

**Streets and Roads Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2009**

Commission members in attendance: Chair, Dawn Adair Johnson; Hon. Council member, Peter Helt; Bill Burke; Fred Goundry; Mark Moxley; Bryan Pelino; and Tora Mahoney.

Citizens: None

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Announcements & Administrative matters

Notes from the Chair

Johnson, Helt and Moxley attended a meeting with SHA regarding making Main Street compliant with ADA laws. Since there are no updated drawings to review currently, this commission's discussion on the issue will be postponed to a later meeting. Also, once the updated notes are obtained, Goundry will pass the notes onto the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and comment. We will be confirming the appropriate procedures for notice and opportunity to be heard regarding this issue.

Department Report (presented by Moxley)

Moxley provided the Department Report: Street counter placed on Rising Ridge Road by the request of several parents; brush clean up; painting and traffic changes to the Twin Arch School entrance made a major improvement to safety and order; no outlet sign installed at Grimes Court; storm drain inlet sweeping; storm pond cleaning and maintenance; repairs made along Route 144 West for improved water drainage; street sweeping; May Festival set up and tear down; new stop sign up; asphalt repairs made at Sunset Ave.; new mirror installed at the intersection of Park and Main Streets; set up and tear down of Farmers market—still adequate parking at the municipal lot during the Farmers market, which still averages approximately 25 empty spaces; installed turn arrows on various streets; street lines will be painted in 2009-2010; and more.

Goundry complimented Moxley's Department for their hard work and successful planning of the May Fest.

Council Liaison Report

A seat will be opening on the Town Council at end of June/early July. Chairperson suggested Goundry would be an excellent replacement. The Commission jointly expressed the desire to keep Helt as our liaison.

III. Citizens Comments & Concerns: (covered under New Business)

IV. Old Business

Update on Main Street Parking Issue

Helt expressed that generally business owners are happy, and the police are successfully moving employees and tenants off the street. Moxley agreed that the police enforcement has been an effective measure. The Chairperson has received feedback that compliance with downtown parking regulations has increased.

Follow up on Speed Issue on Merridale

“Speed is” sign has been placed on Merridale due to citizen concerns. The Commission agreed that the 15 mph speed limit needs to be maintained, not increased. Another citizen concern is the cross-through traffic on Merridale. Moxley recognized that a “no cut through” rule could not be enforced. Another of the citizen concerns is that they can’t back out of their driveways. Helt suggested temporary speed humps, but for various reasons Moxley does not believe that the humps would be a good solution. Moxley reminded the Commission that the police have been out there three (3) times and haven’t written a ticket yet. The Chairperson will continue to monitor the issue.

Follow up on Nottingham Issues-New stop signs not being recognized

The 4-way stop was put in, and citizens are concerned that it is not being recognized. Moxley stated that a good number of people are coming to a rolling stop at the intersection. He also reminded the Commission that the Troopers will begin to enforce the traffic signs at some point. It is on the Trooper’s agenda, but sign is still new, they are allowing the citizens some time to get used to the new stops. The Chairperson had notice posted on fire department board informing them of the new stops.

Follow up on Basketball hoops Question

Moxley reminded the Commission that a new town code enforcement officer has been hired to handle issues such as basketball hoops in the road. The Chairperson suggested publishing a short sentence in the papers regarding the placement of basketball hoops in Town streets/roads. Pelino will draft something for the Commission’s review.

Follow up on Ordinance Alcohol Language

The portion of the proposed street closing ordinance requiring a list of persons served alcohol, if the alcohol is to be served at an event, will remain as a measure of extra protection for the Town. Of course, county permitting is necessary to serve alcohol at any such event.

V. New Business

Line of Sight and Fencing at Wildwood Park

Moxley’s Department will remove the signs on the corner for the library & senior center and angle in the last 40 ft of fence to improve visibility. Moxley noted that under the current conditions, if drivers stop at stop sign line then driver’s would have to slowly pull up for visibility.

Stormwater pond issues by Deer Hollow

The Chairperson received concerns about this storm pond. Pelino stated that there is much trash in and around this storm pond. Moxley stated that six (6) times a year this pond is mowed by our contractor and trees are removed as required by Carroll County. Moxley further noted that the mowing company is also responsible for cleaning out the trash, and he will address that issue with the mowing company. Moxley noted that the storm drain culverts in Park Ridge need to be cleaned nearly after every storm as opposed to other culverts in the Town which are cleaned every other year. Moxley suggested that the increased trash issue may be attributed to the fact that Frederick County recycling pickup is only every other week while Carroll County recycling pickup is every week. Moxley suggested that Frederick County residents complain as there were discussions about Carroll County picking up the bill for the off-week pickup. Moxley sees a significant difference between the Frederick County side of the Twin Ridge neighborhood and the Carroll County side with respect to trash and clogged storm drains due to trash and debris.

Walking children across south main street

Goundry presented a concern that Main Street becomes increasingly hazardous between 3:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. as the overall speed of vehicles increases substantially. This is the time when children get off of the school bus and many have to cross the street. Despite the slowing down of the bus and the signs on the bus and the flashing lights, cars still fly by. Goundry offered for Dan Pickkett to sit in his driveway. Moxley noted that Twin Arch had a similar problem, which was somewhat resolved by a trooper following the bus and then giving tickets to vehicles that illegally passed. Also, the county bus drivers are supposed to be taking down the tag numbers of vehicles that illegally pass. The Chairperson and Moxley will pass these concerns onto the authorities.

VI. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: Helt moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Burke. Vote: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tora Mahoney