

2 February 2013

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has decided not to pass Resolution 8-2013. As it turns out, the BOS received the wording for this resolution from PennDOT and did not initiate it as I had thought reading the agenda for their meeting. There is also a significant cost to installing these lights, \$25,000.00 plus maintenance and cost of lighting.

Several residents met with our new state representative, The Honorable Becky Corbin, regarding this traffic matter. She queried PennDOT regarding the situation. They responded to her **RE: Chester County - West Vincent Township - Birchrun Village LLP (Highway Occupancy Permit Application)** "The Department has reviewed this location extensively with the Township and developer of the proposed office."

"Our findings indicate that there is a need for a multi-way stop sign at the intersection to improve overall safety due to sight distance concerns. The stop sign cannot be installed without advance warning due to the existence of both vertical and horizontal curves on Flowing Springs Road." They go on to say that the warnings will consist of one unlit sign warning of a new stop sign and "including the use of a lit flashing advance warning to reinforce the message to drivers." It is our understanding that there would be two (2) such flashing lights. These changes are necessary for Birchrun Village LLP to receive a Highway Occupancy Permit so they can proceed with the development of their property, the sight of our historic School House and the former township municipal building. PennDOT first proposed a "right in, right out" pork chop to facilitate access to this property. It was shown by residents that this would cause extraordinary traffic through the village with a very sharp turn and the crossing of several one lane bridges. It should be noted that the traffic study done by Birchrun Village LLP was done over the Easter holidays so the counts most likely underestimate the number of additional cars (270) that would be coming through our village on a daily basis. PennDOT is tasking the developers with the installation of these flashing signs and had not corresponded with the township regarding them. However, PennDOT states, there needs to be a "Flashing Light Warning Device Permit for Flashing Stop sign ahead" and acceptance and application from the township.

The township consulted with John Caruolo who earlier advised against the four way stop. He wrote to Mr. Wendelgass on November 16, 2012, "My opinion is that PennDOT is OK with the 4-way stop with the traffic control devices, flasher and signs. I defer to their judgment but I would re-evaluate it 3 months after it's implemented to see if it's safe. If not, then go back to the current design."

We have asked residents to sign a petition opposing this four-way stop at the intersection of Flowing Springs Road and School House Lane. We feel that

during inclement weather this four-way stop would pose an additional hazard to cars and passengers traversing our roads. So far, we have 53 signatures on our website [www.BirchrunvillePeople.com](http://www.BirchrunvillePeople.com) and about 30 on our petition at the Post Office. However, someone has removed the signature copies from the Post Office so there are probably more than 30. To this end, we ask you to sign at the website or send your opposition to PennDOT, as stated on the township website [www.WestVincentTwp.org](http://www.WestVincentTwp.org), cc-ing the township and me at [suzannemroth@verizon.net](mailto:suzannemroth@verizon.net). I have 8 signatures in my file.

It saddens me to say that someone in our township thinks that Dave Monteith is the cause of this petition and has asked retribution against him. Let me assure everyone that this petition comes from me and has the blessing of the Board of Supervisors. I am concerned for the future of our village and the prospect of three (3) new office buildings (condominiums) of 2,500 square feet each on an historic property, close to an Exceptional Value tributary to the Birch Run and the traffic that will result from this development. Dave has not been active in nor expressed an opinion regarding this issue.

I drove Flowing Springs Road this morning and it was living up to its name. The springs were frozen across the road approaching the School House Lane intersection.

Thank you for indulging my long winded explanation of our complicated issue; thank you for signing the petition and thank you for caring about this issue.

Very sincerely yours,

Suzanne Roth