

The regular meeting of the **TRAFFIC CALMING COMMITTEE** for September 2020 was held tonight via Zoom Web-Conference. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Ann Rappoport, Jesse Tyler, Jeff Krysztoforski, Barbara Granger, Trevor Woodward, Denise Rolfe, Denise Wolf, and Mirka Augustine. Staff present: Ashley Lupino, Executive Assistant. Guests present: Ami Profeta and Jason Sladinski.

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Brockington called the first meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee to order at 7:31 p.m.
2. **Introductions** – Mr. Brockington introduced himself to the Committee and stated that he is Commissioner for Ward 7, as well as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Brockington then asked for the members to introduce themselves and what Ward they represent:
 - Jeff Krysztoforski, representing Ward 1
 - Barbara Granger, representing Ward 2
 - Trevor Woodward, representing Ward 3
 - Denise Wolf, representing Ward 6
 - Mirka Augustine, representing Ward 2 as an alternate
3. **Holistic Approach to Township Wide Traffic Calming** – Mr. Brockington explained that the definition of holistic, talks about treating the whole person; this Committee is not just about treating a street, but the Township as a whole. It will look at everything holistically and what is best for the Township as a whole.
4. **The Role of the Police Department on this Committee** – Mr. Brockington asked Sergeant Jesse Tyler to explain the Cheltenham Police Department’s role on this Committee. Sergeant Tyler explained that the Traffic Calming Policy (see attached) was written as though the Police Department will participate in the entire process. It is the decision of the Committee as to what streets would be looked at for Traffic Calming. The Police Department wants to be as impartial as possible and their vision is that once the initial streets are chosen for possible traffic calming measures, the Committee will turn them over to Chief Frye who will have his unit take a comprehensive look at the street in question, as well as cross streets and surrounding streets. In the policy as written, there are different criteria for each street. The Department will use the data available as well as fresh data collected on the streets. One of the first things looked at are the dangerous safety factors, such as crashes, number of cars, speed of vehicles and sight distance issues.

Ami Profeta, 8207 Forest Avenue, Elkins Park, PA, expressed concerns about speeding on his street. Sergeant Tyler stated that once the Committee starts taking requests for evaluation, it could look at Forest Avenue; it is not a point at where it can take individual issues or complaints. They must be submitted through the Committee first. Mr. Brockington said that he will have Chief Frye look into this block.

Mr. Sladinski clarified Mr. Profeta’s concerns. There is no stop sign between Old York Road and Township Line Road, giving drivers free reign to accelerate all the way up the street. Mr. Sladinski asked Sergeant Tyler if the radar data collection was solely for Cheltenham. Sergeant Tyler said yes, the data is for Cheltenham. Mr. Sladinski also expressed concerns about children on their street and speeding cars. Sergeant Tyler said residents can petition for their streets if they feel their children are in danger.

Ms. Granger thanked Sergeant Tyler for participating on this Committee and wants to learn about all of the different data that is collected.

Ms. Rappoport suggested using this issue on Forest Avenue as the Committee’s first case study. Sergeant Tyler agreed, asking that the residents of that area begin with their petition and present it to the Committee.

Sergeant Tyler read the following from the Traffic Calming Policy:

The following three (3) steps are followed throughout the Traffic Calming Program:

1. **Petition / Traffic Studies / Plan:** *Upon initial contact made by a resident or property owner inquiring about traffic calming in their neighborhood, Township staff and/or TAC will discuss the program procedures and petition requirements. Information and forms will be shared. The property owner(s) will be required to submit a Traffic Calming Inquiry form through Cheltenham Township. Alternatively, this Traffic Calming Inquiry form may also be obtained from the Township Administration Building and returned to the Township Manager. Typically a resident will have concerns with traffic problems on one specific roadway section. However, if the implementation of traffic calming on one roadway section may transfer the problems to a parallel local roadway, the affected neighborhood area shall be addressed as a whole. This affected neighborhood area is called the generally affected area and will be determined by the TAC, taking into consideration the natural, constructed, and traffic boundaries of an area... the petition will have to represent a minimum of 70% of the specifically affected property owners. After the petition has been received, the TAC will schedule traffic studies on the critical roadways. The TAC will analyze the traffic data and evaluate it based upon the criteria and point system. The TAC will develop a proposed traffic calming plan.*
2. **Public Meeting**
3. **Vote & Implementation**

Mr. Sladinski asked about the timeline for implementation once an issue has been approved by the Committee. Sergeant Tyler stated that a lot of it would be based on the manpower available and working around other issues within the Department.

Ms. Rappoport asked if the inquiry forms could be made available to the public. Mr. Brockington said he will take care of it. Ms. Rappoport also asked if the 70% number referred to in the Traffic Calming Policy is of the households or legal property owners. Sergeant Tyler stated that it refers to the affected property owners. Lastly, Ms. Rappoport asked if a speed sign can be placed on a street experiencing a lot of speeding. Sergeant Tyler stated that it can be done and that he has no issues putting one on Forest Avenue to try to reduce speeding.

Ms. Wolf asked Sergeant Tyler why someone would oppose traffic calming measures, as this may be helpful in understanding barriers to the Committee's work. Sergeant Tyler stated that he has not heard anyone say they are against this.

5. **Eligible Streets** – Mr. Brockington said eligible streets are those that are owned by the Township, which is stated in the policy. The Township cannot implement traffic calming measures on State or County owned roads, but could possibly write a letter to State Representatives if an issue is identified on one of those roads. Ms. Granger said that she is excited to begin this process and it will be a long, hard battle. She has done a lot of research about battling traffic issues and will share what she learns along the way. Ms. Rappoport shared a link to the Township website in the meeting chat where the Committee can identify State and County owned roads: <https://cheltenham.municipalcms.com/pview.aspx?id=34869&catid=29>. Township roads are those not listed on the webpage.
6. **How We Directly Affect Driver Behavior** – Mr. Brockington asked what this Committee can do to affect driver's behavior.

Ms. Augustine suggested traffic calming devices. Mr. Brockington asked if a stop sign would affect someone's driving behavior. Ms. Augustine said it could - depending on the person, where the stop sign is located, and how it affects their pattern of behavior.

Sergeant Tyler stated that you may never affect a driver's behavior; it is a mental thing with that person. Mr. Brockington asked if you get a ticket, you pay the ticket or do you fight it and have it

thrown out. Sergeant Tyler stated that he has heard that you might do fairly well if you fight the ticket. Mr. Brockington said that in his opinion could change behavior if you have to pay the ticket, even after fighting it.

Mr. Krysztoforski stated that he has seen it all when it comes to driver behavior and it is what it is; it's hard to grasp what could change their behavior.

Mr. Sladinski asked about the local use of radar for speed detection. Sergeant Tyler stated that Senate Bill 607 is waiting on one final vote. This is the closest the state has ever been to passing it, but he does not know what is holding it up. Mr. Brockington said this is one thing that will definitely affect driver behavior.

Ms. Granger stated that we need a sign coming into the Township to let people know that we are a Township of residents and would appreciate drivers' respect when driving through our community.

Mr. Brockington said he will work with the Township to help develop the inquiry form and have it put on the Township website. Mr. Brockington also stated that the Committee's first project will be Forest Avenue. He asked Mr. Sladinski to have his street begin to put a petition together.

Ms. Rappoport introduced Denise Rolfe, who represents Ward 4.

7. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee is scheduled for December 8, 2020 via Zoom.
8. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Ashley Lupino
Executive Assistant