

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

AUGUST 9, 2023

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Officer-in-Charge Chad Marks; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Chairman Christopher Lincoln was unable to attend.

Visitors:

Karen Livingood, Resident
Kristal Hummel, Resident

James Rogers, Resident
Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents

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

Public Comment

Ms. Hummel spoke of repeated trash truck damage to a family member's garage on the 200 block of Olive Street and requested consideration to limit the direction of travel on Juniata Street to avoid future damage. The recommended direction of travel was from Buttonwood Street. Mr. Murray suggested that Ms. Hummel petition the properties that abut Juniata Street while the Borough reviews the area for a change in direction which would require the approval of Borough Council and an advertisement of an ordinance amendment.

Mr. Rogers inquired about the flashing lights affixed to the new stop signs approaching Delaney Circle. Mr. Grassley indicated that the flashing lights will be removed soon.

Mr. Rogers then inquired as to additional no parking signage on the south side of the 700 block of Court Street. Mr. Grassley indicated that permission is needed from private property owners to affix a sign to their building.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to plans for the unnamed alley near Olive Street that is approximately ten feet wide with a chain link fence buried in vegetative growth near the center of the "alley". Mr. Kaag indicated that the Borough is working with the Borough Solicitor to determine the best approach. Mr. Rogers noted a similar scenario where there are curb cuts on both sides of the 600 block of Franklin and Cherry Streets that is currently used as a municipal parking lot and a dispute from the neighboring auto repair business owner of a previous commonality that has somehow disappeared. Mr. Rogers feels the auto repair business owners' point is valid based on the curb cuts. Mr. Grassley noted the county parcel assessment information associated with this land.

Mrs. Witmyer shared her confusion of the recent street activity near her home and requested some sort of advance notification to residents in the future if possible. Mr. Murray reported that a property that had not been connected to the public sewer system was transferring ownership which required the connection to be made. Mr. Grassley shared the unusual circumstance of a boulder that caused the line to move roughly three feet from the documented placement. Generally, this type of work would be limited to one day upon private property and would not require opening of the street. The Witmyer's noted the steel plate that remains and the noise caused by traffic. The contractor will be requested to fill the opening and cold patch until the appropriate time has passed to allow settling and permanent restoration.

Mr. Rogers attested to deviations to lateral locations recounting his connection along Fifth Avenue that was to be in line with the front door that was located eight feet away in line with the party wall.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of July 12, 2023. **Moved** by Mayor Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Motorcycle Parking & Permitting – Sergeant Marks noted results from his research of motorcycle parking regulations and the state statutes that allow a motorcycle to use an entire parking space and the inability to supersede state law. Mr. Kaag noted a conversation with Mr. Lincoln and the question of allowing a motorcycle to share a parking space with a motor vehicle. Sergeant Marks indicated that the number of motorcycles per space cannot be regulated if they fit within the limits of the parking stall, and the ambiguity on the aspect of a motorcycle sharing a space with a motor vehicle within state law. He personally felt that if this could be accomplished safely, he would not see an issue.

Sergeant Marks believes that motorcycles should be required to obtain parking permits. The question arose as to where to require placement of the parking permit on a motorcycle. Sergeant Marks wishes, for liability purposes, to avoid the need for parking enforcement personnel to search for the parking tag by handling covers. Mr. Grassley asked if an ordinance could be established prohibiting the covering of any type of vehicle parked on a public street. Sergeant Marks indicated that this would fall under the realm of storage, and he would need to research state law. The type of permit tag would need to be altered from a cling style that is used inside a vehicle to a sticker. Sergeant Marks will continue his review for further discussion next month.

Lofts at Narrow Elm Street Intersection – Mr. Murray shared highlights of his communication with the owner of the Lofts at Narrow property to allow access from his parking lot onto Elm Street with the installation of a stop sign. The owner appreciated the opportunity to install a stop sign to maintain this access. Mr. Grassley suggested the speed of vehicles exiting the Lofts at Narrow property onto Elm Street be monitored to potentially recommend the installation of a speed bump to slow traffic.

Trash / Recycling / Landfill Requests for Proposal – Mr. Kaag noted last month's discussions that resulted in retaining the existing twice per week trash and once per week recycle collection with a ticket type bulk item collection. The options of additional services provided by the Borough to collect yard waste will be explored separately.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve the advertisement of a Request for Proposal of Solid Waste, Bulk Items, and Recyclable Materials with four options to retain existing services. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Mayor Kaag thanked Mr. Grassley for his efforts during the recent road paving projects and for keeping residents informed.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary