

Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 • 6:30 PM • Conference Rooms 220/221

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT: Chris Haughey, Bill Everett, Rowland Myers, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Public Works Superintendent Eric Gartenmayer, Police Chief Joseph Bartorilla, Captain Peter Feeney, Sergeant Mark McLeod, Steve Gozur (Traffic Planning & Design).

MEMBERS AND STAFF ABSENT: Jeff McCard, James Flynn, Officer Jeffrey Wagner.

RESIDENTS PRESENT: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Valla welcomed Rowland Myers, newly appointed member of the Citizens Traffic Commission. Members approve minutes of January 10, 2023, meeting by consensus.

4. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

None.

5. Old Business

a. Activity since last meeting

i. **Ord. #23-01 Parking/Standing Restriction During Certain Hours on Briggs Road (between Langhorne-Yardley Road and Denbign Road)**

Mr. Valla shared that the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors enacted Ordinance #23-01, establishing a no parking, stopping, or standing zone during the after-school hours on weekdays on Briggs Road between Langhorne-Yardley Road and Denbign Road, unless in possession of a parking permit. He added that at the Supervisors' request, the 14 homes surrounding this area were notified by mail of the Supervisors' consideration of the ordinance, and then again advising these residents about how to obtain a parking permit from the Police Department. Feedback from these residents has been generally positive.

b. **Multimodal Improvement Plan**

Mr. Valla advised that the development of a Multimodal Improvement Plan to improve pedestrian and bike connectivity has begun, and that the Board of Supervisors established a steering committee to assist the consultant in the plan's development. Chris Haughey is serving on the steering committee on behalf of the Citizens Traffic Commission. Mr. Valla advised that other board/commission volunteers, two Supervisors, and several Township administrators are also participating on the steering committee.

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

The Police Department advised that they recently obtained a new JAMAR device to conduct in-house traffic studies as their old device died in the fall. Select officers were recently trained in how to use it and will begin working on the backlog of old studies.

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

Pending traffic study.

e. Speeding in Old Mill Woods

Pending traffic study.

6. New Business

a. Commercial Truck Parking

Chief Bartorilla advised that an issue arose pertaining to commercial vehicles being parked on the roadway, and that the existing ordinance about this issue is vague and inadequate for enforcement. The existing ordinance prohibits parking of any vehicle other than a passenger car, unless within a Manufacturing zoning district. Chief Bartorilla is recommending updating the ordinance to more effectively crack down on commercial vehicles parking on roadways. Of note, this change would apply to Chapter 470 of the Code of Ordinances, (Vehicles and Traffic), and not Chapter 500 (Zoning).

The primary issue is how to define a “commercial vehicle” and/or “truck.” Common approaches are to reference lettering on the side indicating association with a business, or by specifying a vehicle weight (gross vehicle weight rating, or GVWR), as well as specifying overnight hours. Chief Bartorilla provided several example ordinances from the City of Philadelphia, Bristol Township, Aston Township, Haverford Township, and Ridley Township. Examples of potential violations observed in other communities were provided for discussion. Chief Bartorilla reiterated that the Police Department will not be seeking out violations, but rather responding to reports and working with violators to come into compliance.

The Commission discussed the fine associated with a violation. Mr. Valla clarified that as per the ordinance, all parking fines are \$15, though snow and ice parking violations are listed in a separate subchapter for the same amount. The Commission discussed raising all parking fines to a higher amount. Fines assessed by surrounding townships were discussed as points of reference: Bristol Township (\$25), Falls (\$15), and Lower Makefield (\$25). Discussion occurred to increase the fine to \$25 for all violations, barring further research of comparable fines.

Discussion occurred about examples of potential violations. The group expressed sentiment to not target, for example, a small sedan with business lettering (i.e. a cleaning or other professional service), as well as contractor vehicles performing construction work on a home or business during the daytime. Recreational vehicles (RV’s) should be included as violations.

Mr. Valla agreed to discuss the Citizens Traffic Commission’s feedback with the Township Solicitor and Police Department to bring a recommendation for limiting commercial vehicle parking and increasing the parking fine and follow up with the Commission by email. Mr. Valla advised the procedure for the Board of Supervisors to enact an ordinance.

7. Other Business

a. Bristol Oxford Valley Road/Trenton Road Intersection Pedestrian Improvements

Steve Gozur, Traffic Planning & Design, updated the Commission by sharing that PennDOT is upgrading the pedestrian pushbuttons at this intersection at no cost to the Township. PennDOT asked if pushbuttons that provide audible feedback for impaired or disabled pedestrians were preferred over standard pushbuttons. Consensus was in favor of the audible pushbuttons.

b. Swift/Woodbourne/Lower Silver Lake Intersection Signalization

Mr. Everett inquired about the status of the signalization of this intersection. Mr. Gozur advised that the signal is expected to go live in July. Delays in permitting and procuring signal equipment are driving the extended project timeline.

c. Langhorne-Yardley Road Traffic Improvement Project

A question was raised about the status of this project. Mr. Gozur advised that construction is anticipated to begin in 2024.

d. PennDOT Improvements to US-1

A question was raised about the status of the PennDOT improvements to US-1 and if any public meetings have been held about the project. Mr. Valla advised that the Board of Supervisors has been advocating with PennDOT for a public plans display meeting to be held so residents can provide feedback and share their concerns. PennDOT has not yet advised a date for such a meeting, but Mr. Valla shared that when one is scheduled, the Township will communicate it through its normal channels.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2023.