



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

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 10:00am upstairs in Memorial Hall, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief Mark Leonard, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni and Fire Chief Kevin Breen. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE - Accept and Place on File.

2 – New Business

2a) Request to review right turn on red restriction on Wilson St. at Boston Post Road East.

Resident is requesting that the “No Turn on Red” sign be taken down or that a green turn arrow be added to the existing light. She said that she often sits at this light “for quite a while waiting for it to turn, when no cars are coming. Your view is not obstructed and it would be safe to turn, if it wasn’t for the sign”.

Chief Leonard sent a reply back explaining that this intersection is part of the state highway section of Rte. 20 and is controlled by Mass DOT. They would have to approve any changes. He noted that the Traffic Commission has looked into this in the past and determined that there was a sight distance issue when looking to the left. He said, “the curve makes the sight distance less than ideal for the speed at which cars westbound on Rte. 20 typically travel in this area”.

Tim Collins said that Mass DOT reviewed this back in 2011. He received an answer from them on 8/27/11 indicating that they wanted to keep it the way it is due to limited site distance to the left. Mr. Collins also mentioned that there are two separate lanes there, one for straight and left and one for an exclusive right. The Traffic Commission discussed this issue further and determined that the intersection is operating “at an acceptable level”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE, as Mass DOT recommends that the restriction stay.

2b) Beach Street traffic pattern concerns.

Resident of Beach Street sent an email to Chief Leonard requesting clarification “on the traffic pattern at the end of Beach Street”. He explained that the road is physically wide enough for at least 2 lanes of traffic but it is very difficult to make a safe left turn when there are vehicles trying to make the right turn at the same time. The resident also said that he has seen the flashing speed warning signs in other areas of the City and feels that they would help here as well.

Chief Leonard said that this issue does come up “every once in a while”. Tim Collins passed out a large diagram of the area with a proposed single yellow line that would basically funnel the traffic to one lane. He advised, however, that he does not see the benefit of changing it to one lane. If this were done, it would cause everyone to have to wait for others to make their turns.

Fire Chief Breen said that he drives this way often and can see what they are saying, however, he also noted that he sees very little traffic here. It is probably mainly residents of Beach Street who are having this issue. It seems that there would probably be more complaints if the street were lined differently.

Chief Leonard advised that Beach Street already has some traffic calming measures. There are bump outs in the road and officers have done speed enforcement here. He also noted that the flashing warning signs are very expensive and there is no funding currently available.

After further discussion, the group determined that it would be better to leave the street as it is and not stripe it to create a single lane roadway at the end. Chief Leonard advised that he would reply to the resident of Beach Street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to reply to the resident of Beach Street.

Tim Collins provided Chief Leonard with a new agenda item for the next meeting:

Thickly Settled speed sign changes.

Chief Leonard will put this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

3-Old Business

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

Update: Tim Collins provided a revised diagram of the proposed island. The area in black is what was previously discussed and the area in red is what is now being proposed. Mr. Collins advised that Tom DiPersio wanted to take out the painted line and replace it with a raised area that would actually make you slow down. Mr. Collins advised that he was watching the area this morning. They are planning to put out barrels with a “keep right” sign to simulate the raised island and then monitor how it seems to be working. With the original proposal, cars could still drive over the painted lines.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to monitor and provide feedback at the next meeting.

3c) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Parking concerns on Paris Street.

Update: Fire Chief Breen advised that he went out to Paris Street to see if there would be a problem for his trucks. He said that this street is “like every other street in the area”. He is OK with getting through there if he needed to. He did note, however, that he saw the truck that was discussed in the last meeting and he saw it off on the left. Tim Collins advised that he saw the truck too and it was not taking up any more space than other vehicles. He also checked on the signage and found that everything is now all set.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the Agenda.

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Tim Collins advised that he sent another group to Lisa for advertisement and that he is just about done. He needs to check with her to see what she has left to advertise. Chief Leonard and Karen Lambert will get together soon to organize all the updates.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to work with Karen Lambert on compiling what is missing for General Code.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

-Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, October 25, 2016. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of minutes from Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

-E-mail from Karolyn Gowaski to Chief Leonard, dated 10/8/16, re: No turn on red sign on Farm/Wilson and 20 intersection, along with Chief Leonard's reply.

-E-mail from Andrew MacIntosh to Chief Leonard, dated 10/19/16, re: Traffic on Beach Street.

Additional Handouts:

-Diagram of proposed island at intersection of Wilson and Hemenway.

-Diagram of intersection of Beach Street and South Street with proposed single yellow line indicated.

-Copy of amendment to Section 193 and Section 194, Chapter 90 of the General Laws, regarding new "Thickly Settled" Speed Zone and new 20 MPH Safety Zone, along with an information/guidance packet, dated 10/17/16, prepared by the Mass DOT.