

**East Hempfield Township
Traffic Commission Minutes**

Date and Time: March 16, 2016

6:15 p.m.

Commission members in attendance: H. Scott Russell, John Bingham, and Ed LeFevre.

Others present: Robert Krimmel, Perry Madonna, and Andrew Stern.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Mr. Russell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Robert Baldwin explained he was at the meeting to ask why the additional stop sign was added to Landisville at Graystone and why the stop signs were reversed at Running Pump and Noll.

With respect to Running Pump and Noll, Mr. Stern gave an update on the recent changes to the intersection – the addition of stop signs on the left side of the north and south approaches to Noll on Running Pump, new stop bars on north and south approaches to Noll, and the elimination of left turn lanes on the north bound approach of Running Pump and the east bound approach on Noll. Mr. Stern explained that staff and the Township Engineer believe these were the last improvements that could be done at this time.

Mr. Russell explained the history of the intersection – that the intersection was designed for a traffic signal, but it does not meet warrants and won't for many years to come. As a result the intersection was too wide to work with the stop signs on Noll. The signs were reversed for safety reasons. While there has been some confusion, the number of accidents and severity of accidents has been reduced as a result of the change. The plan is to construct a round-about there within the next year or two once PennDOT approves the traffic improvements in the area, of which this is one.

Mr. Baldwin stated that he disagrees with the change and believes the reversal of the stop signs has made the intersection more dangerous.

With respect to Landisville and Graystone, Mr. Russell explained that he had recommended this change based on his observations and his knowledge as a professional traffic engineer. He explained that the intersection is a "T" design, but the stop signs were not appropriate for such a design. Staff had contacted PennDOT about this intersection and PennDOT replied that it was up to the Township how to handle a Township Road connecting to a State Road. As a result, the Traffic Commission directed staff to install a new stop sign on Landisville at Graystone. Since then, traffic appears to be flowing better. Mr. LeFevre stated he lives right there and believes traffic has been flowing better since the installation of the new stop sign.

Mr. Baldwin stated that he disagreed and he believes the new stop sign has slowed traffic and caused more problems. He believes we should be finding ways to keep traffic flowing rather than stop it. He also believes the sign was put there solely to address Roots' traffic on Tuesdays, and that everyone has to suffer the rest of the week as a result.

Old Business:

Centerville Middle School entrance (Centerville/Nissley) – Mr. Krimmel explained that he met with representatives from the school district. For the middle school, the school district does not believe any changes to Centerville Road would be helpful as they cannot change the traffic flow in/out of the school without causing conflicts between busses and cars. For the elementary school, a left turn lane would be helpful. Mr. Madonna explained that about 4-6 feet of road widening would be needed between Nissley and Knight for a turn lane.

The Traffic Commission directed Mr. Krimmel to talk to the school district to see if they'd be willing to share the cost of the road widening. Mr. Madonna anticipates doing the work in house and will be preparing a cost estimate within a couple days to share with the school district.

Veranda – Mr. Madonna explained that he was able to conduct a speed count. There were 826 vehicles during the study period. The average speed was 22 MPH. There were three outliers registering about 50 MPH. Nothing from the count indicated an unusual or unexpected problem.

The Traffic Commission directed staff to finish the crosswalk line painting and installation of the 'children at play' signs and to share the results of the speed study with the HOA.

Bethel Drive Trail Crossing – Mr. Stern displayed a GIS map of the neighborhood showing the sidewalks and trail. He pointed out that at most places the trail connects to the streets midblock. He explained that this is typical with a trail and given the low speeds in the neighborhood and the fact that Bethel is a dead end street, he believes the midblock crossing is appropriate. He suggested adding pedestrian crossing signage if the Traffic Commission sees a need to better identify the presence of the crossing.

Motioned by Mr. Bingham to add two "Yield to Pedestrian" or similar type signs, one in each direction, seconded by Mr. LeFevre, and unanimously carried.

New Business: None.

Minutes:

Motioned by Mr. LeFevre, seconded by Mr. Bingham and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of January 20, 2016 as submitted.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by the unanimous consent of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Submitted by: Robert S. Krimmel, Township Manager