

REGULAR MEETING:

The Traffic Committee (TC) of East Bradford Township (Township), Chester, County, PA held a public meeting on September 15, 2016 in the in the McCardle Meeting Room in the Township Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester and County of Chester, PA 19380-1822.

Public Notice of the 2016 East Bradford Township public meeting schedule was published in the Daily Local News 01-07-16.

Traffic Committee Members present:

Ken Cavanaugh, Chair
Jo Anne Yarnall, Vice Chair
Eric Ruggeri
Patrick Davis
Andrew DeFonzo, P.E.
Mark Lucas, P.E.
John Carroll, At-large Member
Lt. Sam Iacono (representing WCPD for Chief Scott Bohn)

Traffic Committee Members not present:

All present.

Officials / Staff / Professionals in attendance:

Township Manager Michael P. Lynch
Township Engineer Mark J. Lucas
Township Public Works Director John P. Carroll

Officials / Staff / Professionals not in attendance:

Board of Supervisors Chair and Liaison to Traffic Committee Vincent M. Pompo, Esq

Others - Citizens / Residents in Attendance *(and those noted below in the body of the Minutes):*

Andy Schaum, Twp resident, CCWA President
George Poole, West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association Secretary
John Johnson, Twp resident and West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association Member
Andy Madsen, Twp resident and West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association Member

Call Meeting To Order -

The meeting was called to order at approximately 08:00 A.M. by Chair Cavanaugh

Public Comment –

None received / offered at this time.

Approval of the Minutes –

On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Yarnall, the Minutes of 08-18-16 were approved.

The Traffic Committee did not meet in January, March, April (no quorum), May or July.

Discussion Items –

A. New Business:

1. Ravine Road (and Bridge) Traffic Pattern Alteration Discussion
Committee Chair Cavanaugh thanked the residents and stakeholders for their attendance and interest to discuss the matter.
The Township mailed a letter (dated 08-23-16) inviting property owners along Ravine Road (including West Whiteland Township) and other stakeholders to this meeting to discuss a potential alteration to the current circulation pattern.

Twp Engineer Lucas provided background on Ravine Road (history, current condition, infrastructure maintenance challenges) and described one particular concept / alternative to consider toward addressing the road and bridge conditions.

Similar to Gibson's Bridge (the covered bridge on Harmony Hill Road over the East Branch Brandywine River), the Ravine Road traffic pattern would be changed to provide two-way traffic access to the small parking areas on each side of the roadway at the eastern bridge approach (near the Children's Country Week Association and West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association trout hatchery). From that point, travel across the Ravine Road Bridge would be limited to one-way, westbound, at the intersection of Valley Creek Road. Eastbound turns from Valley Creek Road to Ravine Road from both directions (see enclosed diagram) would be restricted. Paradise Farm Camps would be permitted as an "Institutional Special Permit" to cross the bridge both ways with "Service Vehicles" (to be defined at a later date). The Township would provide a similar special permit for emergency service vehicles to cross the Ravine Road Bridge both ways in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Lucas stated the BOS has not arrived at any conclusions nor made any decisions on this matter and continues to seek the input from Township Staff, the Traffic Committee and interested residents / stakeholders.

Twp Mgr Lynch offered that the future of the road (and bridge) maintenance / repair and traffic pattern is uncertain and subject to continued review by the Township but ultimately will be dependent upon available funding.

Andy Schaum, CCWA President, commented there is a broader overriding issue that should not be about funding but the will of the Township to do the right thing. The bridge is outdated and undersized in his opinion. The bridge needs to be repaired and the road needs to be repaired and be usable and safe without altering traffic patterns. Ravine Road was improperly constructed in his opinion since it was first paved (20+/- years ago). The subject alternative is not the right thing to do. The BOS has limited the Traffic Committee and Staff to alternatives that do not address the underlying issues.

Mr. Lucas indicated an altered (limited one-way) traffic pattern could be a temporary address to the situation. Mr. Schaum disagreed and shared some of the use activity of the CCWA (7,000 children served annually, 500 children on a daily basis during the summer months' camp season). Mr. Schaum stated the BOS does not understand the current conditions and use.

Mr. Davis inquired about the percentage of vehicles that use Ravine Road associated with the CCWA and West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association. This information is not known at this time.

Mr. Madsen suggested surveillance cameras be installed at the Ravine Bridge to identify unreported accidents / bridge damage.

It was suggested the Township undertake a 'seasonal' series of traffic volume counts.

Mr. Poole on behalf of West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association commented that the alternative presented does not respect the current use by the Camp and the Association and that a long-range plan should be prepared to maintain the road and the bridge.

Mr. Poole presented a letter on behalf of the West Chester, Fish, Game & Wildlife Association, dated 09-13-16, expressing the opinion of the Association Executive Committee.

Mr. Schaum stated that if the Township's 'plan' is to allow the bridge to fail, it would be disconcerting and create a severe operational and financial impact to the CCWA as the bridge is essential to the camp's operation. The Township has invested Open Space funds in the Paradise Valley and it needs to understand a bigger picture of the value of the road and bridge to the area. The BOS needs to be educated on all options.

Mr. Schaum stated grant funds could be available and this needs to be researched.

Mr. Davis agreed that the easiest way may not be the right way and he is not comfortable with a 'let it fail' approach.

Mr. Johnson commented that the Valley Creek is an important asset to the Township and the area. The WCFG&W Association relies on it for its operation of the trout nursery and educational programs and it is a source of drinking water. Unmanaged stormwater runoff from Ravine Road is impacting not only the road but the trout nursery and quality of water into the stream. The bridge is essential – fix it right.

Mr. Davis suggested one strategy is to repair the bridge and perform managed maintenance of the road.

Twp Engineer Lucas indicated the 12-23-15 PADOT Interim Bridge Inspection Report for Ravine Road estimated \$100K+ in super-structure repairs (not the sub structure). Repair to the sub structure which is indicated would be substantially more costly. Upon inquiry, Mr. Lucas estimated replacement of the bridge could exceed \$1M so that regular recommended annual maintenance and repair is a good practice to avoid such a capital expense.

Mr. Schaum requested the Traffic Committee provide a smarter recommendation to the BOS than the one offered at this meeting.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Lynch requested Twp Engineer Lucas transmit the October 2014 Ravine Road

Improvements / Alternatives (6) Analysis to the Committee for its review.

Mr. Lucas indicated he recommends that the 2017 Budget include funds (\$100K) to repair the bridge super structure. He reiterated that repair costs to the super structure are relatively minor compared with repairs to the sub structure (exclusive of permit application preparation and related expense).

Mr. Madsen stated in addition to the importance of Valley Creek and the bridge that other traffic and safety hazards might manifest as an unintended consequence of altering the traffic patterns. He further commented that enforcement of a limited and selective one-way traffic pattern would be problematic.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Lucas stated the Township, in addition to the Ravine Road Bridge, owns three (3) others: Sunset Hollow Road / Broad Run; Valley Creek Road / Broad Run; and Highland Road / Taylor Run Tributary.

Secretary's Note: The Township also owns approximately eight (8) other box culvert and stone arch bridge structures.

Committee Chair Cavanaugh thanked the meeting attendees for their comments.

Upon discussion, the Traffic Committee agreed (recommended):

The Township should maintain a structurally safe and functional Ravine Road Bridge in its current use;

The Committee does not support the traffic (limited one-way) concept discussed at this meeting;

A series of 'seasonal' traffic counts for Ravine Road should be scheduled and conducted;

The Traffic Committee is to review the 2014 Alternatives report prepared by the Twp Engineer at its next meeting;

The Township should research grant opportunities for funding both the bridge and road infrastructure; and;

The Township should consider the installation of surveillance cameras at the bridge.

B. Old Business:

1. PADOT proposed detour of traffic for the replacement of Route 926 Bridge over the Brandywine Creek and potential impacts to East Bradford roadways- Update from Mark Lucas
No update.
2. SD# 632, Toll Bros. (Tigue Farm) – Conditional Use – Traffic testimony presented at recent Conditional Use hearings. Alternate plan submitted by West Goshen Township and West Chester Borough (08-09-16)
3. Boot Road Railroad Twin Tunnels
No update.
4. Sketch Plan: SD #633, West Chester Sportsplex (West End Swim Club)
No update.

C. Other Business:

1. Bradford Avenue Ad Hoc Committee
Most recent (and first) Committee meeting occurred August 29, 2016.
This item not discussed at this time.
2. Pb Wks Director Carroll update on High Friction Road Surface Treatment (HFS) on portions of PADOT (ref: Vince Cerbone) roads in the Township including Route 52 and Route 842.
This item not discussed at this time.

On motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Yarnall, the Traffic Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 09:25 A.M.

Michael P. Lynch,
Township Secretary

Next (tentatively) Scheduled Traffic Committee Mtg: October 20, 2016, 08:00 A.M.