

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

June 10, 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
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)

Lt. Belinsky opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The minutes from the May 13, 2024 meeting were approved with no changes.

Ms. Ashley Hartnagle was scheduled to speak about speeding in her neighborhood, but she did not attend the meeting.

The first item discussed was an update regarding Woolston Drive. Last Friday at 2:30, an elderly gentleman was driving a vehicle east on Woolston and there was a motorcyclist driving west on Woolston. The vehicle turned left in front of the motorcycle and hit him. The cyclist had some bleeding on his head, had at least a broken arm. Lt. Belinsky checked on his condition on Monday and found out the cyclist would pull through.

No updates on the new signs, we are still waiting for them to come in.

Sgt. Fanelli wasn't in attendance to discuss ongoing enforcement.

Mr. Seeherman spoke to his superiors about the LED stop signs. The ones in Hatboro cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. This is a signal, so a permit must be submitted to PennDOT, and one day's work of RVE's time is approximately \$1,000. RVE would make a blueprint plan with all of the stop signs on one application. Each additional sign would be cheaper, because the signs themselves aren't that expensive. Lt. Belinsky asked Mr. Seeherman how that affects us if we want to put them on township streets. Mr. Seeherman said you still need a traffic signal permit.

Regarding the Montessori School, Mr. Seeherman said it is reasonable for the township to send an informal request to PennDOT to request a swap of the signs. There is a sign about 100 yards in advance

of the school that says CAUTION - SLOW VEHICLES AHEAD. This may have been from when there was farm equipment there. Lt. Belinsky said there is still a Snipes tree farm there and a farm on the other side of the road, so this sign may still be relevant. Mr. Seeherman said we can request a school sign on that side of the road and PennDOT can put it where they want. Lt. Belinsky asked if we could request permission to paint SCHOOL on that turning lane. Mr. Seeherman said we can repaint an existing painting if it's messed up (just the 'arrow' and the 'only'). But a different painting would request permission.

Mr. Seeherman then addressed the confusing speed signs brought up by Ms. Graves at the May meeting. It is weird that there is a 55-mph sign past the Montessori school and then after some distance it becomes a 45-mph sign. The other side of the road is 45-mph. It doesn't seem to make sense, but people drive at a speed that they sense is safe. We could ask PennDOT why this is 55-mph and not 45-mph in front of a school.

Ms. Gallagher said her work shift has changed and she now passes the Pennsbury West high school a little later at about 7:15 a.m, and school starts at 7:20 a.m. The kids who live across from the high school just dart out and run across the street. There is only one crossing guard located at South Queen Anne, but if they don't see her, it's a free for all. When driving, she makes a left at South Queen Anne, from S. Olds, and you're supposed to still be going 15 or 25 mph, but there's no crossing guard, no flashing lights, so vehicles start to pick up speed. They are picking up speed because they don't realize it's still a school zone. Mr. Seeherman said there is a fixed SCHOOL sign as you make the turn, but it's possible no one sees that. Lt. Belinsky said that we can't have crossing guards at every entrance. The problem is since Covid, many students don't take the bus anymore, which leads to all this foot traffic. Mr. Seeherman said the answer for S. Queen Anne is to stripe it. The committee could make a recommendation to paint a double yellow line. Measure 6' put a white line down, measure 2' from the field, put a white line down. This will slow cars down. This road is not striped at all right now.

Ms. Gallagher said at least in front of the high school you have the flashing lights, but once you make that left you don't realize it's still a school zone. As far as a crosswalk, Mr. Seeherman said at Kavanaugh, you would need some type of walkway or curbing, because on the school side there is a lawn. You must have some type of pathway to walk on. Mr. Leary said this will all be redone when the new high school is built. But of course, that's a long time away. Mr. Seeherman said that when you make the turn onto S. Queen Anne, we can put a static speed limit 20 mph sign with the word SCHOOL on top if it's inside the school zone. We can take the existing sign out. The existing sign is very close to the corner. But we don't know exactly where the official school zone starts. We don't want to accidentally establish a school zone. Lt. Belinsky said we can move the existing sign forward.

Mr. Seeherman doesn't know the township's policy on putting double yellow lines down on local roads. Lt. Belinsky said it was repaved approximately five years ago. Ms. Gallagher said the school district should only let seniors drive and not juniors.

Mr. Leary said coming up Hood and making a left on New Falls Road when school is letting out, is a real mess. The kids slam on their brakes to go into Ritas, and in the morning it's the same thing with Dunkin Donuts.

There was no other business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.