



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

Traffic Commission

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. in City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman Police Chief Mark Leonard, Vice Chairman - DPW Commissioner Ronald LaFreniere, Fire Chief David Adams, City Clerk Lisa M. Thomas and City Planner Nancy Savoie. Also present: Timothy Collins, Engineering Division, City Councilor Ed Clancy, City Councilor Don Landers and Deborah Fairbanks from Renaissance Lofts. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

That the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To APPROVE.

2-New Business

2a. Communication from Councilors Vigeant and Seymour, re: signage diverting truck traffic onto Granger Boulevard.

Councilors Vigeant and Seymour have indicated that the signage on Rte. 20 diverting traffic onto Granger Blvd. may be taking passerby traffic away from the downtown area. They asked if there was a way to only divert truck traffic away from downtown and therefore encourage all other traffic to proceed downtown. Ron LaFreniere stated that the current signage is consistent with the routes we have, i.e. most traffic for Route 85 South will use Granger Blvd. The parking garages are also accessed by Granger Blvd. Route 20 was diverted intentionally. The by-pass to Granger was intended to be what it is – a by-pass. He stated that 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles per day travel on Route 20. This traffic is not intended for Main Street.

Lisa Thomas suggested a possible sign at the top of Main Street listing some of the business/store names.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to look at the signage there now and see if any changes can be made and refer back at the next meeting.

To APPROVE.

2b. Communication from Gretta Holland, re: Request for crosswalk and associated signage on Chestnut St. @ Pleasant St.

Concern is for the elderly at Christopher Heights crossing Chestnut Street to go to Tedeschi's Market. Ron LaFreniere stated that there is a faded crosswalk there and that it is slated for painting by the DPW. Tim Collins advised that there are advance warning signs for crosswalks but that there are no signs in that area now.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer to the DPW to look into advance warning signs that would be appropriate.

To APPROVE.

3-Old Business

3h. Crosswalk on Lincoln Street near Winthrop St. – Artist Lofts

Tim Collins has looked into this issue and prepared a memo to the Traffic Commission with his findings. In brief, his department does not look favorably on the new location requested for the crosswalk. It was requested that the crosswalk be located at a driveway apron already in existence. He did not feel that this was safe for pedestrians. Also, this area is too steep for a person in a wheelchair to maneuver safely. He indicated that the crosswalk should be located where originally outlined in the Approved Site Plan. His department researched midblock crosswalks and found guidelines from the State of Minnesota which could be helpful in determining the actual need for a crosswalk. The need is based on 1) # of vehicles - i.e. Average Daily Traffic count (ADT) and 2) # of pedestrians crossing in peak hours. Ron LaFreniere asked if there was any criteria listed in MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). Tim could not find anything.

Deborah Fairbanks showed a picture of a school bus dropping off children at this location and then having to cross the street. Deborah gets complaints and requests from residents all the time about the need for a crosswalk in this area. She did not understand why this needed to be turned into an expensive traffic study now. They have already paid for a traffic study. At the time of construction there was a depression in the curb and they could have accommodated the sidewalk requirements. The sidewalk has since been rebuilt and now appears that it would have to be reconstructed again.

Deborah stated that neither of the sidewalks on Lincoln Street currently meet ADA requirements. Ron LaFreniere said that we need to differentiate between existing sidewalks and creating new ones. Any new sidewalks would need to meet current regulations. We are talking about putting a sidewalk in the middle of a busy street where one does not currently exist. We don't want to set a precedent. Ron stated that a study, using the Minnesota guidelines, would probably show that a crosswalk was needed.

There was some discussion as to whether the crosswalk was a requirement of the Special Permit for the site. Deborah stated that she wants one regardless of whether it was initially required in the permit. (Lisa Thomas passed out copies of the special permit. The sidewalk is not a requirement). Deborah asked about the procedure for "calming traffic". She talked about possibly bringing out the curb for a tree and putting in side

street parking. She felt that widening the sidewalk in a few specific locations would solve many problems. This would also help with sight concerns coming out of Winthrop Street. Chief Leonard questioned the funding for this type of a project. He said that the Traffic Commission does not have any approval on funding. This would be a fairly significant cost that would possibly be a part of a capital funding request. Ron stated that all capital requests need to be approved by the City Council and would be measured against all other requests. He mentioned that a better option may be a request for Community Development Funding. Deborah asked if it would help that the Lofts are located in an "economic target area". She wanted to know the procedure for making this type of request. She initially came to the Traffic Commission at the direction of Pam Wilderman.

Ron LaFreniere said that the best idea is to talk to her City Councilor, Rob Seymour, and have him make a request, on her behalf, to the Community Development Authority. He felt that it would probably be well received. He said to have Councilor Seymour contact the Engineering Department with regard to the scope of the project. They can give basic estimates on cost etc. which can be given to the Community Development Authority for consideration.

Chief Leonard advised that in the meantime, the police will try to take enforcement action, possibly using the Radar Speed Board. We need to get the message out to the public to slow down in this area.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to recommend that Deborah Fairbanks contact Councilor Seymour and proceed from there as directed.

To APPROVE.

3a. Long term oversized vehicle ordinance.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

3b. Municipal off street parking regulation.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

3c. High School parking regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE

3d. Communication from Barbara McGann, re: Request for school zone on Forest St. near AMSA Charter School.

Chief Leonard stated that he has received another letter from Barbara McGann, dated 4/16/09. Ron indicated that a reconstruction project for Forrest Street is currently under design; however, there are a number of problems in this area. The biggest issue is the increased enrollment at AMSA. The numbers are larger than what was expected when the school was created. Chief Leonard indicated that the onus is on them for a speed study

to be conducted. Parents are parking at HP and crossing the street to pick up children and then re-crossing. There are a lot of issues going on. There is both business traffic and school traffic in the area. Ron LaFreniere said that the current problems are not part of the original site plan approval. That existing plan is now being compromised. The usage has changed from what was originally approved in the site plan. The Site Plan may need to be revisited. Chief Leonard agreed that there are numerous safety issues that need to be addressed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE, but Chief Leonard will talk to Barbara McGann with regard to the safety issues.

3e. Communication from Joe Camar, re: Traffic concerns on Donald Lynch Blvd. near Sports Authority store.

Tim Collins has looked into this issue and prepared a memo to the Traffic Commission with his findings. In brief, the options are 1) Signalization of the intersection of Donald Lynch Blvd. and the entrance to Sports Authority/Old Navy. This would require an extensive traffic study. 2) Restrict Left Turn out of the parking lot. He presented three U-turn options for traffic, i.e. for both passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles and suggested that this information be forwarded to the property owner to assist them in making a decision on how to handle the traffic at their location.

It is the recommendation of the Traffic Commission to use the No Left Turn option and let the property owner review the findings and determine the best option for truck traffic and to obtain any necessary approvals.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer the issue back to Joe Camar with the findings of the Engineering Department.

To APPROVE.

3f. Communication from Jeff Niedzwecki, re: Speeding concerns on Stevens St. near Rte. 20.

Ron LaFreniere said that signage will be posted, probably today, at the Cemetery. The speed limit is 20mph in this area. It is currently posted at another location on the road.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE

3g. Communication from First Student, re: Grant of Authority for on-site traffic and parking rules/regulations at their Hayes Memorial Site.

Tim Collins has reviewed the permit and found that nothing needs to be regulated at this site. No action is necessary at this time.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To REMOVE.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Lambert - Records Clerk, MPD