

Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 • 6:30 PM • Conference Rooms 220/221

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 PM.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Haughey, Jeff McCard, Bill Everett, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Public Works Superintendent Eric Gartenmayer, Captain Peter Feeney, Steve Gozur (Traffic Planning & Design).

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Flynn, Sergeant Mark McLeod, Officer Jeffrey Wagner.

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Joseph Leming (Old Mill Woods).

3. Reorganization

a. Appointment of Chair

Mr. McCard moved to nominate Mr. Haughey as Chair of the Citizens Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Everett.

b. Appointment of Vice Chair

Mr. Haughey moved to nominate Mr. McCard as Vice Chair of the Citizens Traffic Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Everett.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Valla stated that Sally Miller resigned from the Citizens Traffic Commission. Members approve minutes of October 27, 2022, meeting by consensus.

5. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Joseph Leming, Old Mill Woods, shared a walk/run and biking heatmap generated by Strava, a social network used primarily by physically active individuals to share their exercises with others. Mr. Leming showed an example along Woodbourne Road near Quincy Hollow and Cobalt Ridge. Mr. Valla stated that the Township is beginning to work on a Multimodal Improvement Plan and a Parks/Trails Master Plan in the coming months, both of which will use Strava data in their development. He encouraged Mr. Leming to attend the public meetings to be held around the development of those two plans.

6. Old Business

a. Activity since last meeting

i. Prospect Avenue/Avenue E Stop Sign—Traffic Study

Captain Feeney shared that the Police Department purchased a new traffic study device and officers are being trained on it now. This study will be completed once the device is active. He added that Officer Wagner has monitored this intersection routinely since the last meeting and has only observed one minor violation. No other violations were noted.

ii. Parking/Standing Restriction During Certain Hours on Briggs Road

Mr. Valla shared that after the October meeting, a concern was raised by the principal of Maple Point Middle School about parents parking their vehicles along Briggs Road and making their children walk to them upon dismissal to avoid the school pickup line. This poses both a safety issue for the children, as well as an issue for residents in this neighborhood trying to navigate the area during school dismissal hours. The Police Department is advocating for a “No Parking, Stopping, or Standing Unless Otherwise Permitted” zone for Briggs Road between Langhorne-Yardley Road and Paxson Lane between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. This issue was shared to the Commission via email when it arose.

Captain Feeney shared a similar parking restriction was imposed in the Idlewood neighborhood next to Neshaminy High School a few years ago, but residents were issued up to three parking passes per household by the Police Department so the residents of this neighborhood could still park on the street during the restricted hours. This, coupled with the time-based restriction eliminates most of the pushback residents would otherwise have.

Mr. Haughey asked why the Sandburg Middle School parking restriction is an all-day parking restriction without parking passes and is not handled in the manner proposed for Maple Point Middle School. Captain Feeney said the primary issue at Sandburg Middle School was busses’ ability to turn when exiting the school, which would not be possible with cars parked there.

The Citizens Traffic Commission agreed to recommend this ordinance to the Board of Supervisors for enactment.

7. New Business

a. “No trucks except local deliveries” signs in Langhorne Gardens

Mr. Valla shared he received a complaint about large trucks turning into the Langhorne Gardens neighborhood and getting stuck there due to the streets being narrow. Superintendent Gartenmayer confirmed 1st and 2nd Streets are signed this way, but 3rd and 4th Streets are not.

Captain Feeney said he has never heard of, to his knowledge, any calls for assistance to help trucks exit Langhorne Gardens. He suspects the residents are fearful of trucks attempting to use the neighborhood to access the planned warehouses behind this development. He did point out that the vast majority of traffic to the warehouses will be coming from south of this neighborhood by way of one of the major highways and would not pass by Langhorne Gardens.

Consensus was to address this issue should the need arise in the future. No further action was recommended.

b. Stop Sign Request—Franklin/Country Lane (Millway Farms)

Mr. Valla shared he received a request to add a stop sign at the intersection of Franklin Road and Country Lane by the parent of a resident in this neighborhood. Mr. Valla noted that two of the four approaches to the intersection are dead ends with only two or three homes accessing each of the dead ends. Most of the traffic is turning from one road onto the other and would never intersect.

Captain Feeney stated there is likely no crash data at this intersection but advised that he will check their records and report back at the April meeting. He said as an uncontrolled intersection, traffic is supposed to stop by default from all approaches, though most of the people traveling through here most likely live in the neighborhood and are familiar with this intersection. He did not believe a stop sign was needed. The rest of the Commission concurred.

c. Speeding in Old Mill Woods

Joseph Leming, Old Mill Woods, shared that he and others in his neighborhood walk a lot and do not feel safe with the vehicle traffic as much of the development does not have sidewalks. He requested reducing the speed limit below 25 MPH. He stated he notices the issue primarily on Flour Lane and Wheatsheaf Lane.

Captain Feeney shared that a speed study was performed on Old Mill Drive several years ago which did not show a speeding issue. Since Flour Lane and Wheatsheaf Lane are not through roads, it is even less likely a study will identify a speeding issue. He added that reducing the speed on a road does not necessarily reduce the speed drivers are going, but rather cause more violations. He suggested a speed study can be done to know for certain.

8. Other Business

a. Highland Park Way Crosswalks

Mr. Valla stated he received an email over the weekend from a resident of Highland Park who requested crosswalks at three points along Highland Park Way to improve pedestrian access into the Langhorne Square Shopping Center. She requested crosswalks at the Highland Park Place intersection, the Heartwood Road intersection, and the driveways on either side of Highland Park Way between the Floor & Décor and the Restaurant Depot parking lots.

It was noted that the Langhorne Square Shopping Center does not have adequate pedestrian facilities and, in all cases, adding crosswalks to encourage pedestrian access into the shopping center would put pedestrians into an unsafe condition as these areas were designed many years ago exclusively for vehicle traffic. The Township does not have the ability to require an existing shopping center to add pedestrian facilities, however these concerns could be addressed if the property ever became the subject of a future land development.

No further action was recommended.

b. Madison Avenue

Superintendent Gartenmayer asked about the status of the parking restrictions on Madison Avenue discussed at the October meeting. Mr. Valla reviewed that a woman complained to Mr. Gartenmayer about two vehicles in her household being hit in a short period of time while parked on the street. The woman is asking for the centerline of the road to be moved over to better accommodate parking on the north (east) side of the street. The centerline used to be slightly off-center but was centered after the road was repaved five to seven years ago.

Mr. Valla stated that since the last meeting, he consulted the Township Manager on this issue. It was noted that most of the homes in this area have small driveways and periodically some homes, especially on the northern end of Madison Avenue, have a vehicle or two parked on the street. Though the ordinance imposes parking restrictions on both sides of the street, currently only the south (west) side of the street sign signed this way. The north (east) side of the street is not. The Department of Public Works replaced the faded signs on the south (west) side of the street. They also noted that a natural gas line is located in the exact area where signs would need to be placed on the north (east) side of the street.

Mr. Valla shared, and others agreed, that by enforcing the ordinance for both sides of the street it would create a hardship for many residents and cause more upset in the community, especially considering only one resident has vocalized this as an issue. No further action was recommended.

c. Idlewood

Superintendent Gartenmayer shared that the Idlewood neighborhood was paved in 2022. He added that the Department of Public Works now replaces all roadway signs once a neighborhood is paved.

d. Swift/Woodbourne/Lower Silver Lake Intersection Signalization

Mr. Everett asked about the latest information on the improvements planned at Swift/Woodbourne/Lower Silver Lake Roads. Mr. Gozur of Traffic, Planning & Design provided an update on the project.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023.