

MT. LEBANON TRAFFIC BOARD

Meeting Date: December 5, 2012
Members Present: Mr. Petulla, Mr. DiGioia, Mr. Adams, Ms. West
Staff Present: Lt. McMurtrie, Ms. Jampole, Ms. Kostelich

Mr. DiGioia opened the meeting. Roll call was taken, Ms. Meub, Ms. Brown, Mr. Byrne were absent.

Agenda Item 1 – Administrative Discussion

Mr. DiGioia stated that the commission approved the new Traffic Management Program at the November 13, 2012 meeting. He stated he would like to present and the program to residents at the January meeting along with the presentation from Trans Associates on new traffic calming devices and techniques. Mr. DiGioia requested that notification of the meeting be placed on the website.

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

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 7, 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 sight distance study at Intersection of Coolidge Avenue and Bower Hill Road*

Ms. Jampole of Trans Associates conducted sight distance measurements at all intersections on Bower Hill Road between Washington Road and Cochran Road. She stated that based on the data that was collected the following intersections have deficient sight distances. Bower Hill and Mapleton, looking left from Mapleton; Bower Hill and Coolidge looking left from Coolidge; Bower Hill and Ralston looking left from Ralston; Bower Hill and Kenmont looking left from southbound Kenmont; Bower Hill and Lavina looking left from Lavina. Board members requested Lt. McMurtrie contact Municipal Code Enforcement Officer to advise residents of the sight distance deficiencies and request that vegetation be removed.

Agenda Item 5 - Request for Traffic Calming on Arden Road

Mr. Sean Smith, 274 Arden Road stated there was recently an accident in front of his residence where a vehicle rolled over, and this was not the first. There have numerous accidents with vehicles striking trees and other vehicles. Mr. Smith fears next time it will be someone's child. Mr. Smith has lived on Arden for 5 years and has had many conversations with neighbors regarding requests to the Traffic Board. Mr. Petulla asked what Mr. Smith perceived to be the problems and root causes of the accidents. Mr. Smith stated that it is speed, volume and sight distance. Mr. DiGioia requested that residents be more specific on their requests and suggestions on improvements. Mr. Smith stated that vehicles pick up speed when coming up the hill from N. Meadowcroft toward Overlook and you can't see oncoming vehicles when approaching the crest of the hill especially when vehicles are parked on the street. Mr. Smith said the idea of more studies is frustrating. Many studies have been done and no improvements made.

Ms. West stated that Arden road has a high cut through rate because it extends from Beverly Road to Cochran Road, allowing vehicles to avoid stop lights and traffic on Beverly Road.

Mr. DiGioia stated that Arden Road is currently on the list but the data is outdated and the residents while need to submit a new petition. He advised the traffic calming is a long process and recommendations and a vote can not be done during the meeting. Part of the process is to understand how changes will affect the whole area. Pushing traffic onto neighboring streets is not a solution.

Mr. Tom Pasternak, 287 Arden Road stated he has lived on Arden for 30 years and has made requests to the Traffic Board. He stated that vehicles accelerate up the hill from N. Meadowcroft. He would like to see some type of measures taken in this section between N. Meadowcroft and the crest of the hill.

Ms. Jackie Thobaken, 300 Arden Road is concerned with the intersection of Arden and Overlook. It is a 4 way stop and vehicles just roll through the stop signs. She stated that a mail carrier was struck because a vehicle did not stop. Ms. Thobaken requested speed humps on the hill between N. Meadowcroft and the crest.

Mr. Don Zuch, 295 Arden Road, stated that this is his second time coming to the board requesting changes. He again wanted to voice his concerns, there have been numerous accidents. Requests have been made decade after decade and nothing has been done. Vehicles don't slow down for residents when they are trying to enter their driveway. He requested that a new study be done, and set a schedule for improvements and get them done on time.

Mr. DiGioia stated there are currently 4 streets in this area on the list and the study may include the whole area.

Mr. John Fehr, 286 Arden Road, stated that one day it will be a child who will be hit. He stated he is tired of hearing about studies, something needs to be done. He suggested extending the light on Beverly at Cochran 15 seconds to improve the traffic flow and help eliminate the cut through traffic.

Mr. Don Thobaken, 300 Arden Road, suggested turn restrictions be implemented on Cochran at Arden and on Beverly at Arden during peak times to eliminate cut through traffic.

Mr. Petulla requested a crash history from Lt. McMurtrie. Lt. McMurtrie stated he could look at a 5 year history but it would not show near misses or unreported accidents.

Commissioner Bendel, 458 Arden Road stated he has lived on Arden for 17 years and went to the Traffic Board after 6 months of living there requesting improvements. He stated that the Traffic Board has not had a lot of support from Commission and there was no policy or clear path for them to follow on Traffic Calming issues. The new program took over a year to get approval. He stated that residents need to understand others are on the list and there is a prioritization system and there will not be money available for all requests.

Ms. Jampole stated there are measurements that can be taken but would need to know how changes would affect other streets in the area. She suggested making Arden one way from N. Meadowcroft to the crest of the hill or possibly close off Arden Road at Overlook. She stated she will coordinate with Ms. West on placement of tubes on roadway to get speed and volume counts. Mr. Bendel requested they also work with Public Works for placement in order to get the best counts.

Mr. Danny Denson, 284 Arden Road, suggested using plastic removable speed humps. Board members stated that they are an option and they have discussed using them. Ms. West stated speed humps are not designed for volume control.

Mr. Adams stated residence need to be patient and the need to meet the criteria to reach the top of the matrix.

Mr. Smith asked how much a speed hump would cost. Ms. Jampole stated approximately \$5,000.00 each and two are required. Mr. Smith asked if the neighbors could pay for them themselves. Board members stated they would have to conduct a study to see how the other streets would be affected.

Mr. DiGioia advised neighbors to get a new petition and Ms. Jampole will do further counts and report some possible low cost recommendations at the January meeting. Lt. McMurtrie will direct officers to increase enforcement at the stop signs on Arden and Overlook. A motion was made to collect additional crash, speed and volume data for 1 week in an appropriate spot and come up with a list of easy to implement measures. Motion was seconded.

Agenda Item 6 – Items from the Floor

Ms. Suzanne Stimator, 240 Woodhaven Drive and Ms. Abby Lawler-Morycz, 127 Morrison Drive, members of the Environmental Team stated that they are interested in looking into road diets on Washington Road and Bower Hill Road. They stated they have been in contact with Municipal Manager Feller and understand there is a \$12,000.00 cost to conduct the study. They said they have also met with Todd Kravitz of PennDot who advised them that PennDot would conduct the study at no cost. Ms. Jampole stated that PennDot would do the study at no cost to the municipality but any recommendations they made would have to be implemented and paid for by the municipality and their recommendations would not necessarily benefit the municipality. Board members requested that Ms. Stimator and Ms. Lawler-Morycz invite Mr. Kravitz to attend the February meeting to discuss this issue further. Item will be place on February agenda.

Mr. Silverman, 154 James Place stated that a speed sentry was placed on Seneca and was advised that Commissioner Kluck had requested it. Lt. McMurtrie stated that he did not have the data but would contact Mr. Silverman with the information collected.

There were no further items. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2012

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