

TRAFFIC SAFETY MEETING
July 6, 2021

The Traffic Safety Commission met in person at 3315 Ridge Road, Highland Police Dept. Chief Hojnicky called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Roll Call: Peter T. Hojnicky, Chief of Police
John E Banasiak, Commander Police Department
Robyn Pappenheim, Project Engineer of DVG Team, Inc.
Tom Black, Councilman
William Timmer, Fire Chief

Absent with notice: Mark Knesek, Public Works Director
Steve Jurczak, Police Commissioner

Guests present: Alex Brown, Superintendent Park Dept.
Carlos Arburto, Park Board President
Dennis Cobb, 1st Group Engineering
Jason Smola, Highland Resident

Mr. Smola spoke of his concerns for the traffic in the area of Ridgewood and Branton Ave. With recent extra patrols, no violations were seen and a Traffic Study done in 2018 with the speed sign was remarkably within an acceptable speed range. Robyn Pappenheim of DVG Team explained the INDOT regulations as was further discussed the negative impact of both stop signs and speed bumps. Having no problems this past year, Mr Smola was advised to continue to log any further concerns he may view and we would continue to do enforcements in the area.

The traffic concerns at Martha Street and Spring Street were reviewed with the a motion made by Commander Banasiak and seconded by Councilman Black and the Traffic Safety Commission concurring to relocate the current signage "No Outlet" sign on the south side of the street to be as close to Spring Street as possible. Also, add a second "No Outlet" sign on the north side of the street as close as possible to Spring Street, possibly utilizing the Nipsco poles that are there. Therefore, there will be "No Outlet" signs on both sides of Martha so cars traveling eastbound on Martha will see them before passing Spring Street to the dead end. Additional extra patrols will be assigned.

More discussion was had with all present regarding the Hawk Signal with many questions still asked. Mr. Cobb advised the Pedestrian Countdown to crosswalk would work with the Opticom and Hawk signal, but there would be no visual countdown for vehicles on Kennedy Ave. With more discussion, a motion was made by Fire Chief Timmer that a traffic signal at Kennedy/Jewett would still be the first choice should town funding be available, however if town funding of a traffic signal would not be attainable, then the choice would be to recommend the Hawk signal as originally presented. Commander Banasiak seconded it and with 3 in favor and 1 opposed the Commission approved the Hawk Signal with the contingency of approval of the Traffic Signal at Kennedy and Jewett. Further questions regarding the Hawk signal arose and, at 9:15am the Commission decided to reconvene to the location of Kennedy/Jewett to physically view what, if any, changes would need to be done to the newly renovated Municipal Parking lot. At 9:20am all were present and continued discussion. After further discussion, a motion by Fire Chief Timmer and seconded by Commander Banasiak, the Traffic Commission unanimously voted to vacate the previous vote on the Traffic Signal at Kennedy and Jewett as first choice with the Hawk as second choice. Then, a motion was made by Commander Banasiak and seconded by Councilman Black to no longer request the Traffic Signal at Kennedy and Jewett with a unanimous agreement by the Traffic Safety Commission (4 ayes) in favor of the Hawk Signal, as originally proposed at the Kennedy Ave/Bike Trail crossing. Councilman Black will advise the Town Council of the Traffic Safety Commissions vote.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am.