

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

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Mayor Samantha Kaag was unable to attend.

### **Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident

Philip & Bonnie Cambria, Residents

Paul & Melissa Heiser, Residents

Brian Swearingen, Tower Health System Director

James Rogers, Resident

Robert & Nathalie Kulesa, Residents

Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Cambria expressed her opinion on the recent parking restriction that prohibits parking at all times within Plane Alley, and requested consideration of modifying the restriction to accommodate residents that need additional parking due to street sweeping, trash collection, and permit parking restrictions in the vicinity of Sycamore Road. Mr. Cambria provided a drawing of the 20' wide alley and noted the average width of a commercial vehicle of 8.5 feet and a passenger vehicle of 6 feet. It was recommended to allow parking along the southern side of Plane Alley (near Sycamore Road). Mr. Murray noted issues accessing driveways due to vehicles that are parked across from driveways. It was recommended to create off-street parking.

Mrs. Witmyer shared her continued concern of pedestrian safety crossing Delaney Circle. Mr. Lincoln stated in the spring the travel lane will be minimized in an attempt to slow traffic. Chief Tornielli indicated an increase in enforcement details in that vicinity. Mr. Heiser shared two instances where he witnessed vehicles traveling in the wrong direction within the traffic circle.

Mrs. Kulesa inquired as to a Pocket Park discussion on Sunset Road that is not on the agenda tonight. Mr. Lincoln noted a discussion held in the past that in theory may be a good idea but for safety reasons he is not in favor of expanding the area. This committee does not intend to review this concept any further unless Borough Council requests a review and comment. It was recommended that Mrs. Kulesa share her thoughts with the Environmental Advisory Council who have had recent discussions on this topic.

Mr. Rogers shared his concern again of the allowance of parking within the 500 block of Grape Street and the ability of a fire truck to navigate this roadway and gain access to certain homes within the 500 block of Franklin and Chestnut Streets that are blocked by garage structures.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of January 10, 2024. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

**South Seventh Avenue Pharmacy Parking** – Mr. Swearingen respectfully requested consideration of establishing two or three short-term pick-up or drop-off parking spaces adjacent to the retail pharmacy

located on South Seventh Avenue. Mr. Lincoln noted similar noteworthy requests that if granted would pose an influx of requests. A policy would need to be established to determine the types of businesses and location of spaces that would warrant the creation of short-term parking spaces. Mr. Swearingen requested consideration of establishing short-term parking without a reference to the pharmacy and was open to shifting existing time limit spaces to the vicinity of the pharmacy entrance. Mr. Lincoln requested contact information to communicate recommendations following a review of the existing conditions and ordinance regulations. Mr. Lincoln also noted the difficulty in enforcing short-term parking and the likelihood of needing to request enforcement. The committee was requested to bring policy recommendations next month that would avoid discrimination against business types.

**Fifth Avenue and Franklin Street No Parking Zone** – Chief Tornielli noted several ticketed violations at the southeast corner on Franklin Street near Fifth Avenue. The area is properly signed but striping was requested similar to that of the North Sixth and Reading Avenues intersection. It was noted that the North Sixth Avenue intersection poses a line-of-sight issue without a traffic signal. Guidelines and identification of locations in need of striping were requested to avoid heavily striping every corner in the borough.

### **Old Business**

**North Sixth and Reading Avenue Radar Sign Data** – Difficulties were experienced again in obtaining data based on battery life issues resulting from temperatures and volume of traffic triggering the LED display. The option of solar power is being reviewed as well as an update of the software. Mr. Lincoln requested to obtain data only for the first two weeks to understand existing conditions prior to displaying speed warnings.

**Delaney Circle** – Mr. Lincoln shared plans to remove crosswalks through the circle to Delaney's memorial and plans to coordinate with the family to relocate these items to a more appropriate location in the park area. Mr. Grassley spoke with New Castle Lawn and Landscape who agreed to create an appropriate landscape design.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Tornielli.

**Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary