

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

Members: Barr, Chairperson, Ressler, Richard

Attendees: Barr, Richard, Ressler, Rowe, Martin, Mayor Mowen, Thompson, Burkholder, 6 Visitors

The Highway Committee met on August 26, 2019 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a letter dated August 8, 2019 from the Cocalico Valley VFW Post 3376 requesting to close South State Street between Fulton Street and West Franklin Street from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (Rain Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019) for the annual Jack Frost parade scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve this request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured as part of the Consent Agenda at their September 9, 2019 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a request from Josh Collins, Regional Director for the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT) asking that the Borough consider sending a letter to our congressional delegation asking them to oppose proposals to increase the national maximum truck weights and sizes of trucks on our highways and local roads. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council support CABT by providing the requested letters and authorize the Borough Manager to sign the letters at their September 9, 2019 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed an August 7, 2019 e-mail from Matt Smith representing The Ephrata Farmers Day Association, Inc. asking that the Borough provide an exception to the applicable Borough Ordinance allowing trash pickup at the Ephrata Fair outside of permitted times. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council waive Ephrata Borough Code § 271-24: Time of collection for municipal waste and/or recyclable materials to accommodate the Ephrata Fair from September 24, 2019 through September 29, 2019 at 5:00 AM at their September 9, 2019 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed a letter received August 15, 2019 from the Highland Elementary School PTO asking to close Highland Avenue between West Chestnut Street and Broad Street on Friday, November 1, 2019 from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM to conduct a Trunk or Treat event for the families of Highland Elementary School. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve this request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured, notification of the event provided to all Highland Avenue residents, food trucks moved from the street to school property, and Chief Harvey's approval and contact by event organizer as part of the Consent Agenda at their September 9, 2019 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed a July 24, 2019 e-mail with supporting documents in subsequent e-mails received from Jim Brown listing numerous concerns associated with the following intersections: 1. East Main Street (SR 0322) & Adams Alley and 2. West Main Street (SR 0322) & Church Street. Concerns at the 1st intersection include delivery trucks blocking clear sight adjacent to Adams Alley and blockage of a pedestrian crosswalk. Concerns at the 2nd intersection are associated with tractor-trailers turning onto northbound Church Street from westbound West Main Street. Staff will discuss the delivery truck issue at the 1st intersection with the applicable business owner. Staff will look at some solutions to increase pedestrian safety at the 2nd intersection while also improving navigation of the intersection by tractor-trailers and report back to Committee at their September meeting.
2. The Committee discussed a citizen concern regarding curb and sidewalk replacement requirements completed in 2018 along Lincoln Avenue. Committee and staff reviewed curb and sidewalk replacement criteria established by Council in 2002. Committee was advised by staff that sometimes certain conditions associated with private property must be maintained resulting in curb and sidewalk left in place, as is, to accommodate certain existing conditions. No further action required.
3. The Committee reviewed the 2nd quarter 2019 budget report for those activities under their purview. No issues or concerns were identified by the Committee.
4. The Committee discussed a recent concern brought forth by Mayor Mowen regarding a travel trailer illegally parked in the vicinity of Irene Avenue and Timothy Lane. The Committee reviewed Ephrata Borough Code § 277-18 and § 277-20 and agreed with staff and the Borough solicitor that the current maximum fine of \$600 + costs was adequate penalty for this type of violation. No further action required.
5. The Committee discussed a request that a solar-powered pedestrian crosswalk signal be considered for installation where the Major Winters Memorial Trail crosses East Main Street (SR 0322). Staff consulted with PennDOT's Traffic Unit regarding this request and was advised that this current midblock crosswalk was never permitted by PennDOT and that an existing crosswalk at a signalized intersection is within 300 feet of this existing midblock crosswalk. PennDOT will not permit the use of a signalized crosswalk at this location and urges pedestrians to use the existing signalized crosswalks at Main and State. No further action required.
6. The Committee discussed parking concerns raised at the August 21, 2019 Zoning Hearing Board meeting regarding certain residents inability to park in front of or close by their homes during business hours at the Black Forest Brewery. The owners of the Black Forest Brewery advised the Committee that they have secured the use of an existing parking lot approximately 500 feet south of their business and will direct their patrons to park there when parking is unavailable directly adjacent to their establishment. The Committee is not interested in permit parking at this time and has directed staff to monitor the parking situation in this area and revisit this issue for further discussion in 3 months.