopefully that will be taken care of in the near future. Mr. James inquired what improperly timed lights means. Lt. Belinsky said they are starting too late and ending too late.

Mr. Kevin Golden, a resident from 1344 Bristol Pike, spoke about speeding tractor trailers. There are children walking and babies in strollers here. His baseball radar clocked a tractor trailer truck doing 68 mph. Lt. Belinsky inquired if he was speaking about Old Bristol Pike. Mr. Golden said near Pennwood Crossing and WaWa at the end of Penn Valley Road. Lt. Belinsky said he would pass this info on to Sgt. Fanelli, as he was not present tonight. Mr. Golden also said that some cars go 80 mph there. The Sgt. will set up the speed signs, collect the data, do enforcement, and then recheck the data to see if the enforcement has helped the issue. Mr. Golden said the speed limit is 45 mph. He has tried to get it lowered. He has written to Mr. Fitzpatrick, etc. Mr. Golden's contact information is cgtoolc@gmail.com and his phone number is 267 716-4630.

Mr. Seeherman said Old Bristol Pike is PennDOT road #2055. So for big improvements, the township is limited in what they are able to do. It can be a very long process to get something done.

There was also a stop sign and speeding complaint on Cabot Blvd. Sgt Fanelli spent several days up there and had several assignments done. Speeding is definitely an issue. He set up the speed sign, but we don't have any results yet. They are working on it. He will be spending more time there.

Sgt. Fanelli also spent some time at the North Queen Anne and Austin Drives stop signs. Mr. Leary said the work done there made a big difference. The Public Works Department painted stop bars, the word STOP on the road, and added a reflector strip. When you are coming around on Queen Anne, it's a hill and a turn and you don't see the stop sign. Mr. Seeherman said those are really cheap ways to get people to notice.

There was also a complaint about stop sign violations at Moon Drive and Penn Lane. It's a really small street and Sgt. Fanelli even had trouble finding a place to sit and watch. He did not see many violations.

A complaint also came in about Walton Drive, near the Eleanor Roosevelt school, about speeders. Sgt. Fanelli set out the speed machine and only 4% of the drivers are speeding. It's very residential and not a cut through. No crossing guards have ever mentioned any issues there.

Ms. Gallagher brought up the morning high school traffic issue again. She passes by at 7 a.m. People dropping off their children have now formed 2 lanes instead of the usual 1 lane. There are kids running from Cavanaugh and everywhere in all directions. She can't believe there hasn't been an accident. Lt. Belinsky said the crossing guard complains also. The drop off time will change next year, and we will see what changes then. When the vehicles exit the parking lot, they are only allowed to make a right turn, but they don't pay attention. The worst part of this every day is the last 10 minutes, then it's over.

Ms. Presser asked if it's really a speeding issue on Cabot Boulevard. Lt. Belinsky confirmed it is and said Sgt. Fanelli spoke to someone at the GM plant at the end of the road about this. They said they would speak to their employees about not speeding.

Mr. Seeherman asked Lt. Belinsky to remind the committee members that if the speed limit is 45 mph, they can't be ticketed until they reach 54 mph.

Mr. Golden asked how to start the long process of doing something about his complaints on Bristol Pike. Mr. Seeherman said the township will put out their speed trailer first. Mr. Golden asked if we could put out the black box first since drivers don't know that is out there. Lt. Belinsky said the Sgt. doesn't usually do that first, but he will speak to him. Mr. Seeherman replied that after the township determined there is a fair amount of speeding, the township can do enforcement and truck inspections. The main problem that the street is straight and wide, so there is no reason to stop except at Penn Valley Road. Zoning doesn't have much to do with the speed limit. If the speed study found that there is excessive speeding and we wanted to do traffic

calming, it would be a township project. The township could then apply for a grant. The money could buy a number of bump outs every 1/8 of a mile along the roadway. It restricts the roadway and vehicles slow down. This eliminates the shoulder. Or PennDOT could implement chicanes. But these are drastic measures but it's a very long process. The volume is too high for speed bumps or speed pillows. It's unfortunate that this is a road that was designed for truck traffic but has residential housing and pedestrian traffic on it. Mr. Golden said trash trucks use it as a cut thru. Lt. Belinsky said they are not allowed to unless they are doing a local pickup. Mr. Golden said these trash truck drivers have told him that they don't care. Mr. Seeherman said unfortunately enforcement for this could be tough. Mr. Seeherman asked where the Walmart distribution center is. Mr. Golden said he meant Amazon, not Walmart. It's a million square foot warehouse on the corner of Tyburn Road and Newbold Road. It's the old Kmart warehouse and there is a lot of truck traffic now from it. Mr. Seeherman said we will start with the first step. Lt. Belinsky will speak to Sgt. Fanelli about this.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.