

The regular meeting of the **TRAFFIC CALMING COMMITTEE** for December 2020 was held tonight via Zoom Web-Conference. Members in attendance were: Irv Brockington, Ann Rappoport, Jesse Tyler, Brooke Welsh, Chris Kelly, Kia Baker, Theresa Camerota, Stephen Koniers, Barbara Granger, Trevor Woodward, Denise Rolfe, Denise Wolf, and Mirka Augustine. Staff present: Ashley Lupino, Executive Assistant. Guest presents: Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager and Emily Steinberg.

1. **Call to Order-** Mr. Brockington called the meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee to order at 7:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes-** Upon motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously approved the Traffic Calming Meeting Minutes dated September 8, 2020.
3. **Speed Cushion Presentation** – Mr. Zienkowski presented a PowerPoint explaining the affective use of speed cushions. Discussion on the speed cushions included:
 - The durability and life span.
 - Size and if it would take up a parking spot.
 - If they are more or less effective than using grooves in the road.
 - How often they can be used if they are moved and relocated to different areas.
 - How they would be spaced on the streets and roadways.
 - Proposed locations.
 - Advantages of speed cushions, including slowing traffic on residential streets and reducing motor vehicle conflicts.
 - Disadvantages of speed cushions, including increase in noise levels and drainage issues.
 - How these would affect emergency personnel in emergency situations.
 - If signs will be posted alerting drivers of the speed cushions.
 - If traffic studies will be performed before and after speed cushions are installed to gage their effectiveness.

Mr. Brockington stated that the next step is to get the other Commissioners on board with trying out the proposed test locations with the speed cushions. Then as a Committee they will work with the Police Force to see where else they can put the speed cushions to test them.

4. **Discussion on the use of Solar Stop Signs** – Mr. Zienkowski presented some ideas for proposed solar stop signs. The stop signs run about \$600 a piece and make a huge difference in high traffic areas. He proposed testing out a few locations to see how effective they are. Ms. Baker asked where the signs would face at Tookany and Jenkintown Road. Mr. Zienkowski said it would be at all four intersections. Ms. Baker also asked about Front Street and Hilldale; since there are no signs on Hilldale, would the signs be on Hilldale or Front Street. Sgt. Tyler said they would be on Front Street. Ms. Baker asked if signs could be placed on Hilldale. Sgt. Tyler stated that it would cause more speeding problems. Mr. Brockington suggested that the Committee start to develop another set of test locations that can be proposed for the solar stop signs. Mr. Brockington also asked if the stop signs could have smaller signs placed on them that say pedestrian crossing or two-way stop. Sgt. Tyler said that PennDOT has regulations in place that signs such as that cannot be placed on a stop sign.

Mr. Brockington asked the Committee members if surrounding neighbors should be notified when a solar stop sign is going to be placed on their street. The Committee members agree that it would be a good idea to notify the affected neighbors.

Mr. Pransky mentioned that in previous discussions, it was decided that a survey had to be taken of the neighbors to see if they were in favor of these proposed traffic calming measures. Mr. Brockington stated that no decisions would be made until the neighbors were notified.

5. **Discussion on the use of pavement markings** – Mr. Zienkowski stated that pavement markings are also an effective way to reduce speeding and provided a list of proposed locations where these pavement markings can be tested.

Ms. Welsh asked if the Committee was allowed to propose other locations, for example Greenwood Avenue between Glenside and Church Road and Glenside Avenue by Greenwood Avenue. Mr. Brockington said that Greenwood Avenue is a State-Owned Road and therefore would need to have authorization from PennDOT. Mr. Brockington said that he would reach out to our new State Representative on this request.

Ms. Augustine said there was some research that she came across where the markings on the road are highly effective if they are in red.

Sgt. Tyler said in regards to Greenwood Avenue that pavement markings may be some of the easiest things we can get passed PennDOT and he will reach out to one his contacts.

Mr. Zienkowski stated that he will work with Mr. Clewell to have him get a price on the big stencils and then they will work with Sgt. Tyler to determine the locations. Mr. Brockington asked the Committee if there are any other locations they would like to include. Ms. Granger asked about Forest Avenue. Sgt. Tyler said at this point there has only been one complaint that he has heard about speeding, which was brought up at the last meeting, so he does not have a recommendation for Forest Avenue. Mr. Brockington asked about putting a stop sign on Forest Avenue. Sgt. Tyler said there is no place that warrants a stop sign on that street.

Mr. Brockington asked the Committee if they were in favor of moving forward with the pavement markings. The committee unanimously agreed to move forward with this.

6. **Follow up on items previously discussed:**

- A. **Forest Avenue-** Mr. Brockington stated that at this time, he has not received a petition in reference to Forest Avenue.
- B. **Resident forms to submit regarding problem streets/intersections-** The Police Chief will be creating a form that will be available online to residents to be able to submit streets or intersections where traffic issues have been a concern.

Ms. Rappoport suggested having the committee create a petition. Mr. Brockington and the rest of the committee were on board with this.

7. **Open Discussion:**

- A. Ms. Welsh said she has noticed Township vehicles speeding throughout the Township. Mr. Zienkowski stated that he has made it known that speeding will not be tolerated by Township staff and the Police Department has every right to ticket Township employees for speeding. Mr. Zienkowski said anytime you see a Township vehicle speeding, to please let him know right away or the Public Works Superintendent Chris Clewell.
- B. Ms. Granger asked if staff could email the Committee a week ahead of time when there is an upcoming meeting.
- C. Ms. Baker asked if for upcoming meetings, there could be discussion on Tookany Creek Parkway, between Jenkintown Road and New Second Street, where a good portion of the pedestrian walkway is close to the roadway. Ms. Baker suggested maybe putting up a guardrail to protect pedestrians. The Committee also discussed reducing the speed limit on the parkway from 35 MPH to 25 MPH.

Ms. Welsh suggested using social media and the Township website to put out a public service announcement to emphasize the need for people to abide by the speed limits throughout the Township.

- D. Mr. Brockington asked Sgt. Tyler if there has been any movement with Senate Bill 607 for the Police Department to use Radar Guns. Sgt. Tyler said there has been no movement at this time.
8. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Traffic Calming Committee is scheduled for March 9, 2021 via Zoom.
9. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, Mr. Brockington adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Ashley Lupino
Executive Assistant

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