

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chair Chris Lincoln, Borough Manager Rich Sichler, Public Works Director Dean Murray, and Parking Enforcement Officer Jason Witman.

Visitors: Kelly Thompson, Edwards Business Systems

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Kelly Thompson spoke about speeding on Cherry Street which is the alley behind Edwards Business Systems which separates their office building from their employee parking lot. She noted that although there have been no issues so far, their safety committee is being proactive and had suggested speed bumps. Mr. Lincoln noted that the Borough does not have a policy concerning speed bumps and therefore would need to have a policy in place prior to it being allowed. Pedestrian warning devices such as signage or pavement striping were also discussed. The Committee will look at this issue further and discuss potential solutions at the February meeting. Mr. Sichler will contact Mrs. Thompson after the February meeting.

Old Business

ARLE Grant Update – The grant funds awarded are not sufficient to upgrade the pedestrian crossings to ADA standards so the Committee discussed how best to proceed. There was a concern that if the grant funds are refused, it may be more difficult for the Borough to obtain a grant in the future. It was also suggested that additional funds could be sought from another source, so all options will be explored. Mr. Sichler will contact PennDOT concerning the grant.

Permit Parking – Mr. Sichler had provided information concerning permit parking in the past however no decision has yet been made. Mr. Lincoln indicated that the issue needs to be addressed in an ordinance, therefore the Committee will review it again at the February meeting

Electronic Parking Enforcement – Mr. Witman stated that the necessary paperwork has been submitted concerning the new equipment and United Public Safety is scheduled to provide training on February 2nd.

Delaney Circle Signing – Mr. Murray stated that all of the signage that was previously discussed for the traffic circle, including the advance warning signs, have been installed.

N. 6th Avenue Alley – This alley was briefly discussed at the November meeting and it was noted that it would be a costly project to complete. Given that there has been only one complaint in this regard, it will not be discussed further.

School Zone Signage – S. 4th Avenue – School Zone signs for the streets leading to the 4th and Chestnut intersection was discussed. Mr. Murray indicated that there are signs in place currently. Mr. Sichler said he spoke with the Borough Engineer about it as well who indicated that if the Borough wishes to reduce the speed limit in that area, PennDOT will become involved.

Also discussed was a request to make the alley crossing immediately behind the school, at Grape and 4th, safer for children. It was suggested that a stop sign can be added (if there currently is not one) as well as crosswalk striping, and a stop bar for vehicles. Mr. Murray will work on this project.

Parking Signage/Stall Lines – 700 Block of Penn Avenue – Stall lines and signage needs to be added to the area that was a former bus stop. This will be completed in the spring.

New Business

Penn Avenue Loading Zone – A loading zone was requested from the owner of Ady Cakes on Penn Avenue. Borough ordinances currently do not address the criteria for loading zones therefore language will need to be drafted in this regard. It was also noted that only three loading zones exist in the Borough. There was much concern that if loading zones are permitted on Penn Avenue, it will become a problem. Mrs. Hoffman will gather information concerning loading zones for discussion at the February meeting.

Buttonwood Bridge Detour Issues – Traffic issues as a result of the detour were discussed. It was noted that County Transportation officials had recently met with Penn Avenue merchants at their West Reading Business Promotion meeting. PennDOT has proposed that two seconds be added to the east/west traffic signal timing in order to help with the large volume of traffic on Penn Avenue. Other suggestions have been made, but PennDOT is unwilling to approve them.

Also discussed:

- The school flasher on Reading Avenue, behind the Rite-Aid building is in need of repair.
- A formal list of alleys and streets needs to be written, including the differences between the two.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant