

April 29, 2013
La Mott Community Center

A **La Mott Community Meeting** was held this evening commencing at 6:30 p.m. In attendance was Commissioner Harvey Portner, Ward 3; Mark Eisold, Project Engineer; Michael Fleming, Public Works Coordinator; Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager; Kevin O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Police.

1. Commissioner Harvey Portner welcomed community residents and provided opening comments. He noted that the community meeting was called in reference to a traffic study dated July 6, 2013 and a subsequent letter from PennDOT dated July 17, 2012 to the Township. Mr. Portner said that notices of this evening's meeting were mailed to over 200 households in La Mott on April 15, 2013 (see attached).

2. Mr. Havir provided background information on the original issuance of the traffic signal permit dating back to 1953 and reviewed the two community meetings held in 2010 and 2012 for the Community Revitalization Program when the Township heard from the community that it wanted to see enhancements made to new streetscape improvements, new street lights, traffic calming measures to address speeding on public streets, increased safety and other beautification projects. He noted that through the community envisioning process, a Community Revitalization Plan was developed and federal, state, and county funds were secured over the past three (3) years to pay for the new street lights throughout La Mott and for the streetscape improvements, including the bump-outs as traffic calming devices at the intersections of Willow and Sycamore Avenues and Penrose and Willow Avenues. PennDOT was part of the initial review process and determined upon completion of the Willow Avenue streetscape improvements project in the spring of 2012 that the traffic signal at Willow and Sycamore Avenues needed to be upgraded, which will be more costly for the Township. The Township requested PennDOT perform a traffic study and determine if the traffic signal was necessary. Said traffic study was completed in June 2012 by KMJ Consulting, Inc., and it was determined that the signal no longer met PennDOT warrants, and it was recommended to be removed and replaced with 4-way Stop Signs to control traffic.

3. Mr. Eisold reviewed the overall scope of the streetscape improvements, the construction of the bump-outs, and the changes that PennDOT recommended if the intersection remained signalized. The cost of the intersection's upgrades were between \$40,000 – \$50,000. If the traffic signal were to be removed and replaced with a 4-way Stop Sign, the cost would be significantly less and would require less physical changes to the intersection. Mr. Eisold reviewed PennDOT's past design criteria and discussed how the intersection would be safer for pedestrian and vehicular movement if the traffic were controlled by 4-way Stop Signs.

4. Deputy Chief O'Brien reviewed the accident history at the intersection over the last five (5) years. He noted that five (5) accidents occurred, i.e. one (1) accident each year. However, only one (1) accident occurred since the installation of the streetscape improvements. He elaborated on the effectiveness of 4-way Stop signs in reducing speeding and described typical motorist behavior when entering intersections controlled by 4-way Stop Signs versus traffic lights.

5. Mr. Fleming reviewed the traffic study dated July 6, 2012 prepared by PennDOT's consultant, KMJ Consulting Inc. and described the level of services currently at the installation with the traffic light and how it will be upgraded for public safety if the traffic light is removed.

6. Public Comments:

Asteria Vives was concerned about speeding and suggested speed bumps and more enforcement; camp counselors monitoring children at the Community Center during summer camp programs; need to do better at monitoring and walking children at the playground; speed bumps should be considered.

Yolanda Gaston said speeding was a concern and was not sure that the 4-way Stop will make a difference; the area has a lot of seniors and children.

Diane Williams asked if the Traffic Report will be put on the Township's website and asked about long-term maintenance and electric costs; the traffic has shifted to Beech Avenue; there's a younger pedestrian population coming to the La Mott Community Center; she suggested a Stop Sign with a blinking light; bump-outs appear to have caused this.

Trina Gooding was concerned about the safety of children and obstruction of vision.

Roxanne Waines was concerned about pedestrian safety, and felt a traffic light will be more effective in slowing traffic.

Darlene Melton was concerned for the safety of children and asked if PennDOT considered that there is a playground in the area; there is an increase in the number of children in the community; wanted reflectors on the Stop Sign pole; asked about blinking lights.

Robert Shine felt there was a false sense of safety with the light; it was counter-intuitive to human behavior; people will stop at a Stop Sign better than the traffic light; bump-outs would slow traffic on Willow Avenue.

Sally Dempsey wanted speed enforcement signs and questioned the length of time the digital warning signs would be used to warn motorists of a change at the intersection.

Mr. Christopher supported a Stop Sign with flashing lights.

Rachel Bauthney asked about a digital message sign.

One resident asked for a study of the intersections of Willow Avenue and Cedar Lane and Sycamore and Beech Avenues for a possible Stop Sign.

Jackie Myers asked about the length of the Traffic Study.

Joyce Bridgeforth asked if there were any deaths due to the current traffic light.

Dorothy Fripps opposed removal of the traffic light.

7. Mr. Havir advised that the next steps will involve the matter being discussed at a future meetings of the Public Safety Committee either on June 5 or July 2, 2013. He indicated that the June 5 meeting might be the most appropriate meeting. He asked everyone to check the Township's website and Community Bulletin Boards for agenda notices, noted that there will also be a community e-blast.

8. There being no further discussion, Commission Portner adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager