

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT – JUNE 12, 2023

Members: Richard, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Musser, Member; Buohl, Alternate; Burkholder, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Richard, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Musser, Member; Buohl, Alternate
Council: Ressler; Zimmerman
Staff: Burkholder; Harris
Guests: None

The Highway Committee met on May 22, 2023, at 5:30 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Burkholder provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Richard asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Richard asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Ms. Martin moved, and Mr. Musser seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. The Committee reviewed a request from Boy Scout Troop 73 to use the Locust Street parking lot and could staff the Franklin Street parking lot during the 2023 Ephrata Fair to park cars as a fundraiser. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to Borough receipt of a satisfactory certificate of insurance naming the Borough as additional insured at their June 12, 2023, meeting.
2. The Committee reviewed a request from Fidelity Contracting, LLC seeking permission to use designated Borough streets within a planned detour route around a work area planned for West Mohler Church Road and North State Street. The Committee is concerned about traffic backlogs on Green Dragon Fridays. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council conditionally approve the request subject to satisfactory performance of the detour route on Green Dragon Fridays at their June 12, 2023, meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed a request from DOLI Construction Corporation seeking permission to use designated Borough streets within a planned detour route around an EAJA water system upgrade work area in the 1st block of Ridge Avenue in Ephrata Township. The Committee will recommend that Borough Council approve the request at their June 12, 2023, meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. The Committee discussed pedestrian safety at the signalized intersection of Church Street and West Main Street. Staff will plan to trim or remove a tree and shrubbery adjacent to the northeast corner of that intersection which will increase clear sight distance and improve pedestrian visibility. Staff will continue to monitor this intersection.
2. The Committee discussed a request from Julie Hocking asking the Borough to provide 3 temporary on-street parking spaces for residents of an apartment building on Julie Ann Court owned by Hocking during construction activities associated with the Gross Run Stream Restoration project which requires access through a portion of Hocking's apartment building parking lot. Staff will determine the location of the 3 parking spaces and report back at a future Committee meeting.
3. The Committee reviewed an HRG Proposal dated May 19, 2023, for a Hummer Road / Apple Street & West Main Street Traffic Signal Evaluation. Staff will monitor Council action for the Gables at Richard Avenue land development approval and plan to maintain this item in Old Business every 3 months until further notice.

Old Business Items:

1. Staff is formulating a parking kiosk plan which will be included for review in the draft capital project budget for 2024.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Committee Alternate Buohl discussed his concerns regarding big pine trees near the East Chestnut Street & North Maple Street intersection obstructing clear sight distance. This issue will be referred to Zach Rineer, Zoning & Codes Administrator, for his review and action to enforce.
2. Council Member Zimmerman discussed recent citizen safety concerns at the Church Avenue & West Chestnut Street intersection. Burkholder will contact the citizen to discuss her concerns.
3. Committee Member Musser conveyed his concerns regarding the existing conditions to SR 0322 West Main Street in the Lincoln section of Ephrata. Burkholder will contact PennDOT and inquire about upgraded status for a proposed street mill and overlay project by PennDOT in this area and report back to Committee next month.