

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

DECEMBER 13, 2023

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:

Karen Livingood, Resident

Kathryn Uhler, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment

Mrs. Livingood shared a story from 1980 where the fire company and recreation board coordinated efforts to place a heavy-duty tarp near the Bicentennial House, noting that the fire company was located on Franklin Street at that time, to create an ice-skating rink and to enjoy hot chocolate served from the Bicentennial House. Unfortunately, the tarp had been vandalized before anyone could enjoy these preparations. Mrs. Livingood thanked Borough Council and the Public Works Department for their efforts in improving the interior of the Bicentennial House and hopes that coordinated events may take place there in the future. Mr. Grassley shared thoughts of expanding the amenities at the Bicentennial House to include a pavilion or outdoor gathering area.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of November 8, 2023. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Lofts at Narrow Elm Street Intersection – Mr. Lincoln recapped the coordination of efforts between the Borough and owner of the Lofts at Narrow property to improve the safety of children at play where the Lofts at Narrow property accesses Elm Street. Mr. Grassley reported that the speed bump was recently installed on private property in conjunction with a stop sign.

One-Way Streets – Mr. Lincoln recapped a report received from PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) that reviewed proposed one-way travel on Holland Square as requested by a resident, and Juniata Street where a structure has been damaged multiple times. Field observations were found to warrant the establishment of one-way operations on both Holland Square and Juniata Street.

Ordinance updates would be needed for one-way streets and stop intersections. It was thought that a request to Borough Council to advertise the proposed amendments could be completed in conjunction with notifying the residents that reside along both roadways. The report recommended coordinating with the Borough of Wyomissing for their portion of Holland Square. Mr. Murray reported that he shared the report with the Borough of Wyomissing for their consideration.

Ms. Uhler joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve the implementation of one-way operations on Holland Square and Juniata Street. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

North Sixth & Reading Avenues Intersection – Mr. Grassley reported that batteries needed to be replaced in the radar speed sign to collect data. Chief Tornielli will provide information gathered from the eastbound direction of travel within the 600 block of Reading Avenue next month.

New Business

Accessible Parking Space Applications – Mr. Lincoln noted the receipt of two applications, one of which would relocate an existing space within the 400 block of Chestnut Street and the other would add a space within the 300 block of Linden Lane. It was noted that there currently are no handicapped space designations on Linden Lane that would support a total of four spaces. Mr. Grassley indicated, based on the Mayor's emergency declaration, that a PA 1 Call has been placed and he can install a sign as early as tomorrow. Chief Tornielli indicated that enforcement of the space can be cited through the state vehicle code until the adoption of an ordinance amendment.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve the two noted accessible parking space applications. **Moved** by Mayor Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Ms. Uhler indicated that parking is tricky around her home at Franklin and Obold Streets and requested consideration to designate assignment of parking spaces to the front of individual residences. Mr. Lincoln shared plans to perform a borough-wide permit parking study to possibly implement a restriction on the number of free parking permits per household to encourage shared use of this public amenity. Hopefully recommendations from a study will relieve these stresses that are borough wide. It was noted that the school district allows residents to park on their lot located on Obold Street when school is not in session.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary