

## Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 • 6:30 PM • Municipal Center Rooms 220/221

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Roll Call

*MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:* Bill Everett, Chris Haughey, Jeff McCard, Rowland Myers, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Public Works Director Eric Gartenmayer, Captain Peter Feeney, Lieutenant Aileen Parker, Matt Johnston (Pennoni).

*MEMBERS AND STAFF ABSENT:* James Flynn, Sergeant Mark McLeod.

### 3. Reorganization

#### a. Appointment of Chair

Chris Haughey nominated Jeff McCard to be appointed as Chair of the Citizens Traffic Commission, seconded by Rowland Myers. Motion carried 4-0.

#### b. Appointment of Vice Chair

Jeff McCard nominated Bill Everett to be appointed as Vice Chair of the Citizens Traffic Commission, seconded by Chris Haughey. Motion carried 4-0.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla announced that the Board of Supervisors appointed Pennoni as the new Township Traffic Engineer and introduced Matt Johnston of Pennoni.

Members approve minutes of October 8, 2024, meeting by consensus.

### 5. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

None.

### 6. Old Business

#### a. Activity Since Last Meeting – Ordinance #24-08 updating school zones

Mr. Valla reported that the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance updating the school zones in the Township in light of Core Creek Elementary School opening, adding this gives the Police Department proper enforcement power.

**b. Fulling Mill Road PennDOT Study**

Mr. Valla reported that he recently received response from PennDOT regarding the Commission's request to conduct a study on Fulling Mill Road. They conducted a speed assessment and speed limit reduction evaluation as well as an assessment of turning the Ellis Road intersection into an all-way stop. PennDOT did not advise making either change, citing reasonable speeds of motorists and no significant accident history. PennDOT advised that the Township may add more signage to the area at its discretion, which is being evaluated further by Mr. Gartenmayer. The resident was notified of these results. No further action was recommended.

**c. Maple Point Drive – Stop Sign Request**

Mr. Valla shared that a study was in progress at the time of the October meeting. Captain Feeney reported that he did not have the results in-hand, but that the results did not show any concern, adding that the data was consistent with studies previously conducted here. No further action was recommended.

**d. Summit Trace Road**

Mr. Valla shared that he received a memorandum from the Township's former traffic engineer, TPD, of a speed study conducted in early October, which showed an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of speed of 32 MPH and 33 MPH traveling eastbound and westbound, respectively, with average daily traffic volume of 910 vehicles. There were no reportable crashes in the past five years.

Additionally, Mr. Valla added that the memorandum estimated the addition of sidewalks on Summit Trace Road would cost \$500,000 to construct, plus the cost of acquiring right-of-way. The Commission previously discussed a possible line painting solution, similar to what was implemented in Snowball Gate, which would cost approximately \$10,000. The Commission discussed this alternative, expressing concern about giving pedestrians a false sense of security walking on the roadway, as well as concern with instituting a traffic calming solution in a location where it is not warranted and for an alternative purpose. The Commission agreed that the line painting solution would not be appropriate.

Ms. Pascali thanked the Commission for their thorough evaluation of her concerns. She asked about how to further efforts to add sidewalks in this neighborhood. Mr. Valla added that it would certainly be evaluated if any land development applications were submitted in this area. Alternatively, he said the Township would look to pursue grant funding for this, but noted secondary issues such as property owners being tasked with maintenance as well as the need and cost of acquiring right-of-way from property owners. He advised advocating with the Board of Supervisors during the budget process.

Ms. Pascali also inquired about the addition of a right-turn lane between Doublewoods Road and the Newtown Bypass (SR 332) on Summit Trace Road. Mr. Valla shared that this entire area, including Doublewoods Road, is Newtown Township. He added that it is his understanding that Newtown Township is preparing information for PennDOT review. He advised his counterparts in Newtown Township to keep him abreast of any updates.

No further action was recommended.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Poplar Street – Traffic Calming**

Mr. Valla stated he received a complaint from a resident in the Parkland section of the Township complaining about speed and ATVs on Poplar Street, requesting speed humps. He advised the resident that ATVs are a police matter and not relevant to traffic calming. He never heard back from the resident when he requested additional information. The Commission agreed that the narrow configuration of the road, coupled with parked cars, made speeding unlikely. No further action was recommended.

### **b. Sturbridge – Traffic Calming**

Mr. Valla shared he received a concern from a resident in the Sturbridge neighborhood behind St. Mary Rehabilitation. The resident complained about speeding on Alberts Way near David Drive, as well as visibility concerns. The Commission agreed that speeding was very unlikely on this section of Alberts Way, and that there is a small plot of Township-owned open space that should not cause visibility concerns. No further action was recommended.

### **c. The Villas of Middletown – Traffic Calming**

Mr. Valla shared he received a complaint from a resident of the Villas of Middletown neighborhood, a dense condominium neighborhood near Veterans Highway and Trenton Road. The resident complained of speeding and sidewalks blocked by vehicles. Mr. Valla advised the resident that the short streets and high volume of parked cars would not produce warrants for traffic calming, but the resident insisted on further investigation. The Commission agreed with Mr. Valla's assessment. No further action was recommended.

### **d. Tulip Tree Road/Twin Oak Drive – Stop Sign Request**

Mr. Valla shared that a resident requested a stop sign on Tulip Tree Road at Twin Oak Drive. Currently, there are stop signs on both approaches of Twin Oak Drive at this intersection. Tulip Tree Road, which dead-ends into Twin Oak Drive, does not have a stop sign. Captain Feeney shared that while the conditions are unusual, right-of-way is clear. He offered to evaluate crash history at this intersection at the April meeting.

### **e. Brownsville Road Bridge Replacement and Detour Plan**

Mr. Valla shared that PennDOT recently awarded a construction contract to replace the Brownsville Road bridge over the Neshaminy Creek. He shared that in a recent meeting with State Senator Farry, PennDOT, the contractor, and officials from Lower Southampton Township and Northampton Township, PennDOT is looking to modify the original traffic control plan in an effort to reduce the construction time down by 12 months and the project cost down by up to \$1.5 million.

He added that the original traffic control plan provided a temporary traffic signal directing traffic in one-way alternating flows across the bridge throughout construction. This recently shifted to a complete closure of the bridge, with traffic to be detoured from Brownsville Road at Old Lincoln Highway to Maple Avenue (SR-213), past the Bridgetown Pike roundabout in

Lower Southampton Township, to Bristol Road. Mr. Valla shared that there was support for this change, but that there was some concern for the potential of traffic calming impacts on adjacent Township streets during construction. With construction set to begin in April, he raised the matter for the Commission to evaluate temporary measures. The Commission agreed the some impact is inevitable, but to further evaluate once construction begins and residents provide feedback. Construction is now expected to span 18 months, until November 2026.

Mr. Everett asked how the public will be notified of this change. Mr. Valla responded by saying PennDOT is developing information now and expects a public meeting to be held at Neshaminy High School in the near future. State elected officials and the Township will re-share PennDOT's information once available.

## **8. Other Business**

### **a. Break Retarders**

Eric Gartenmayer asked about the status of break retarders. Mr. Valla shared that Township Solicitor advised against a Township-wide restriction of break retarders. The Commission previously opted to hold off on implementing restrictions on Woodbourne Road, that PennDOT has deemed permissible, since there was only one resident who inquired one time about it.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.