

**Streets and Roads Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2009**

**Commission members in attendance:** Chair, Dawn Adair Johnson; Vice Chair, Bryan Pelino; Mark Moxley; and Tora Mahoney.

**Special Guests:** Monika Weierbach, Town Administrator and Mayor David Pyatt

**Citizens:** Lee Smith, Sharon Walker, Pat Johnson, Mary Jane Wilson, Elaine Dean, Charles Lang

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

**II. Announcements & Administrative matters**

**Notes from the Chair**

The Chair provided the Commission with the Park Avenue SHA Plan and asked the Commission to review it and be prepared to comment at the next meeting.

**Department Report (presented by Moxley)**

Moxley provided the Department Report: Cross walks painted; streets swept; asphalt laid; and a tree removed.

**Review of Prior Minutes**

Moxley made motion to approve; Mahoney 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as written.

**III. Citizen Comments & Concerns**

No issues presented other than the ones listed below.

**IV. Old Business**

**Nottingham Triathlon**

Same plan as last year has been presented. It is a very well-organized event, and ran very smoothly last year. Moxley and his department will provide barrels. Chair expects to receive a copy of insurance policy shortly and will provide it to Town Staff.

Monika reported that the Town Code Enforcer, David, has reduced the number of noncompliant basketball hoops in the Nottingham Neighborhood from seven to two. He will continue to address this issue.

**IV. New Business**

**Merridale Blvd Traffic/Speed Count**

91.1% of the drivers were driving the speed limit, which demonstrates excellent compliance with the speed limit, perhaps the best in Mt. Airy. Moxley noted that three vehicles have a speeding habit on this street, but the State Police have been

notified and are going to take care of it. Saturday and Sunday showed unusual traffic count results. Overall, this is a very good report.

Mr. Lee asked that counter be moved between Violet and Cloverdale because people break in front of Sharon's house where the counter was placed. Moxley set the counter in what was pinpointed as the problem area. However, Moxley agreed to move it after a few weeks after the Police patrol the area.

Elane Deen 102 Merridale, concerned that the count was performed at 30 mph and not 25 mph, which is the speed limit. Moxley explained that Police don't typically pull vehicles over if they aren't speeding by 5 mph or more.

Mary Jane Wilson is concerned that Flower Ave. part of the problem as well. Ms. Wilson stated that there is no posted speed limit sign. Moxley will put a sign up immediately since the old sign must have been stolen. Ms. Wilson stated that backing out of her driveway is a problem.

Mr. Lee has witnessed vehicles turning their lights off and then driving down Violet. Moxley noted that the Commission cannot address that issue and recommended that Mr. Lee contact the Police.

Conclusion: Moxley will set up the counter on Merridale and then Flower. Also, Moxley has a 25 mph speed sign that he can put up immediately.

Final points. Mary Jane Wilson noticed that a portion of the road has a yellow line and another does not. Moxley explained that people park along a portion of Merridale and the Department tries not to put yellow lines in residential areas. The yellow line is on a portion of the street because of a request from the Senior Center. Moxley further explained that they don't want to force drivers to cross a yellow line to steer clear from parked cars. Such action could compromise safety and increase Town liability.

### **Rising Ridge Speeding Issues**

Chair explained that Frederick County Board of Education has amended its transportation guidelines, which will cause Twin Ridge Elementary students living in Rising Ridge to have to walk to school.

Mayor and others walked the route with concerned parents to access the safety.

The parents of Rising Ridge ask that the Town raise the 25 mph speed limit to 35 mph with the purpose of working around the Board of Education's policy and getting their children back on the bus. The Chair does not believe that the Board of Education will have such reaction based on her discussions with the local FCPS transportation supervisor. According to him, the most likely outcome would be to have a crossing guard stationed on the road, rather than reinstate the bus route.

The traffic/speed count conducted on Rising Ridge showed that only 29.1% of vehicles traveled 30 mph and under. There is little compliance with the 25 mph speed limit.

Moxley believes that this mandate by the Frederick County Board of Education will present a safety issue; however, he doesn't agree with the raising of the speed limit. Moxley and Officer Pickett drove Rising Ridge at 35 mph as an experiment and determined that 35 mph is too fast. Additionally, there is limited visibility and cars will be dropping children off. Two accidents have already occurred on this road without raising the speed limit. While it is a wide road, when you get into the commercial area, drivers experience vehicles parked on the side of the street and dump trucks regularly pass. Finally, there are a great number of walkers. Raising the speed limit doesn't make sense and will cause more accidents.

The Chair suggested implementing traffic calming measures such as signage.

Moxley has already put up a sign and two more signs will be put up stating that children in this area will be walking to Twin Ridge Elementary. These are diamond signs with black letters.

Pyatt is concerned about tree limbs obstructing the sidewalk. Moxley confirmed that the trees are going to be trimmed before the start of the school year.

Pyatt addressed the underlying issue that parents were upset by the idea of their children having to walk to school, which then turned into safety concerns. The safety concerns are being addressed without raising the speed limit, which in itself would compromise safety. Pyatt does not agree with raising the speed limit; however, speeding on Rising Ridge does need to be monitored.

The Chair suggested the possibility of no thru traffic over a certain weight. Moxley noted that it would be damaging to the businesses.

Moxley stated that his department needed to paint one remaining crosswalk, but are waiting until closer to the school starting so the crosswalk is fresh. He will be putting the traffic/speed counter in the area again to see if there is a speeding problem during the hours when the children are walking to and from school. Adding additional signage will be put up.

Monika stated that Mr. Buckley (FCPS transportation rep.) agreed to present a bike safety rodeo to promote bike safety education for the children. Monika stated that it has worked in the past and is well received.

Monika agrees with taking a second traffic/speed count once school starts. Additionally, she suggested posting announcements and developments on the Town website. The Chair offered a draft copy of meeting minutes to be posted on website.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION: Pelino moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Moxley. Vote: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tora Mahoney