



**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, December 19, 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 DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and City Solicitor Donald Ryder. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, November 28, 2017.

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

**2 – New Business**

**2a) 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

Commissioner Ghiloni was not at the meeting, however, Tim Collins was able to provide additional information. He passed out a detailed description of each issue which included a GIS aerial photo or diagram. He found the following:

- a) Peters Ave./Cook Lane – the need for additional STOP conditions is not warranted.

- b) Cook Lane & Hildreth – traffic volumes at this intersection do not meet requirements for an additional STOP condition.
- c) Park Street & Newton – STOP sign at any of the approaches is not warranted.
- d) No Turn on Red sign at Farm Rd. onto Rte. 20 – this area is controlled by MADOT and is being designed for a 2021 reconstruction project.

See Mr. Collins' handout for specifics on each of these issues.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE. No further action necessary.

***Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules and move Old Business Agenda Item 3b) up as City Solicitor Don Ryder was in attendance for this issue. All in Favor.***

### **3-Old Business**

#### **3b) Unattended trailers parking in public way.**

City Solicitor, Don Ryder, drafted new language for the regulation based on Mr. Collins' initial draft and suggestions. The draft copy was provided to the group for review. It included a section for two new definitions, Recreational Vehicles and Trailers, and then included a new section under "Stopping, Standing & Parking" to address the issue of unattended trailers parking in a public way. It also included a 24-hour grace period for parking to allow for packing a vehicle and/or "gearing up" for a vacation etc. Chief Giorgi had also prepared a regulation based on this proposed wording. All agreed with the proposed wording.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation as proposed. ALL IN FAVOR.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER the regulation to Lisa Thomas for advertisement. Chief Giorgi will forward a copy electronically.

### **2 – New Business (Continued)**

#### **2b) Traffic and Speeding on Rte. 85.**

Chief Giorgi received several emails from a resident of Commonwealth Ave. She and her husband described how dangerous it has become to take a left turn onto Rte. 85 (Maple Street) from Commonwealth Ave. due to excessive speeding. As soon as she feels it is safe to turn left, "a car comes within seconds over the curved low hill that obstructs the view of St. Mary's bank and any traffic emerging from that area". They suggested that a light be installed near the intersection of John Street to help slow the traffic. They also asked if it would be possible to reduce the speed limit here.

Tim Collins advised that the state is actually planning on reconstructing this intersection. They just opened bids this week. He also explained that specific warrants (i.e. requirements) need to be met in order to install a signalized intersection. Most of the warrants have to do with volume, however, the side street volume at John Street and the lesser part of Maple Street would not meet the warrants for a signalized intersection. The reality is that if they can't take the left from Commonwealth onto Maple there is an alternative. They can also take Church to Hildreth and follow to the signalized intersections.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE. Chief Giorgi will contact the residents and explain the warrant requirements.

### **3-Old Business**

#### **3a) 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) Traffic Regulations at the 1<sup>st</sup> LT Charles W. Whitman School.**

Tim Collins advised that he has "tweaked" the diagram/required regulations with respect to the south parking lot, however, he wanted to sit down and finalize it with Commissioner Ghiloni before presenting it again.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

#### **3d) Request regarding speed bumps on private ways.**

Tim Collins researched other potential traffic calming measures and prepared a memo explaining these options that could be available to the apartment/condo complexes. His suggestions included Speed Humps, Speed Tables, Raised Intersections and Closures, Neighborhood Traffic Circles, Chicanes, Chokers & Center Island Narrowing. He included a basic explanation and approximate cost in his summary and attached more specific details on each measure, which included photos and diagrams. This can be used as a "handbook" or guideline if someone wanted to try something different on private property, however, they would still need to go before Site Plan Review for approval. Mr. Collins also passed out a photo he received from an assistant in the DPW. It showed a 3D painted crosswalk that looked like raised blocks in the road.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE. Tim Collins also advised that he would send the memo to the original reporting party.

#### **3e) Crosswalk – Hildreth @ Curtis Ave.**

Chief Giorgi had prepared the regulation for the crosswalks on Hildreth Street, Marlton Drive and Curtis Ave. for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation adding the specific crosswalks to the “Crosswalk Locations” schedule. ALL IN FAVOR.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Lisa Thomas to advertise the regulation.

**3f) Elm Street Reconstruction Project (Pleasant to Mechanic) – 2 issues for discussion.**

**Update:**

- 1) **Right on Red** – Tim Collins advised that the lights are not up and fully operational yet. There will be a pedestrian signal for crossing. At the next meeting, a vote can be taken on the traffic signal change that would allow for safe pedestrian crossing.
- 2) **Parking Restriction** – Tim Collins advised that when he went out to check the area with regards to parking, the center line had already been painted. There are two 14 foot lanes. If it had checked before, one side could have been made wider to allow for parking, however, now there is no room.

Most of the street parking there was due to the condos, however, they have plenty of other parking available to them. The group went on to discuss whether to formally restrict parking on both sides. It was decided to leave it unmarked for now and see how it goes.

There are also crosswalks on this section of Elm Street that will need a regulation adding them to the crosswalk schedule.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Engineering for information on the pedestrian signal.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to prepare the regulation to add the crosswalks to the schedule.

**3g) Northboro Rd. East and New Apex Center.**

Tim Collins advised that he reviewed the requirements for a Thickly Settled Zone. To be considered Thickly Settled, an average minimum of 200 feet between buildings for a distance of ¼ mile (1,320 ft.) must be met. He passed out a GIS diagram with the distance between the houses marked and highlighted an area in yellow that would be considered Thickly Settled (north side only). The south side has a 600-foot gap between the hotel and the homes.

Two signs indicating “Thickly Settled - 30 mph” can be installed, one at the start of Boston Post Road West and one at Dudley. We have the option for a 25-mph speed limit,

however, this is usually for an extreme case and the State would need to be notified. No regulation is needed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to install the 2 “Thickly Settled” signs. ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

*Lisa Thomas asked to follow-up on item that had previously been removed from the Agenda.*

**25 mph speed limits and designated safety zones.**

Ms. Thomas passed out a copy of the City Council Order accepting Section 17C (25 mph speed limits) and Section 18B (designated safety zones) of Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws as amended. She advised that no advertisement was necessary. This is not part of the Traffic Code but part of the general city wide code establishing speed limits. A copy can be sent to General Code to show that the City is accepting a MA General Law.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Lisa Thomas to send to General Code.

**3h) Warning sign permit for Oakcrest Ave.**

Chief Giorgi advised that he spoke with the resident who requested the warning sign. She said that two of her three children are autistic. She is requesting the sign because her youngest will run out into the road without stopping. The neighbors are also supporting the request. Chief Giorgi explained the process to them and advised that they would need to renew the permit every year. They understood and were fine with this requirement. Since it is a warning sign, there is no regulation needed, the sign can just be installed. The group went on to discuss the preferred wording for the sign. “Slow Children Ahead” or “Slow Children at Play” may not be the protection they had in mind. Tim Collins mentioned other areas in the City with specific signs for “Handicap Child Area” or “Deaf Child Area”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to communicate with the resident as to the best wording for the sign. Leave on Agenda for next meeting to discuss wording.

**3i) Parking Issues on Water Terrace.**

The issue here is that people are using this area for Senior Center parking. Tim Collins passed out a GIS diagram of Water Terrace and marked the number of parking spaces available on each side. There is room for 9 cars on the east side and 8 cars on the west side, however, the west side also has driveways that can hold multiple cars. He advised that it makes sense to prohibit parking on the east side and allow parking on the west side. Mr. Collins also provided wording for the parking restriction.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to prepare the regulation to restrict parking on the East side for a vote at the next meeting.

**3j) 2018 Traffic Commission Meeting Schedule.**

The Traffic Commission Meetings in 2018 will be changed from the last Tuesday of each month to the last Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Tim Collins asked if the location could be changed from the City Council Meeting Room to Memorial Hall. This would allow him to use the street view and overhead projector rather than handouts at the meetings. Lisa Thomas advised that the request to change the location would need to be sent to Karen Boule, City Council Secretary. She is the one who schedules that location. The dates and times can then be reserved for the year.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to communicate with Karen Boule on the request to change the venue.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert  
Records Clerk  
Marlborough Police Department

**List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:**

- City of Marlborough Meeting Posting with Agenda for Traffic Commission Meeting on December 19, 2017 at 10:00am.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Tuesday, November 28, 2017.
- Items requiring feedback, from Mayor and DPW Commissioner, dated 11/16/17.
- Email from Nick Blundo to Chief Giorgi, dated 12/13/17, re: Traffic and Speeding on Rte. 85.
- Amended regulation to the Vehicles and Traffic Section of the Rules and Regulations Manual adding additional definitions and language pertaining to Trailers and Recreational Vehicles.
- Amended regulation adding additional "Crosswalk Locations on Hildreth Street, Marlton Drive and Curtis Ave.
- Proposed Traffic Commission Meeting Schedule for 2018.

**Additional Handouts:**

- Items referred to the Traffic Commission from Face Book Complaints received by the Mayor's Office including GIS aerial photos,
- Email from Margaret Blundo to Chief Giorgi, dated 12/15/17, re: Intersection of Greendale & John Street.
- Email from Margaret Blundo to Chief Giorgi, dated 12/15/17, re: Intersection of Maple & John Street needs to have traffic light.
- Draft of proposed language for new regulation regarding recreational vehicles and trailers from Legal Dept.

- Memo from Tim Collins to the Traffic Commission, dated 12/19/18, re: Traffic Calming Measures.

-GIS Diagram of Northboro Rd. East with information on “Thickly Settled”.

-GIS Diagram of Water Terrace with number of parking spaces available on either side indicated along with wording for revised regulation for “no Stopping, Standing or Parking anytime.

-Photo of example of 3D crosswalk.

-City Council Order accepting Section 17C of Ch. 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended.