

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

May 13, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Ian James
Robert Leary
Ariane Presser

Members Absent:

Amy Gallagher
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)
Joan Graves, Vermillion Hills resident
Brian Long, Principal of The Montessori Charter School

Lt. Belinsky opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

The minutes from the April 8, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Ms. Joan Graves from the Vermillion section spoke about the stop signs at Vermillion and Village. The vehicles are just speeding and blowing through the stop signs. She has watched cars tap their brakes, but not stop. She is worried about the neighborhood children. When you come off New Falls Road, there is a curve, and no one can see individuals coming around that curve. The vehicles just keep picking up speed. She thanked Sgt. Fanelli for coming out several times to observe. It's getting progressively worse. She sits at the top of the drive and she's almost been hit several times while trying to pull out of her driveway. So, she will back into her driveway, but that is inconvenient for her. She noticed the stop sign in the Shop Rite center lights up. Perhaps we can put those stop signs in Vermillion. This may encourage vehicles to stop.

Sgt. Fanelli sent a proposal to the Chief to have the stop bar painted, the word STOP painted before the stop bar, and to install a reflective vertical strip onto the stop sign. Mr. Seeherman said these strips are extremely effective. The flashing red lights around the stop sign Ms. Graves spoke of are solar powered or solar backup. Mr. Seeherman said a private shopping center can put whatever they want out, but PennDOT has to know if the township puts one out. You can have a red LED at each corner, and there are restrictions as to how strong these lights can be.

Ms. Graves said there are no crosswalks at the top of development. Mr. Seeherman said crosswalks are a township decision. If you paint a crosswalk, you must fix the ADA ramp, so

they are compliant. Each ADA ramp costs about \$5,000. That is why townships don't paint crosswalks until the street gets paved.

Mr. Seeherman said the standard stop sign is 30" x 30" but you can go to 48" x 48". He will see if they are really allowed. He can also get a cost for the LED stop signs. He recently saw them in Hatboro. We would need 6 stop signs in Vermillion.

Mr. Brian Long, principal of the Montessori Charter School on Tyburn Road, addressed the committee. The school has been there since 2007. The issue of illegal turns has come to his attention. He did inform the parents not to make that illegal left turn on Tyburn Road. Sgt. Fanelli spoke to the director of Pennsbury's Transportation Dept. She agreed to notify the other school districts that bring children to the school. He has been out there and sees that the principal's message has helped the situation.

Mr. Long and Sgt. Fanelli discussed some other issues while speaking. Mr. Long said there is no sign stating that there is a school there. They sit so far back from the road that they didn't qualify for flashing school light. There were school arrow markers on the road at one time, but they have long since faded away. They just paved their lot 2 years ago, but PennDOT would not allow them to put any markings out any further. They said speak to the township and the township said speak to PennDOT. The school is so close to the Rt 13 on-ramp that they always get cars coming onto their lot thinking it's the on-ramp. The big problem is when a semi-truck pulls in. They knock down their light posts and sometimes the fire hydrant too. They replaced the hydrant five times already. If that happens during a school session, they cannot have classes.

Mr. Seeherman looked up the guidance for school signs. The new federal guidelines show S11 being a SCHOOL sign. All it says is SCHOOL. He believes they can use this sign. They don't qualify for a "SCHOOL ZONE" because they sit too far back. Where they place that sign would probably be up to PennDOT since it is a PennDOT road. Mr. Long said all of their signs (stops and yields) are down and they have been waiting since last year for PennDOT to come out and fix them.

Mr. Seeherman said perhaps they can talk to PennDOT to change the Rt 13 signs to say, "Junction 13 Ahead", instead of telling people to make a right into your driveway. You can still paint the word SCHOOL on the ground. Each letter must be at least 10'. The township is allowed to put markings on the road, without getting bid approvals, but they have to get a PennDOT HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) so PennDOT knows when we are out there on the road. Mr. Seeherman will inquire as to the procedure for requesting a school sign and pavement stencils on the road.

Ms. Graves also said there is a 55-mph sign on Tyburn Road and then when you get closer to Corbin Lane it goes down to 45-mph. On the other side of the road the speed limit is 35-mph. It doesn't make sense. Mr. Seeherman said these speed limits were posted a long time ago when it was more appropriate. This is something that needs to be looked into.

Sgt. Fanelli then discussed the Woolston Drive area. There is still the pothole issue with PennDOT near Commons @ Fallsington. PennDOT claims this is a township problem. The

Township's Code Department has been in touch with the attorney from the apartment complex and they are finally admitting responsibility for the sewer line. They are trying to get 2 more bids since they have been quoted \$80,000 to repair it. If this problem gets any worse, the Police will have to shut the road down.

The Chief will be ordering the new signs. No other updates on that currently.

Sgt. Fanelli reported that he had the speed machine out on Levittown Parkway westbound approaching Mill Creek Parkway, and the 85th percentile was 15 mph over the speed limit. He will be putting the ENRADD out there soon.

Sgt. Fanelli also reported that there has also been an on and off again parking problem on Main Street in Fallsington. A gentleman bought a property on Main and took down the NO PARKING sign. Pennsbury School District complained that the school buses were having trouble getting around the parked cars. The resident has health issues that require home health aides to visit. They are trying to work with this resident to solve this issue.

Mr. Leary asked if West Trenton was a state road. When he pulls the school bus into Wellington Woods Apartments and then is coming out the other exit, there is a WORK AHEAD sign that has been there a long time. It was put up when the work was being done on Pine Grove Road but this sign blocks everyone's view on the right side. This sign may have even been there from when the WAWA was being constructed. But the work is done now, and the sign needs to come down. Sgt. Fanelli will investigate this.

Mr. Seeherman said the new Federal guidelines give local jurisdictions a lot more freedom to set speed limits.

Ms. Presser said she has seen the speed machine on Vermillion and was wondering if it could be put on the other side near the tot lot. She has seen many vehicles blow through that 3-way stop. Sgt. Fanelli said we could do that.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.