

Citizens Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 • 7:00 PM • Middletown Municipal Center Rooms 220/221

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Haughey, Sally Miller, Jeff McCard, Assistant Township Manager Nick Valla, Captain Peter Feeney, Sergeant Mark McLeod, Officer Michael Stum, Public Works Superintendent Eric Gartenmayer, Bill Zadrovicz (Traffic Planning & Design).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristi Ann Morris, Mathew Tharakan.

3. Approval of Minutes

Members approve minutes of July 13, 2021 meeting by consensus.

4. Old Business

a. Activity since last meeting

i. Highland Park Traffic Meeting 08/31/21

Assistant Township Manager Valla reported that a hybrid public meeting was held on August 31, 2021, for residents of Highland Park to voice their concerns about existing traffic issues in the development. Members of the Citizens Traffic Commission (CTC), the Middletown Township Police Department, and Supervisors Tom Tosti and Dawn Quirple were present for the meeting. Approximately 120 residents participated in-person or virtually. Traffic Planning & Design is consolidating the feedback from the meeting and working on a series of traffic calming recommendations to tentatively be presented to the CTC in January.

ii. Parkvale Avenue

A speeding concern on Parkvale (north of the Superhighway) was first reported to the CTC in July 2021. A speed study is pending from the Police Department.

iii. Georgetown (Hampton Drive between Branford Way and Shelton Lane)

A speed study on Hampton Drive in the Georgetown Development was completed in early October. It showed an 85th percentile of speed at 29 MPH, which does not meet the standard for traffic calming. No further action was recommended.

iv. S. Hawthorne Avenue

A speeding and cut-through concern was first reported to the CTC in July 2021. Since school traffic is suspected to be a major factor, the Police Department delayed the study to ensure school was in session. A speed study is pending from the Police Department. Information from past speed studies will be sent to Traffic Planning & Design.

v. No Parking on Nursery Avenue (Center St. to Bristol-Oxford Valley Road)

Officer Stum reported that he monitored the area of concern on multiple locations and noted no parking issues. Mr. Valla shared he has not heard any further concerns from the complainant. No further action was recommended.

vi. No Parking on Fawnhill Drive (Township Line Rd. to Gunning Lane)

Officer Stum reported that he monitored the area of concern on multiple locations and noted no parking issues. Members familiar with the area suspect a neighborhood dispute may be the source of the complaint. No further action was recommended.

5. New Business

a. Stop Sign Request - Parkview Avenue/Linden Avenue

Mr. Valla shared he received a complaint from a resident living on Linden Avenue about cars turning quickly off of Parkview Avenue, with the resident requesting a stop sign on Parkview. He shared with the resident that since Parkview is the through street, it typically would not warrant a stop sign in this location, but rather Linden Avenue would be the better candidate. A one-way stop on Parkview at Buttonwood Avenue currently exists.

The Police Department stated that since Parkview is a through street, the intersection with Linden is not an ideal intersection to add stop signs. It was also observed that the intersection of Parkview/Buttonwood, which currently only has one stop sign in one direction on Parkview, should be an all-way stop. The Police advised that the arrangement of stop signs at this intersection is unusual and should be changed.

The CTC agreed that the intersection of Parkview and Buttonwood should be changed to an all-way stop. Mr. Valla advised that he will take this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend the proper ordinance.

b. Lower Orchard Drive

Mr. Valla shared that he received a complaint from a resident with speeding concerns on Lower Orchard Drive. She reported that the afternoon hours of 3 PM to 6 PM are when the issue is most prevalent.

The Police Department felt that due to the windiness of most of Lower Orchard Drive, it is highly unlikely speeds will meet the threshold to warrant traffic calming. No further action was recommended.

c. Highland Gate Cut-Through Traffic - Paxson/Briggs

Mr. Valla received a complaint from a resident on Langhorne-Yardley Road who lives near the Highland Gate development. She reported that traffic cuts through the development and past her home whenever the Langhorne-Yardley Road/Woodbourne Road intersection is backed up, as well as during pick-up and drop-off times for Maple Point Middle School.

Mr. Zadrovicz stated that the issues at Langhorne-Yardley Road/Woodbourne Road causing some congestion should be resolved with the impending improvement project.

Captain Feeney added that he spoke with this resident last year about the same issue, and that past studies have found no significant issues. No further action was recommended.

d. Terrace Road Parking near Pearl Buck Elementary School

Mr. Valla shared a resident of Twin Oaks living near Pearl Buck Elementary School complained of congestion near the school made worse by parked cars on Terrace Road. She is requesting no parking zones be considered to improve the flow of traffic and turning ability for busses.

The Police Department shared that this issue had been investigated in the past and did not find a significant issue outside of the brief window of school pick-up and drop-off times.

Others shared that the uncertain future of the Elementary School is even more reason not to implement any significant changes to the neighborhood. No further action was recommended.

e. Periwinkle Avenue

Mr. Valla stated a resident of Periwinkle Avenue complained of speeding and ignoring the stop sign at Periwinkle and Clover Drive. The resident stated the morning and afternoon rush hours, as well as all day on Saturdays were when this issue occurred the most.

The Police Department stated that stop sign on Clover is about half-way on the length of Periwinkle, and that the resident's concerns are primarily enforcement issues. The Police agreed to monitor the area but did not feel a speed study was necessary. No further action was recommended.

f. Bus Stops in Snowball Gate

Mr. Valla shared he received a call from a resident in Snowball Gate concerned about the lack of posted school bus stops along Snowball Drive. Mr. Valla shared with her that the Neshaminy School District determines the location of bus stops and modifies them without notice to the Township, with the added concern of needing to replicate any improvements in Snowball Gate to other neighborhoods, which is why bus stops typically do not have posted signage. He also informed the resident that line painting along Snowball Drive warranted by a previous traffic calming effort was being completed this week. He reported the resident was please to hear of the line painting project and agreed to report back if issues persisted. No further action was recommended.

6. Open Floor

a. South Flowers Mill Railroad Bridge

A concern was raised about the low-clearance railroad bridge on South Flowers Mill and the number of traffic accidents with large vehicles it causes. Mr. Gartenmayer stated he is working with SEPTA to improve signage and visibility on and around the bridge. He added that SEPTA has been difficult to work with on this issue. Others shared that some commercial trucking GPS systems do not recognize South Flowers Mill as having clearance issues.

The Police Department suggested adding a mast arm in some directions of traffic heading to South Flowers Mill from Business Route 1 to alert drivers. They also added a “no trucks” ordinance could be passed for the road.

b. Langhorne-Yardley Road/Maple Point Crossings

Mr. McCard asked about the status of the Langhorne-Yardley Road crossings near Maple Point Middle School, similar to the one completed by Walnut Way.

Mr. Gartenmayer shared that a sidewalk connecting Walnut Way to Maple Point Drive has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and will be under construction soon.

Mr. Valla shared that a grant to add pedestrian signals at Briggs Road and Maple Point Drive has been applied to and will hopefully be completed in 2022.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2022.