



**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, November 28, 2017 at 10:00 am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiDersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, City Councilor Rob Tunnera, City Councilor Katie Robey and City Councilor Ed Clancy and local resident Susie Ouellette. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File.

(Fire Chief Breen abstained from voting as he was not present at the last meeting.)

Chief Giorgi opened the meeting by referring to Lisa Thomas as she wanted to make a request regarding the meeting schedule for 2018.

Lisa Thomas asked if it would be possible to change the meeting day to Wednesdays next year rather than Tuesdays. It is getting more and more difficult for her to have the monthly Traffic Commission meeting fall so close to the City Council Meeting which is on Monday. Chief Giorgi said this would be fine with him, however, he also wanted to check with Commissioner Ghiloni who was not in attendance for this meeting. Ms. Thomas asked if the schedule could be confirmed for the next meeting so that she can post the full 2018 schedule on the City's website.

2 – New Business

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules to start the meeting with Agenda Item 2e) as Susie Ouellette and Councilor Tunnera were in attendance for this issue. All in Favor.

2e) Northboro Rd. East and New Apex Center.

Susie Ouellette, longtime resident of Northboro Rd. East, sent an email to the City Council regarding traffic concerns here. With the new Apex Center, traffic concerns have become increasingly worse. One of her main concerns is that drivers constantly ignore the stop sign for cars coming out of Hannaford Plaza when they are trying to make the green light at Rte. 20 before it changes. She also noted that this makes it very dangerous for people waiting to pull out into traffic at the bottom of Northborough Road East. She also mentioned the fact that people don't stop at the stop sign at East Dudley either. They look to the left and see that no one is coming and roll right through.

Another major issue is why there only one entrance to the Apex Center from the east. She said that it results in more people using Northborough Road East to cut through to avoid the traffic on Rte. 20 to get to the entrance. She mentioned that initially there was talk of another entrance off Glenn Street but that did not happen out of respect for the neighborhood. She also noted that there is no posted speed limit on this road and she would like to see one installed.

Chief Giorgi said that an Officer was out there yesterday to monitor the traffic. Tim Collins passed out a diagram of the area and said that part of the problem with the stop sign near Hannaford is that people think that section of roadway is actually the driveway to the Plaza. He said that the stop sign should actually be moved back closer onto Hannaford property before cars enter the roadway. It is currently located on Northboro Road. It should be about 10 feet back. This should help with this issue. Ms. Ouellette asked if there was a way to draw more attention to the stop sign. Mr. Collins said that the issue is that it is not our sign, it is Hannaford's sign.

He also advised that the traffic signals at the entrance to the Apex Center are only signaled temporarily right now and there is still a large signal pole in the driveway opening. Once this is removed and the lights are properly set with the timing sequence, it will alleviate some of the back up at the entrance. Tom DiPersio said that the lights on the Hannaford section are being properly set up as we speak. The other side will be done soon. It will be easier to enter the Apex Center from Rte. 20 when the left turn arrow is functioning properly.

With regard to the request for a speed limit sign, Mr. Collins said that it would require a speed study and approval from the State. You can't just say you want the speed to be set at 20-25 mph. The speed limit would be based on the speed that 85% of cars are traveling. It may be able to be posted as Thickly Settled though.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for more presence in the area to monitor speed and stop sign adherence.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review the requirements for a Thickly Settled area. Engineering can also speak to Hannaford about moving the stop back onto their own property.

NOTE: Councilor Tunnera and Ms. Ouellette started to leave the meeting, however, came back with another question regarding the possibility of a truck exclusion on Dudley Street. Mr. Collins briefly explained some of the requirements for a truck exclusion, i.e. a specific percentage of traffic needs to be trucks and the State needs to approve an alternate truck route.

2d) Elm Street Reconstruction Project (Pleasant to Mechanic) – 2 issues for discussion.

Tom DiPersio presented two issues to be addressed by the Traffic Commission (he also passed out a diagram of the plans for this reconstruction project):

- 1) Possible parking restriction on one side of Elm Street. Previously there was no curbing so cars parked along the shoulder and sidewalk on both sides. With the new granite curbing, this is no longer possible. He said that there is no longer room for parking on both sides and feels that a restriction on one side is warranted.
- 2) Possible elimination of “No Right on Red” at the intersection of Elm and Pleasant. Elm Street was previously very wide at the intersection and cars formed two lanes at the light even though there was only 1 marked lane. With the realignment of the intersection, there is no longer room for two lanes. He feels there is sufficient site distance looking south to allow a safe right turn on red condition. This would help to clear the backup at the intersection.

With regard to the parking restriction, Tim Collins advised he would need to determine which side allows for the most parking and then restrict parking to only one side. Currently, there are also people parking at the corner of Elm and Pleasant making it difficult to make the turn.

With regard to the elimination of the “No Turn of Red”, Mr. Collins said the safest thing is to upgrade the pedestrian crossing so there is no chance of anyone getting hit. This can be done with the lights here.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to see 1) how many cars can park on each side of Elm Street and determine which side should have restricted parking and 2) to modify the traffic signal code for the pedestrian crossing in order to safely allow a right turn on red at this intersection.

2a) Request for 4-way stop at Essex Street and Church Street.

This request was received through SeeClickFix. Tom DiPersio said he does not think this intersection would meet the warrants for a 4-way stop. Tim Collins has information to provide but had to step out of the room to receive a phone call. (The Group moved on to 2b).

2b) Crosswalk – Hildreth @ Curtis Ave.

Tim Collins added this item to the Agenda. All crosswalks should be added under Chapter 586-60.1 Crosswalk Locations, in the City Code. He found that this crosswalk is not on the schedule nor are most of the crosswalks on Hildreth. Regulations are needed for those that are missing on Hildreth and the side street off Hildreth. Chief Giorgi will prepare the proper regulations for a vote at the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to prepare the Crosswalk regulations for the next meeting.

Back to New Business Item 2a) – Request for 4-way stop at Essex and Church.

Tim Collins passed out a GIS photo of the area with two stop signs indicated and direction of travel (one way) on Essex marked. He also passed out an example of 2 of the MUTCD Warrants for a 4-way stop.

Warrant 1: Traffic volume – Where the Major Approach maintains 300 vehicles per hour for a sustained 8-hour period AND the Minor Approach maintains a 200 vehicles per hour count for the same eight-hour period.

Warrant 2: The average delay to the minor street vehicular traffic must be at least 30 seconds per vehicle during the highest hour.

MUTCD Warrants need to be met in order to install a 4-way stop. The idea behind a 4-way stop is not to slow traffic. It is used when there is so much traffic on the main road that the side road traffic can't get out.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to discuss this issue with Councilor Doucette, as he made the initial request. ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE.

Tim Collins advised that he would respond on SeeClickFix and close out the item.

2c) Dead End Sign on Greenwood Street.

This request was received through SeeClickFix. The complaint was that you couldn't really see the sign. Tim Collins advised that it is currently a small Dead End sign on top of the street sign. He did agree that it was difficult to see and that it would make sense to add a sign stating, "Not a Through Street" on the opposite side. It would be a 12 x 18 sign on a post on the right side of the street. All agreed this could be done.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to add the new sign.

2f) Mayor & DPW Commissioner – Feedback from 11-16-17 – Traffic Commission Issues.

The Agenda packet included a list of 4 items for the Traffic Commission to review:

- a. Stop sign at Peters Ave./Cook Lane
- b. Stop sign Cook Lane and Hildreth Street
- c. Stop sign at Park Street and Newton Street

d. No Turn on Red sign at Farm Road onto Route 20

Tim Collins said that it would be helpful to have the reason behind the requests so the Traffic Commission can see if there is something else that can possibly be done. For example, which way are they talking about on Cook Lane and why? Commissioner Ghiloni was not present at the meeting to provide feedback.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for the next meeting when Commissioner Ghiloni is available for the discussion.

2g) Review of Hosmer St. & Concord Rd. Merge Lane.

This request was received through SeeClickFix. The complaint was that “regardless of the time of day, cars speed and tailgate from the left lane on Rte. 20 by Hosmer to cut off vehicles so they can merge...”

Tim Collins agreed that right now there are two lanes that do race to get ahead, however, there is a new plan in the works for reconstruction in 2020-21 that would create three lanes so there would be room for all with a turn lane included. Chief Giorgi advised that he can reach out to the reporting party and advise. Mr. Collins also said that this area is a state highway and would require their input. He will get the contact information for the State Highway in Worcester for the Chief.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to close out the items and speak with the reporting party.

2h) Warning sign permit for Oakcrest Ave.

Requesting party came into the Engineering Office with this request for a sign indicating “Slow Children at Play”. She mentioned that cars drive too fast here and there are many children on the street, including an autistic child. Tim Collins passed out a GIS diagram of the area and said that the City doesn’t really like to install these signs because there are truly children at play everywhere. The request is also not coming from the parents of the autistic child but from a neighbor. The City has put up “Deaf Child” and “Autistic Child” signs in the past, however, they usually require documentation and this type of sign also needs to be renewed annually.

Mr. Collins also said that Oakcrest is a Dead-End street and the request is coming from a resident of the middle section. The residents know that there are children there. You can only go so fast on that road. Maybe it is more of a neighborhood issue, maybe a resident who is a newly licensed driver going too fast?

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to reach out to the family with the autistic child. They would need to be the ones to request the sign.

2i) Stop -Barrier – Greenwood Street.

This request was received through SeeClickFix. There is no stop barrier at the end of Greenwood and because of the slope of the road it can be a dangerous situation for speed if someone is unfamiliar with the area. Tim Collins agreed and said it is also dark there

with a lot of trees. He passed out an example of the type of signage used as “end of road signage” on White Terrace. (See diagram.) This would draw attention to the dark end of the roadway. He advised that no regulation is needed, it is simply an “object marker”, that can just be installed. All agreed this was a good idea.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to install the proper signage.

2j) Parking Issues on Water Terrace.

This request was received through SeeClickFix. The complaint is that when cars are parked on both sides of Water Terrace it is very tight to fit a fire truck or ambulance through in the event of an emergency. Tim Collins passed out a GIS Diagram of the area. He said that this section of roadway has 24 feet of pavement and it narrows at the end. He agreed that it makes sense to restrict parking to one side here. There are four houses with driveways off Water Terrace. There is currently a sign at the end that says, “No Parking Here to Corner”. People park here for the Senior Center.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to determine how many spaces there are available on each side of the street and where there are driveways. Parking can then be restricted on the side with the least amount of parking.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

This information is currently up to date with General Code and is available on the City Website.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE FROM THE AGENDA.

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

This issue is still pending and needs to stay on the agenda.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3c) Unattended trailers parking in public way.

Chief Giorgi sent the proposed wording to the Legal Dept. and is waiting to hear back. Don Ryder said that he would review it and have something ready for the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly to REFER to TABLE.

3d) Traffic Regulations at the 1st LT Charles W. Whitman School.

Tim Collins had wanted to go out to the site again to take a closer look at the area in question, however, he has not been able to get there yet.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3e) Request for Stop Sign at Stow Road and Beaman Lane (Additional Information/Clarification).

Tom DiPersio said that he lives near this area and can understand the issue, however, it does not meet the warrants for a stop sign. It could also be a little bit of a sight distance issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to contact the requesting party to discuss.

3f) Request for a stop sign on Brigham Street.

Chief Giorgi had the portable speed sign put out here for the period of 11/3/17 to 11/17/17 and included the feedback reports in the Agenda Packet. It was placed at the bottom of Brigham at Westboro Rd. The feedback did not support the request.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE.

3g) Crosswalk concerns on Farm Road. Intersection of Pheasant Hill and Phelps.

The additional sign at the crosswalk will be added. The DPW will be taking care of this.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

3h) Crosswalk Locations on Gikas Lane & Hudson Street.

Chief Giorgi had prepared the wording for the regulation and presented it for a vote. He will forward an electronic copy to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation to add crosswalks on Hudson Street and Gikas Lane. ALL IN FAVOR.

3i) Request for Relief from seasonal "No Parking" in front of 147 Cullinane Drive.

Chief Giorgi had prepared the wording the revised regulation and presented it for a vote. He will forward an electronic copy to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the wording to delete the exiting regulation and change the location of the area for "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours" on Cullinane Drive.

3j) Request regarding speed bumps on private ways.

Property manager was looking for other ideas from the Traffic Commission to control speeding. Tim Collins advised that he would look into this and try to make some other recommendations for the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 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, November 28, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Tuesday, October 24, 2017.
- SeeClickFix Entry re: Request for 4-way stop at Essex Street and Church Street.
- Email from Tim Collins to James Driscoll, dated 11/3/17, re: Hildreth @ Curtis Ave.
- SeeClickFix Entry re: Dead End Sign on Greenwood Street.
- Email from Tom DiPersio to Chief Giorgi, dated 10/24/18, re: Elm Street Reconstruction Project – 2 issues for discussion.
- Email from local resident, Susi Ouellette, to the City Council, dated 11/16/17, re: Northboro Rd. East and new Apex Center (forwarded to Traffic Commission on 11/16/17).
- Items requiring feedback, from Mayor and DPW Commissioner, dated 11/16/17.
- SeeClickFix Entry re: Review of Hosmer ST & Concord Rd. Merge Lane.
- Warning Sign Permit Application for Oakcrest Ave.
- SeeClickFix Entry, re: Stop Barrier – Greenwood Terrace.
- SeeClickFix Entry, re: Parking Issues of Water Terrace.
- Extended Speed Summary Report for Brigham @ Westborough, EB, 11-3/17 to 11/17/17.
- Volume by Speed Report (Same location & timeframe).
- Compliance and Risk Report (Same location & timeframe)
- Revised Regulation for Crosswalk on Hudson St. & Gikas Lane.
- Revised Regulation for Parking Prohibited Certain Hours on Cullinane Drive.

Additional Handouts:

- GIS aerial image of Intersection of Church Street and Essex Street.
- Example of Meeting Warrants for a Multi-Way Stop Condition.
- Construction Plans for Reconstruction of Elm Street & Appurtenant Work
- GIS Diagram of area of Stevens Street and Oakcrest Ave. for Warning Sign Permit Request.

- GIS Diagram of Apex Site, Rte. 20 & Northboro Road Intersection.
- Example of end of road signage used on White Terrace (for Greenwood St.)
- GIS Diagram of Water Terrace.