

MT. LEBANON TRAFFIC BOARD

Meeting Date: January 2, 2013

Members Present: Ms. Brown, Ms. Meub, Mr. Petulla, Mr. Adams, Mr. Byrne, Ms. West

Staff Present: Lt. McMurtrie, Ms. Jampole, Ms. Kostelich

Mr. Petulla opened the meeting. Roll call was taken, Mr. DiGioia was absent.

Agenda Item 1 – Administrative Discussion

There were no Administrative items for discussion.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of December 5, 2012 Traffic Board Meeting

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012, 2012 meeting. Motion was seconded and unanimously approve.

Agenda Item 3 - Opening Remarks from the Chair

No additional comments.

Agenda Item 4:

Follow up Items:

- *Request for Traffic Calming on Arden Road*

Mr. Magalotti of Trans Associates presented the findings of traffic study done on Arden Road. He stated he met with residents to determine the best place to collect the data. The data collect showed that Arden Road met 2 out of the three criteria for traffic calming. The third, which was speed, was very close to meeting the criteria. Mr. Magalotti additionally presented 5 year crash data supplied by the police. From 1 January 2008 through 18 December 2012 there were 13 reportable crashes along Arden Road from N. Meadowcroft Avenue to Overlook Drive. Mr. Magalotti explained that the point value system is ranked by severity. Arden Road would be assigned a point value of (1) one. Mr. Magalotti presented three potentially applicable solutions; turn restrictions at key intersections, speed humps or one way street designation. According to the program Arden Road meets the criteria for traffic calming and has been assigned a point value and it is now up to the Traffic Board to make a recommendation to Municipal Manger Feller and Commissioners on moving forward. Mr. Petulla stated that an area of study first needs to be determined since any recommendations will affect traffic on neighboring streets. He also stated that the residents of Arden Road would need to present a petition. Mr. Sean Smith, 274 Arden Road, stated they had a petition. Mr. Pettula questioned the time frame for older requests to come before the board and resubmit their requests. Ms. Brown stated they should reach out to other areas like Newburn. She asked if Newburn needed to submit a new petition. Lt. McMurtrie stated that Mr. Shea will be attending the February meeting to submit a new petition. Mr. Adams asked how Trans would determine intersections where that would have turn restrictions. Mr. Magalotti stated that turning movement counts would be done at intersections to determine where the most traffic was coming from such as Cochran and Beverly Roads.

Mr. Petulla stated that based on the petition and the score, Arden Road would be placed on the list. Ms. Brown suggested that a neighborhood be defined as a good study area and make a recommendation to Commissioners. Also a cut off for re-submission of petitions be determined. Mr. Smith, asked that aside from procedural issues of the new program he asked that the board take a common sense standpoint and move forward right away on Arden round since it clearly met criteria and is defined as a high cut through area. Mr. Byrne agreed but stated that other neighborhoods that have also come to the board with petitions aren't aware of the new program and have to be given a chance to resubmit their requests. Mr. Tom Pasternak, 287 Arden stated it is a ticking clock and board members need to act on the petition and give the other petitioners a time limit. Ms. Meub stated that the board wants to be fair and the people who

signed petitions in the past need to be given a chance to be placed on the list again. Ms. Brown stated they are not trying to delay the Arden Road request but a year ago the traffic calming policy was taken away and they have worked hard to get it back. Mr. Smith asked why it has to take so long. Mr. Magalotti stated that they need to develop a consensus and there may be a lot of people who don't want any changes because it will negatively affect them. Mr. Petulla stated that a neighborhood consensus could be a big obstacle. Mr. Smith asked that the board establish a time frame to be followed and stick with it. Ms. Meub stated that according to the program the Commissioners have one year to decide. Commissioner Linfante stated the people on the Traffic Board are volunteering their time and they are not the problem. Past Commissioners took the policy away and Commissioner Bendel has worked hard to get the board money they can work with. Mr. Smith asked if as a community can they define costs and pay for it themselves. Mr. Petulla suggested that while they are determining areas for further study are there immediate recommendations to address the safety issues. Mr. Smith stated he understands money is an issue but can they form a "sub-community" and pay for improvements themselves. Commissioner Linfante stated they cannot do anything privately on a public road. She recommended if they were serious about a community grant it would have to be brought to the Commissioners not the Traffic Board. Mr. Bendel advised that the next Commission meeting is Monday, January 7. He also recommended sending letters to all the residents who signed a petition, not just the person submitting it. Ms. Brown agreed with sending letters to all petitioners also, and stated that a deadline should be set so new data could be collected. Ms. West stated that she came to the board last year with a petition for Arden Road and feels that a lot of time has been lost and would like to see the new studies move forward. Mr. Pettula agreed that a one month deadline was fair. Commissioner Linfante asked if a recommendation could be made solely on the safety issue on Arden Road. Mr. Smith asked if they could look at the actual number of cars that are speeding. Commissioner Linfante suggested a mid-block crosswalk at the crest of the hill and Mr. Magalotti stated that would not be appropriate due to visibility and mid-block crosswalks are not recommended. Ms. Linfante recommended residents to come to the Commission meeting when their issue is on the agenda.

A motion was made to have Trans Associates look at the crash history to see if there is a causation pattern and present any recommendations at the February meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Presentation of the new Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

Board members agreed that a reasonable time frame should be set for resubmitting petitions. Commissioner Bendel suggested they aim for 30 days.

Commissioner Fraasch asked if Academy Avenue was on the list of old petitions. She was advised by a resident that when the Academy lot was built they were advised there would be a cut off making traffic travel to Washington Road. Mr. Magalotti stated a study was done but did not recall the recommendations. Mr. Byrne recommended they submit another petition.

Agenda Item 7 - Presentation by Trans Associates of new Traffic Calming Devices and Techniques

Mr. Magalotti did a presentation of What's new in Traffic Calming in Pennsylvania. The presentation included an Introduction and Overview of Traffic Calming, Traffic Control Devices and Their Regulation, Traffic Calming in Pennsylvania and What's new In Traffic Calming. He also reviewed the updated Traffic Calming Handbook for Pennsylvania. Board members thanked Mr. Magalotti and stated that the information will help them in making decisions on the new Traffic Management Program.

There were no further items. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2012

cc: All attendees
S. Feller
T. Kelley
R. Sukal