

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Council Members Chris Lincoln and Elizabeth Heckler, Police Chief Stephen Powell, Borough Manager Rich Sichler, and Public Works Director Dean Murray. Mayor Valentin Rodriguez arrived at 6:20 p.m. Parking Enforcement Officer Jason Witman was unable to attend.

Visitors: Phil Wert

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. There was no public comment.

Mr. Murray nominated Christopher Lincoln for the position of Committee Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Sichler to appoint Chris Lincoln as Traffic Committee and Infrastructure Committee Chair. **Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Lincoln reviewed the minutes from the last Committee meeting which was November 2014.

Parking Space at Wendy's – Mr. Murray reported that a 'no parking' sign had been installed and since then, there have been no complaints.

Handicapped Parking – The space in question was requested and the sign is in place.

Franklin Street Municipal Lot – This particular lot was included in the parking study and although there is a time limit for using the lot, it cannot be enforced. This will be discussed further as part of the parking study review which will begin at the July meeting. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to make a recommendation to Council concerning parking in the Borough, however a fiscal analysis would be necessary before any substantial steps can be taken such as meters or a parking garage.

Permit Parking – Mr. Wert reiterated what was stated at the November meeting concerning PennDOT's stand on permit parking in the Borough. It was noted that in order to keep track of the permits (considering how many older stickers are still out there being used) the color of the stickers would have to be changed every two years, which all permit holders being notified that they must obtain a new sticker. The addition of street sweeping streets was discussed and it was noted that there have been a couple of complaints. It was noted that Mr. Witman does not ticket anyone parked on one of these streets once the sweeper has already passed.

Turn Signs at 3rd and Penn – It was noted that adding extra signage on 3rd at Penn would probably not make a difference because those who wish to turn left or go straight continue to do so regardless. Mr. Lincoln noted that the signage that exists currently may not be up to State regulations, therefore this will be investigated further. Mr. Lincoln said he could find out within the next day and let everyone know what needs to be done. **Moved** by Chief Powell and seconded by Mr. Sichler to replace the sign at 3rd and Penn if it is determined that it does not comply. **Motion carried.**

Accidents at 5th and Sunset – It was noted that signage improvements made at that location have improved the situation substantially.

NEW BUSINESS:

Buttonwood Street Bridge Closure – The following was discussed with regard to the project:

- Left turns will not be permitted from Penn Avenue westbound onto S. Third and S. Fourth Avenues.
- PennDOT had indicated that parking spaces may need to be temporarily removed to facilitate truck turning, however they have backed off for now and will monitor the situation to determine if it needs to be changed.
- R. M. Palmer has been asked to indicate their preferred route for truck traffic when the detour comes into effect because it is believed that they will be the most negatively impacted. Once Palmer's indicates their preference, the Borough will set it as the official truck route for the duration of the detour.
- It is expected that the notice to proceed will be given in June, however they must give the Borough 30 days' notice before closing the bridge.
- It was also decided that left turns from 5th to Cherry will be prohibited as well because of traffic being tied up in the intersection of 5th and Penn.
- The stop bars on 5th Avenue will need to be moved back to accommodate truck traffic.
- Resurfacing Penn Avenue and Buttonwood Streets after the project is complete was also discussed. It was felt that it would be best if Buttonwood could be scheduled for resurfacing just prior to the bridge reopening. To accomplish this, funds will have to be budgeted. Storm water issues were also discussed with regard to Buttonwood Street given that it is unable to handle the stormwater during a significant rainfall, and Mr. Wert asked if perhaps State funds might be available for such a project.

Curb Painting – Mr. Murray said that the summer employees will begin work after Memorial Day and they will be utilized to paint the curbs. New paint has been purchased which will be more durable. There is also a possibility of having volunteers through a program that the Museum will be using. He indicated that the west side of the Borough will most likely be the portion that gets curb painting this year.

Stall line painting was also discussed and it was noted that thermal plastic tape is not used because of the cost and lack of equipment to do the application.

Museum Road Bridge – Mr. Sichler said that the City had approached him about lighting on the Bridge and Mr. Sichler responded that it would be up to them considering that the bridge is theirs. There was some discussion and it was noted that the Museum originally had the bridge built in the 20's and that the Borough has never considered it their responsibility, given that the Parkview Road Bridge is solely the responsibility of the Borough. It was also noted that PennDOT considers the Museum Road Bridge to belong to the City.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant