



**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 Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 10:00 am in Memorial Hall, 3rd Floor, 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, City Councilor Christian Dumais, Paul TonThat – Treasurer, Renaissance Loft Board of Trustees and local resident Dan Verrico. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

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

2 – New Business

2a) Request for Parking Changes on Lincoln St. and Winthrop St.

Paul TonThat and another individual from the Renaissance Lofts (406 Lincoln Street) were in attendance for this issue. They were requesting two parking changes in the area.

- 1) That parking on Lincoln Street in front of their building be limited to 2 hours. The Coffee Loft will be reopening soon and this would help with short term parking needs.
- 2) That parking within 20 feet of their loading area on Winthrop Street not be allowed on Tuesdays as they need the open sidewalk for their recycling pick up.

Tim Collins passed out a GIS diagram of the area with the truck exclusion on Lincoln Street and all “No Parking” and “No Parking – Certain Hours” areas on Lincoln St. and

Winthrop St. indicated. The open sections on the diagram are available for limited parking. He noted that the area marked in yellow on Winthrop Street is currently regulated as “No Parking 7am to 6pm”, however, the actual sign there says something different. The opposite side of the street has a post but no sign. He advised that the proper signage would be installed.

Mr. TonThat asked how the restricted parking would be enforced. Chief Giorgi advised that the Police Department is responsible for enforcement. If they have any issues or problems they were asked to contact the Police Department.

Mr. Collins will forward the proper wording for the time limit parking on Lincoln Street to Chief Giorgi so that he can prepare the regulation for the next meeting. The proper regulation is already in place for the restricted parking on Winthrop Street. The signs just need to be replaced. He advised that the proper signage on Winthrop Street would go back up this week.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer to ENGINEERING to 1) prepare the specific wording for the parking restriction on Lincoln Street and 2) to reinstall the missing signs on Winthrop Street.

2b) Request for Crosswalk on Stevens St. (vicinity of Upland Rd.)

Councilor Clancy received this request from a constituent and asked that it be placed on the agenda. Tim Collins passed out a GIS diagram of the Stevens Street area with all crosswalks indicated, including the proposed crosswalk. Sidewalks are marked in green. He noted that the northern side has multiple crosswalks from the Middle School to Hosmer Street while there are none on the opposite side. There is currently no crosswalk at the end near Upland Road. He advised that it does make sense to have a crosswalk at this location.

In reviewing the crosswalk locations in the area, he noted that many of them had never been properly regulated. As such, he put together a crosswalk schedule for Stevens Street so that all sidewalks could be properly added to the regulations. Chief Giorgi will prepare the regulation for a vote at the next meeting.

Tom DiPersio asked about sight distance for the new crosswalk location. Mr. Collins advised that sight distance was good.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to prepare the crosswalk regulation for a vote at the next meeting.

2c) Review regulations still needed on Mill Street.

Tim Collins asked to put this item back on the agenda. The no parking regulations were previously put into place and voted on, however, he realized that they were never properly added to the Rules and Regulations Manual. He passed out a GIS diagram with the no parking areas noted in red and included the proper wording for the regulation in the agenda packet.

Chief Giorgi prepared the regulation based on the wording in the agenda packet. The regulation was previously voted on and approved and can now be sent to General Code. The Police Department will be responsible for enforcement of the no parking areas.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the Police Department (Karen Lambert) to forward the regulation to General Code and to Chief Giorgi for enforcement.

2d) Flashing beacon at the crosswalk on Granger at Liberty St. vs. signalized pedestrian crossing.

Tim Collins asked to add this item to the Agenda. He passed out a GIS aerial photo of the area, an information packet on Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons and examples of signage. All crosswalks are indicated in yellow on the photo. Two years ago, a rapid flashing beacon that is push button activated was installed. The issue is that at the top of the hill, traffic is not obeying the crossing.

A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is another option. Mr. Collins specifically highlighted on the handout, "A Pedestrian hybrid beacon may be considered for installation to facilitate pedestrian crossings at a location that does not meet traffic signal warrants, or at a location the meets traffic signal warrants ... but a decision is made to not install a traffic control signal."

He explained that the hybrid beacon remains dark until activated. When the beacon is activated (by push button), traffic will stop and the lights prior will change as well so they line up. There is not vote needed as the MUTCD allows for better protections to be used.

Fire Chief Breen asked about the left out of Newton Street, would that traffic movement change as well? Mr. Collins said no it would not as there is not enough traffic coming out of Newton to make a change here. There would also be advance warning signs 50 to 60 feet before the approach. He showed an example of the sign which would read "Crosswalk – Stop on Red".

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to make the necessary changes. No vote needed.

2e) Speeding concerns at Wilson Street & Hemenway Street.

Dan Verrico, local resident of Wilson Street, asked to add this item back onto the Agenda. He was in attendance at the meeting. He is aware that this issue was previously discussed, however, he has not seen anything done. He said that he has lived here for 26 years and the speeding problem continues to get worse and worse. There is a stop sign at the corner, however, he said that "70% of traffic does not stop or slow for the sign". When he is sitting on his deck he counts the number of cars that go right through the stop sign. He said that he has seen cars "come around on two wheels" and that he can't even get his mail without almost getting hit. He has to reach around from his yard to the mailbox rather than stand in the street. He also mentioned a disabled neighbor and other elderly neighbors and how dangerous the area has become. He thinks that if there were a stop sign at the corner of Hemenway and Wilson, people would still tend to ignore it but

it would help. We can't mitigate traffic volume, but hopefully there is a way to mitigate speed.

Tim Collins passed out a diagram of the area which included the proposed island at this intersection and all measurements. A diagram was previously placed on the roadway, however, it has since washed away. There were many different versions of an island discussed, however, there were issues for fire trucks making the turn. A smaller island with a rumble strip and pavement markings was proposed and was the plan. It wasn't clear if this would be a "mini project" or part of the redesign of Wilson Street project.

Tom DiPersio said that the plan was to make the maneuver more of a left turn in order to calm traffic. It is definitely a high priority project.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for design review and implementation.

2f) Request to review left turn out of Val's Plaza & the Brasileirinho Bakery & Restaurant.

Alexis Chin, a local resident, made this request. She has witnessed accidents here and has been a part of some near accidents as "other drivers are trying to take a left across two lanes and a double yellow line and quickly sneak between oncoming cars". She said that a mandatory right hand only turn at this location would be a slight inconvenience, however, the other option can be extremely dangerous.

Tim Collins advised that there is a signalized intersection nearby and that there is timing allowed for vehicles to turn out of the plaza. This area is under the control of MA Highway not the City of Marlborough. This area is going to be reconstructed at some point, however, turn movements will remain the same. The traffic does get tough around 6:00 pm and can back up to Target. If the traffic is especially bad, it seems to make the most sense to take the right and then turn around.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE on FILE. Chief Giorgi will respond back to Ms. Chin.

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.

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

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

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

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

Update:

- 1) **Right on Red** – Tim Collins advised that the signalized intersection was updated and the timing sequence was changed. Revised traffic signal plan is included in the agenda packet and needs to be approved by the Traffic Commission and put into the signal master signal book in Engineering. It now includes an exclusive phase on the light for pedestrian crossing. It is all set to push the button and cross safely.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to AMEND the signal permit at Elm Street and Pleasant Street, as per the attached amended signal permit plan. ALL IN FAVOR.

- 2) **Crosswalks** - Tim Collins found that there are 9 crosswalks in this area that were either replaced or installed during the reconstruction project. All need to be included on the crosswalk schedule in the Rules and Regulations Manual. He provided the wording for the regulation.

Chief Giorgi prepared the amended regulation to add all 9 crosswalks to the Rules and Regulations Manual, Article VIII, Section 60.1: “Crosswalk Locations”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation to add the crosswalks on this section of Elm Street. Chief Giorgi will email the regulation to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

3h) Warning sign permit for Oakcrest Ave.

Update: Chief Giorgi spoke to the family who requested the warning sign and discussed the wording. It was determined that the sign should read “Handicapped Child Area” rather than “Slow Children at Play” as initially submitted. This language would be more effective and provide better protection for her children. The approved text has been added to the application along with the Chief’s signature and will be forwarded to Engineering for filing and installation of the proper signage.

3i) Parking Issues on Water Terrace.

Chief Giorgi prepared the amended regulation to add Water Terrace to Chapter 586.63 Schedule IX: “No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime” and presented it for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation for Water Terrace. ALL IN FAVOR.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 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 for Traffic Commission Meeting on January 31, 2018, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Tuesday, December 19, 2017.
- Email from N. Paul TonThat, Treasurer, Renansance Loft Board of Trustees, to Chief Giorgi, dated 12/22/19, re: Requests for Parking Changes on Lincoln and Winthrop Street, including diagram.
- Email from Councilor Clancy to Chief Giorgi, dated 12/15/17, re: Crosswalk Stevens Street.
- Email from Tim Collins to Chief Giorgi, dated 1/23/18, re: Traffic Commission Agenda.
- Proposed wording to amend Schedule IX: No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime on Mill Street – Central.
- Email from Daniel Verrico to Chief Giorgi, dated 1/12/18, re: Traffic Commission Meeting (i.e. Issues at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.
- Letter from Alexis Chin to Chief Giorgi, dated 1/12/18, re: Review of left-hand turns exiting Val's Plaza and the Brazileirinho Bakery onto Rte. 20.
- Traffic Signal Plans for Elm Street Improvements.
- Crosswalk Schedule for Elm Street.
- Email from Chief Giorgi to Tim Collins, dated 12/19/17, re: Oakcrest Ave. sign request.
- Proposed regulation to amend Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations Section 53, Schedule IX: "No Stopping Standing or Parking Anytime" on Water Terrace.

Additional Handouts:

- GIS Diagram of area of Lincoln Street and Winthrop Street, with Truck Exclusion, No Parking & No Parking Certain Hours indicated, including specific wording for regulations.
- GIS Diagram of Stevens Street area with crosswalks indicated, including proposed crosswalk and specific wording for the crosswalk schedule.
- GIS Diagram of Mill Street – Central with No Parking areas indicated.
- Proposed regulation to amend Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations Section 53, Schedule IX: "No Stopping Standing or Parking" on Mill Street-Central.
- Completed Warning Sign Permit for Oakcrest Ave.
- GIS Diagram of Granger Blvd. with Crosswalk at Liberty Street indicated along with information on Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons and examples of appropriate signage.
- Diagram of intersection of Wilson Street and Hemenway Street with proposed island and measurements included.
- Proposed regulation to amend Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations Article VIII, Section 60.1: "Crosswalk Locations" on Elm Street.

