

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln, Public Works Director Dean Murray, Council Member Nicholas Imbesi, Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira. Police Chief Stephen Powell was unable to attend.

Visitors:           James T. Rogers, Resident  
                  Amber Rambo, Resident  
                  Daniel Phillips, Resident  
                  Jeff Reiff, Resident/Business Owner  
                  Ellen Smith, Wyomissing/West Reading Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Reiff shared photos with the committee of an area adjacent to the Municipal Parking Lot located within the 600 block of Franklin Street to inquire as to his use of or possible purchase of what he believes to be a ghost alley to provide parking for his auto mechanic business along Cherry Street. The Berks County parcel map illustrates this area as currently being owned by 21 and 23 South Seventh Avenue. Mr. Imbesi will research deeds for these parcels and report his findings to Mr. Reiff.

Ms. Smith resides along the West side of Lakeview Drive, whose property is located primarily within the Borough of Wyomissing, requested the Borough of West Reading to install eight handicap ramps along Lakeview Drive between Franklin Street and Wayne Avenue to allow her to navigate the area with her scooter. Mr. Lincoln noted for budgetary reasons the need to prioritize installation of ADA compliant ramps and this area would be noted as a high priority. Mr. Murray will review remaining funds within the 2017 budget that may be available to install one ramp on the West side of Holland Square. Ms. Smith also noted the large tree located at the alley behind her home and Lakeview Drive, which has begun lifting the sidewalk and leaning towards her home. Mr. Murray will assess the area tomorrow as the Public Works Department is currently in the process of trimming and removing trees. Ms. Smith also noted that she is currently working with the Borough of Wyomissing to obtain permission to install a handicap ramp to her home. A small portion of this ramp may be located within the Borough of West Reading and inquired as to permit requirements. The committee felt it would be unnecessary to acquire a permit as long as the Borough of Wyomissing approves the plan.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the lack of crosswalks within the traffic circle at North Fifth Avenue and safety concerns for pedestrians. The Mayor noted his initiative to obtain free crosswalk signs, which were installed per PennDOT guidelines with the assistance of the Police Chief.

Mr. Phillips requested permit parking for the 100 block of South Fourth Avenue due to school staff using on street parking as opposed to their parking facilities. The committee will review the potential to require permit parking along one side of a street due to the area in front of the school being reserved for school bus parking.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic Committee minutes of Wednesday, September 13, 2017 by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Parking Study** – Mr. Lincoln reported a meeting that was held with Walker Parking Consultants regarding their updated study of Task 1: Review and Update 2015 Supply/Demand Findings performed at the end of August. A summarized report of their findings should be available for the November meeting, which will include parking meter options. The Mayor noted a discussion with the owner of Gage Personnel who did not oppose the use of their parking lot during non-business hours.

**Green Light-Go Grant** – Grant documents have been returned and will be discussed with the Engineer regarding how to proceed.

**8<sup>th</sup> & Penn Traffic Signal Maintenance Responsibility** – The Borough of Wyomissing also received a Green Light-Go Grant, which would potentially unify this signal with West Reading's and add a camera to this intersection.

**7<sup>th</sup> & Walnut Intersection** – The committee agreed to request Dr. Kimball, Mr. Gage and the Engineer to attend next month's meeting to discuss options for installation of stop signs and crosswalks to this intersection.

**Permit Parking** – Mr. Lincoln expressed the need to set a policy for areas where permit parking would be allowed, such as in the vicinity of institutions. Research of other municipalities' regulations and the potential to include one side of the 100 block of South Fourth Avenue as a permit parking area to be discussed next month.

### **New Business**

**DOB Signage** – Mr. Murray noted minimal replacement of 20-minute parking signage by the hospital in this vicinity and inquired as to increasing the limit to one-hour. Questions regarding current enforcement of this time frame as well as studying parking habits would be needed.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Murray. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Madeira  
Assistant to the Manager