

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – OCTOBER 14, 2019

Members: Barr, Chairperson, Ressler, Richard

Attendees: Barr, Richard, Ressler, Rowe, Martin, Mayor Mowen, Burkholder, 1 Visitor (K. Withum)

The Highway Committee met on September 23, 2019 and discussed the following:

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a Proposal last revised September 10, 2019 from ELA Group, Inc. to provide certain professional services to replace existing vehicular pedestrian signal heads with hand/man countdown pedestrian signals at the South State Street/Parkview Heights Road/Rothsville Road and West Main Street/Market Street intersections and replacement of existing hand/man pedestrian signal heads with hand/man countdown pedestrian signals at the Main Street/State Street intersection. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally award a professional services contract to ELA Group, Inc. in the amount of \$24,700 subject to the contract being in a form acceptable to the Borough solicitor at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a letter dated September 13, 2019 from Mainspring of Ephrata requesting to close Lemon Street between Pointview Avenue and the Winters Memorial Trail from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 19, 2019 to conduct a ribbon cutting and opening celebration of the Bike Park at Heatherwood. Adjacent property owners have been notified and a certificate of insurance has been provided. Food trucks will be placed on Lemon Street near Pointview Avenue. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a resolution authorizing the Borough Council President and Secretary to execute and provide an application for traffic signal approval to PennDOT for planned signal modifications at the South State Street/Fulton Street intersection. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2019-18 at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
4. The Committee reviewed a resolution authorizing the Borough Council President and Secretary to execute and provide an application for traffic signal approval to PennDOT for planned signal modifications at the West Main Street/Academy Drive intersection. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2019-19 at their October 14, 2019 meeting.
5. The Committee reviewed a resolution authorizing the Borough Council President and Secretary to execute and provide an application for traffic signal approval to PennDOT for planned signal modifications at the West Main Street/Market Street intersection. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council adopt Resolution #2019-20 at their October 14, 2019 meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed the West Main Street/Church Street intersection as a follow-up from their August 26, 2019 meeting and reviewed a 5-year motor vehicle accident history for this intersection provided by the Ephrata Police noting that accident history is not indicative of any intersection configuration concerns and that reconfiguring the intersection to better accommodate truck movement will likely encourage increased truck traffic through this intersection and reduce parking. No further action required at this time.
2. The Committee discussed parking meter vs. non-meter parking data requested by Council President Rowe at the August 26, 2019 meeting citing that there was a distinct drop-off in non-meter parking tickets issued in 2019 compared to those issued in 2018. The Committee also discussed parking meter options and the recent Parking Management Plan for Mainspring of Ephrata as supported by Ephrata Borough and requested that Highway Committee be provided a copy of the plan for discussion at their October meeting.
3. The Committee discussed the planned route shift of the Make-A-Wish Mother's Day convoy and understands that the loss of the event's current staging area was the cause for relocating to a new staging area at Manheim Auto Auction which dictated a new route in another part of Lancaster County for the annual event. No further action required at this time.
4. The Committee briefly discussed the South Oak Street Bridge railing/vehicle barrier and was advised that a current bridge inspection is planned for later this year for the South Oak Street Bridge.
5. The Committee was advised that Ephrata Borough Public Works efforts earlier this year to clean up the drainage swales and pipes within Borough property to the rear of Russ Shirker's property along North Maple Street have resulted in a noticeable absence of water flowing adjacent to and within North Maple Street in this area. Property owners in this area have been educated on the impacts of dumping waste materials in these drainage swales. This situation will continue to be monitored.
6. The Committee discussed grass clippings discharged onto Borough streets from lawn mowers and suggested that educational information prohibiting this type of activity be provided with utility bills and placed on the Borough's website.