

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Nicholas Imbesi; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Karen Livingood, Resident
Roy Kissinger, St. James Church

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment

Roy Kissinger requested consideration be given to allow a temporary loading zone parking space behind St. James Church on Cherry Street during the timeframe of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday evenings to load and unload items for their food ministry.

The Committee will make a recommendation to Council to designate a temporary loading zone parking space as requested.

Mr. Kissinger also provided a copy of the Berks County Planning Commission's 1975 parking study for the retail district of the Borough of West Reading and noted prior to the prohibition of turning on red at the 7th and Penn Avenue intersection there were additional parking spaces within the blocks north and south of the intersection. Mr. Kissinger requested review of these parking spaces to potentially add parking to these areas.

Committee members will obtain measurements to determine feasibility of adding parking spaces as requested.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of Wednesday, February 13, 2019 by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Penn Avenue Parking – Mark Ratcliffe provided a list of costs and steps needed to implement paid parking within the Shopping Center parking lot. The numbering of spaces and stenciling of the 30-minute parking zones will be completed during an evening when the temperature allows. Locations of wayfinding signage will be provided on an aerial map. The seven existing handicapped parking spaces located in various sections of the parking lot meets the minimum requirement of accessible spaces, however it was requested to review the current usage of these spaces to potentially provide a more accommodating layout.

Mr. Ratcliffe departed the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Green Light-Go Grant – Telco has begun making improvements to the Penn Avenue traffic signals.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – The engineer has submitted the parking stall line spacing plan to PennDOT.

Museum Road Paving Project – Paving should commence by mid-April, notification will be provided to residents located within the vicinity of this project. Committee members discussed various options to utilize the budgeted savings, such as the 400 block of Grape Street or the remaining portion of Parkside

Drive North. Review of budgeted costs for the remaining 2019 budgeted infrastructure projects is needed prior to making a decision.

2nd & Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing – A letter to PennDOT is needed along with an aerial plan denoting the proposed signage types and locations. Installation of the fluorescent green/yellow signage was discussed as a more visible option.

Berks Catholic School Bus Routing – A representative of the school sent a request to the busing company to utilize 5th and Penn Avenue as their route through the Borough. Chief Powell noted difficulty to enforce this request since they are legally operating a motor vehicle on a roadway. Future complainants will be asked to identify the bus company so individual contact can be made.

Handicap Parking Space Policy – Committee members reviewed the proposed policy and revisions were discussed at length. The Committee will review the policy again prior to bringing a recommendation to Council.

New Business

Municipal Parking Lot – Mrs. Hoffman noted a recent resident conversation regarding the underutilization of this parking lot. Reasons could pertain to the lack of Penn Avenue employee use due to the 4-hour limit and awareness of the parking area to visitors.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Imbesi.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Assistant to the Borough Manager