



# TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

**BERKS COUNTY, PA**

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## **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 28, 2023**

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the Township of Spring Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:40 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The following members were present: Patti Smith, Michael Wertz, Paul Darrah, and Brad Weisman. Chief Powell attended via ZOOM. Also in attendance were: Mary Rossi, Jim Moll, Judy Houck, Randy Fultz, Matt Stover, Jacob Miller, and Dan Becker, Esquire.

**RE-ORGANIZATION** – Mr. Becker called for a motion for the position of Chairperson. *Motion to nominate Mr. Wertz as Chairperson was made by Mr. Darrah, seconded by Ms. Smith. All members present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

Mr. Wertz called for a motion for the position of Vice-Chairperson. *Motion to nominate Ms. Smith as Vice-Chairperson was made by Mr. Darrah, seconded by Mr. Weisman. All members present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

**Approval of Minutes** -*Motion to approve the minutes of the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Darrah. All members present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

**Agenda Amendments-** None  
**Open to the Floor-**None

### **Oaks Trail Pedestrian Access Project**

Ms. Houck stated that a couple of the Board of Supervisors had expressed interest in creating pedestrian access to the Oaks Trail property. Ms. Houck said that the Township owns the property, and it is basically a stormwater management facility that was dedicated as recreation land from the development of Arrowhead Trail. There is a small nature trail that an Eagle Scout had installed approximately twenty (20) years ago at the site. Ms. Houck demonstrated the entrance to the trail viewing Old Fritztown Road, Spohn Road, and Rebecca Drive. Ms. Houck stated that she spoke with Sergeant Peterson with the Traffic Unit from the Spring Township Police Department and Scott Anderson of Kraft Municipal Group, Inc. about the project. Ms. Houck displayed a sketch created by Sergeant Peterson that agreed with Scott Anderson's findings that the Township would need to install a crosswalk across Rebecca Drive and Old Fritztown Road. In addition, there would need to be two (2) handicapped-accessible ramps and a receiving area on the property. Ms. Houck said the discussion at the Parks and Recreation Board Meeting included possibly installing flashing yellow lights. Ms. Houck stated that Mr. Anderson reported that flashing lights are managed just like a traffic light, and even though none of these roads are PennDOT roads, a flashing light would require PennDOT approval. Mr. Anderson confirmed that the proposal would require a complete traffic study.

### **Oaks Trail Pedestrian Access Project** *(Continued)*

Ms. Houck confirmed that the trail is a nature trail, it's not paved or handicapped accessible. There is no sidewalk by the trail, sidewalk is only located on one side of Rebecca Drive. Ms. Houck said there was a discussion about parking in the front of the property along Fritztown Road, but since this is a detention facility, the area is very wet. The Township installed no parking signs due to people parking there and making ruts.

Discussion points included the volume of traffic that uses the road, the safety of pedestrians, how many residents use the park, visibility issues, parking, and liability issues.

Ms. Houck confirmed for Mr. Darrah that the Parks and Recreation Board favors installing crosswalks and permitting dogs. Ms. Houck confirmed for Mr. Wertz that no signs prohibit dogs on the trail.

Chief Powell suggested that the Department could put up traffic sign at the site at Rebecca Drive and Old Fritztown Road for a week to get a traffic count, speed of vehicles including hour by hour, top speed, low speed, how many vehicles comply, and the most traffic in the area within 24 hours.

*Motion to authorize the Spring Township Police Department to put up traffic monitoring signs along Old Fritztown Road and authorize Ms. Houck to contact Mr. Anderson to obtain pricing on a traffic study was made by Mr. Darrah, seconded by Ms. Smith. All members present voted affirmatively.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Sign Issues**

#### 1) Signs in West Lawn

Mr. Stover reported that he and Mr. Miller are working on Penn Avenue and have discovered traffic parking signs from West Lawn's parking ordinances remain from before they merged with the Township and asked if the staff should remove them. Mr. Moll said when the Township merged with the borough, the Township would have incorporated West Lawn's regulations into the Township's traffic ordinance. The ordinance specifies all signage in the Township; if staff is going to change anything, the traffic ordinance will need to be updated. The Committee advised Mr. Stover to compose a list, including pictures, and send them to the Committee for review.

- 2) Speed Limit Signs- Mr. Stover said that there are multiple country roads in the Township without a speed limit sign (some have advisory signs), and a few need to be included in the traffic ordinance. Mr. Becker said Pennsylvania has default speed limits of 25 and 55 mph. Chief Powell said that advisory signs are not enforceable and confirmed for Mr. Moll that an Engineer is required to perform speed studies. Mr. Stover was instructed to put together a list and send it to the Committee.

### **Site Distance Issues**

Mr. Stover reviewed the current procedure with site distance issues, which is to take pictures and email them to Mr. Darrah. Mr. Darrah forwards the information to Mr. Wozniak; Mr. Wozniak sends a letter to the resident instructing how long they have to remedy the issue. If time passes without any action on the resident's part, then the Public Works Department takes care of it. Mr. Darrah stated that he met with Mr. Wozniak about the current process, and Mr. Wozniak plans to prepare a form for staff to fill out, along with a picture to send directly to him.

### **Site Distance Issues** *(Continued)*

Discussion included areas that need to be addressed in the Township, including the one on Jefferson with a tree that, when it is in full bloom, cross traffic cannot see if anyone is coming.

### **Road Issues**

Mr. Stover said that one traffic light on Penn Avenue needs to have painted turn lanes. The location is in front of Mays Sandwich Shop on Penn and Cecil Avenue. Mr. Stover is looking for direction if left-turn-only signs should be installed or if the issue would be resolved during the Green-Light-Go Project. Mr. Moll said it would need PennDOT approval since it is a traffic light and a state road. Mr. Darrah suggested that PennDOT may have neglected to paint the turn lane three (3) years ago when they redid the road. Mr. Becker suggested looking at google earth at some of the older aerials to see if that was the issue and inform PennDOT.

### **Crosswalk Issues**

Mr. Stover said he and Mr. Miller have been painting the curbs yellow. They have discovered numerous crosswalks coming into residents' driveway aprons mid-block throughout the Township. Mr. Darrah stated that if the Township moved the crosswalk, they would need to be ADA-compliant with ramps. Mr. Stover asked if the Committee would like the information forwarded to Mr. Darrah and Mr. Fultz if staff encounters issues. The Committee agreed staff should continue with the current process, with Mr. Moll confirming that crosswalks are not in the traffic ordinance. Discussion points included the school having two (2) handicapped ramps painted blue against the crosswalks on each side, rather than 20 ft back as required, parking issues, and painting their crosswalks. Chief Powell will speak to Mr. Simcox.

### **Truck Sign Issues**

Mr. Stover reported issues with road signs stating no trucks, but there is access in another direction, and he was looking for guidance on this issue. The Committee discussed problem areas in the Township. Mr. Moll stated that a staff meeting needs to occur with engineering, public works, and the police department to review the issues.

The Committee commended the public works staff for the great job that they are doing.

### **School Zone Signs on Broadcasting**

Mr. Stover asked about the school zone signs that need to be repaired on Broadcasting. Mr. Becker said that the Township maintains those signs. Mr. Darrah stated that the Township has an agreement with the school district in which the Township maintains the signs, and the school district bears the cost.

### **Curbs and Crosswalks in Lincoln Park**

Mr. Stover asked for direction for painting the curbs yellow in Lincoln Park, reporting that the crosswalks, curbs, and signs are all deteriorating. Mr. Moll demonstrated problem areas, and Mr. Stover confirmed parking issues. Mr. Becker confirmed for Mr. Weisman that curbs and sidewalks are repaired during a property transfer. There was a discussion about removing no-parking signs at Cecil Avenue and Noble Street. Mr. Moll said that a staff meeting is needed to review all the issues brought up today.

**Codification of Ordinances**

Codification of ordinances was discussed, with Mr. Moll stating that the last update was in 2013. Amendments were made a dozen times since the update, making it difficult to access and understand. Mr. Becker noted that codification should be done, noting that it is costly and take quite a bit of time, but it will benefit the staff and residents.

*Motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to start the codification process for all Township ordinances was made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Darrah. All members present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

**A. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m.

**B. ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Darrah to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Weidman.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary L Rossi  
Township Secretary