

**Streets and Roads Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2009**

Commission members in attendance: Chair, Dawn Adair Johnson; Vice Chair, Bryan Pelino; Secretary Tora Mahoney, Council Liaison Peter Helt; Fred Goundry; and Mark Moxley.

Citizens: Dave Blaiz, Donna Marie Needle

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Announcements & Administrative matters

a. Notes from the Chair

Kristi Lausch requested support services for the Nottingham Triathlon. Moxley and his crew set up signage. Noticed the trooper pulled over 2 separate cars on Merridale while taking a bicycle ride through the area

One member position open and one alternate position on the Commission.

b. Department Report (presented by Moxley)

This month the Town crew took care of the following:

- Fireman's parade traffic control;
- Ridge Ave. ditch/cleaning;
- Watersville Rd, Harris, and Plain View—3 worst roads in the town were repaved;
- asphalt curb repaired on Veteran's Lane;
- heavy rain storm on August 1st knocked a tree and 3 poles into 144, took over 11 hours to repair with the help of Frederick County;
- MAMSA bought additional Christmas wreaths and with the assistance of Allegheny Power lines were installed;
- crosswalks painted including those near Twin Ridge Elementary;
- Summit Ridge cross walks painted;
- tree trimming completed at Cedar and 1st part of Summerwood and Rising Ridge Rd.;
- swept main roads around town;
- broken asphalt on Caliopy Way was repaired (it was originally paved prior to compaction testing implementation);
- railroad crossings painted and trees trimmed to increase visibility; Allegheny Power to trim trees as well

c. Council Liaison Report

Update regarding Sunset Ave drain issue. Helt spent a day in mediation to attempt to reach a settlement. No real progress was made. Another mediation session is scheduled for 9/21.

d. Review of Prior Minutes

Typo in Monika's last name will be corrected. Moxley made motion to approve; Pelino 2nd the motion. Minutes approved with correction.

III. Citizen Comments not otherwise on the Agenda

Moxley dropped barrels and cones for the Nottingham Children's Triathlon scheduled for this Saturday.

Merridale Blvd.--Moxley reported that the 25 mph sign was put up and that the trooper is currently patrolling the area regularly. After doing a traffic count on Rising Ridge Rd, the counters will go back to the Merridale area.

IV. Old Business

a. Update on SHA plans for Main Street

The Chair reminded the Commission that the SHA plans is on the Planning and Zoning's agenda with the Staff recommendation that it be pushed back to Streets & Roads for additional comment/recommendation. Since most of the SHA plans involve State roads, the Town and this Commission have limited control.

Goundry will be addressing the SHA plans and advise this Commission of the issues/recommendation discussed by P&Z at our next Commission meeting.

V. New Business

a. Request for Crossing Guards on Rising Ridge Road

Moxley explained that the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control suggests a 15 mph speed in front of schools that extends 200ft from the entrance. Twin Ridge is too far away from Rising Ridge to fall within that suggestion. Moxley spoke to the Deputy who stated that they only provide a crossing guard in front of the school. Frederick County policy does not include putting a cross-guard at other areas. Moxley made a count of the children recently. He noticed that lots of the parents are driving the children to school and that 11 people walked to the intersection. The group from Rambling sunset crossed the street and all of the traffic stopped for the group. The second group never crossed. Fifty-one (51) vehicles went through the intersection over a 45 minute time span. Twenty-six (26) of the 51 vehicles went into the school. From 8:30 to 8:33, Moxley did not observe 1 vehicle.

Needle explained that school starts at 9 a.m. and the earliest that children can be dropped off is 8:30 a.m.

Moxley expected a lot more traffic. He couldn't see Deerhollow from his observation area.

Needle is concerned about that young children may be abducted.

Helt said that we have no budget for crossing guards

Needle commented that New Market provides crossing guards for its students.

Mahoney suggested that parents in the neighborhood get together and develop a plan. If each parent took a turn walking the children to school and/or ensuring that the children get to school safely it would alleviate the burden. Volunteering once a month should be a problem.

Needle explained that parents were first notified of this exception in May and that parents tried to appeal it, but had no success.

Helt suggested that the effected parents alert the PTA and their HOA of the issue and ask for help. Perhaps, the PTA could organize volunteers and/or fundraisers to pay for a crossing guard.

Needle concerned about her neighbors more than herself she has a 5th grader; public hearing on the issue did not happen and would have been nice

Chairperson—under rules, not public hearing required; this is not a well-thought out plan

Needle—lots of disgruntled communities throughout Frederick County

Chairperson—the more people you have the more your voice will be heard; this type of issue is usually handled through the school board; our commission can work to make the street/crosswalks safe

Goundry—letter sent by the town?

Chairperson—yes

Needle—BOA said that they did a 2-year study

Chairperson—mandate to cut bus routes; ask Monika to write something on behalf of the Streets & Road Commission regarding the issue

Needle—confirmed that parents have gone through the transportation appeal process Thomas Buckley and Veronica Lowe even visited to take the walk to school; K-2, primary schools, in Frederick County still have busing; K-5 do not because the other kids can keep an eye on the younger kids

Safe route website—national

Chairperson—Ask the Town to write another letter of concern addressed to the School Board and cc Transportation. Approximately 2 bus routes were eliminated, effecting approximately 100 students

1st Goundry; 2nd Moxley; unanimous support to ask the town to write another letter

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: Helt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Goundry. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tora Mahoney