



**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, March 28, 2018 at 10:00 am in Memorial Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, City Councilor Christian Dumais, Sgt. Dan Campbell – MPD Traffic Services Unit, Helen Donis-Keller - Board of Trustee Member from 406 Lincoln Street Condominiums and several residents of the Brigham Street area and Sandini Road area. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

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

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

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

**2 – New Business**

**2a) Brigham Street Safety Concerns.**

Chief Giorgi received several emails from residents of the Brigham Street area (copies are attached) regarding their concerns.

**Main Concerns:**

- Excessive Speed
- Very Narrow – no room for two cars and a pedestrian at the same time.
- Increased volume
- Used as a cut through
- Road condition is poor
- No Sidewalks

**Suggestions:**

- Speed Bumps
- Rumble Strips
- Stop Signs
- Solar Powered Speed Signs
- Increased police presence
- Making Brigham Street one-way
- Repairs to roadway
- Clearing adjacent brush

All expressed concern that the issue has gotten worse over time. The ice and snow in the winter months makes it impossible to walk on Brigham Street. When an officer is in the area it helps, however, it does not last. Resident Janet Vigeant put together a flyer entitled “Brigham Street Neighbors - Traffic & Safety Concerns” that she distributed to neighborhood residents outlining the concerns and road change suggestions and asking that they contact city officials to express their concerns as well. She also said that the situation has gotten significantly worse since the opening of the Apex Center and Marlborough Hills Business Area on Forest Street especially during the Monday to Friday commute hours.

Councilor Dumais and several area residents were in attendance. Councilor Dumais said that he went out there this past Monday between 5:00 and 6:00pm. He also found it very difficult with vehicles flying past him and said that the pot holes are terrible. Year after year there does not seem to be any course of action or plan to address the problem. Every avenue suggested, such as speed bumps and line painting has been “shot down”. He said that it is a beautiful county road, however, this is also a real safety issue.

Chief Giorgi advised that the Police Department now has the portable speed sign which can be mounted to a pole and generates a summary of all traffic. The sign was not used over the winter months because it could have been hit or damaged by plows. He included a summary sheet from last year in the agenda packet to demonstrate the information that can be obtained. The summary definitely shows a peak in volume from 7:00 to 8:00am and again from 5:00 to 6:00pm.

Sgt. Campbell said that he has been out in this area doing radar and that the trailer speed sign has been there over the last few days. The portable sign will also be put out soon. The last review was done before the Apex Center opened. Now we will be able to get detailed results and compare them to last year. He has also had officers out there recently in the peak am and pm hours. He noted that sometimes the actual speed of vehicles can be deceiving, but he does agree that are violators. Residents can expect to see him out there with his officers during the heavy commute times.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that the City has done many studies on Brigham Street and has considered such things as line painting and stop signs, however, the City can't just paint lines or put up stop signs when residents request them. There are many rules and regulations and warrants established by the MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls and Devices) that need to be met, such as the number of cars per hour over an 8-hour period. The City also researched a truck exclusion but this too did not meet the required truck volume and would also require a detour through another town or a longer route through Clover Hill. A double yellow line requires 28 feet of pavement (which the street does not have) and takes up an additional foot of roadway. The best thing would be to widen the roadway; however, all the City can do at this point is patch it because it is not paved to the width the state requires. To widen the roadway, many trees would have to be cut down and many land takings would need to occur, similar to what was done on West Hill Road. This type of project is not on the plan for any near future.

Several residents have suggested speed bumps to slow traffic. Tim Collins advised that the City has found that "speed bumps have their own set of problems". Historically, the City has not used speed bumps. They cause an obstruction for fire trucks and plows, create issues with drainage and can cause damage to vehicles. There are speed bumps in areas like the Apex Center, however, that is private property and if the speed bumps cause any vehicle damage that is the property owner's responsibility.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that he has been in his job for four years and the City has never used them, however, that doesn't mean we can't try something and see how it goes. Mr. Collins said that if the road were wider, there would be a lot more options. The length and width makes it more difficult.

With regard to making the road one-way, this would be good for some residents and not for others. It was noted that if the road was one-way there would be more of a shoulder to walk on, however, speed also tends to increase when a road is one-way because you know that no one is coming from the opposite direction. Maybe a survey would show that one-way was OK for the neighbors.

Commissioner Ghiloni wanted residents to know that when emails and letters are received, the City really does investigate the situation. There are many state regulations that also need to be considered. Chief Giorgi agreed and said that there are many back and forth issues that can take years of research. Commissioner Ghiloni used West Hill Road as an example. He said that it took 8 – 9 years from conception until the project was complete. Even with sidewalk requests, the split is usually an even 50/50 split. Residents want sidewalks, but not on their side of the street. Chief Giorgi said that in the interim, it is really more of an enforcement issue for the Police Department. The new Traffic Unit will be very helpful here. The unit was just up and running about a month ago and now there is always an officer on this shift from 6:00am to 10:00pm.

Fire Chief Breen said that this issue has come on the agenda several times since he has been here. He has also gone out and personally driven this street. Everyone realizes it is an issue in terms of speed and the width of the roadway. We know it is a real situation for pedestrians. We are looking at it, however, there is no quick fix or easy answer. The Traffic Commission is sensitive to the issue and listening and trying to help.

Lisa Thomas directed residents to the Traffic Commission website to review past agendas and meeting minutes to see a history of what has been done. She encouraged residents to contact the Traffic Commission with any questions. Tim Collins previously put together a memo for area condos regarding traffic calming measures. He will forward a copy to Councilor Dumais.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to forward to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement.

**2b) Request to open Sandini Road as two-way street for residents.**

Councilor Dumais asked to add this item to the agenda as it came up for discussion in a neighborhood meeting. Residents asked about the possibility of having a sticker, similar to a dump sticker, that would allow two-way access. It would be helpful to residents to be able to enter the neighborhood via Forest Street rather than having to circle around on Route 20 and wait at the light at Glenn Street. The Apex Center traffic has made this much more time consuming. Councilor Dumas said that it really wasn't an issue until the opening of the Apex Center. He has canvassed the area and found that 99% of residents are in favor of opening up the roadway to residents. Residents were also willing to pay a fee for the sticker. The main issue is that it is happening already so why not let the residents of Sandini benefit from this. He does also understand that enforcement would be an issue.

Tim Collins said that the City has never issued a "resident only" type of sticker. He said that other drivers would then tend to follow residents into the neighborhood and use it as a cut through. It was further discussed that the "Do Not Enter" sign was initially put up when Digital was there and Sandini was used as a cut through to Rte. 495. The situation has now changed but the "Do Not Enter" was created at the request of residents. It was also noted that the road needs to be paved. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that repaving would be done this year and is currently going out to bid.

Chief Giorgi said that when his officers have done enforcement here, the majority of those being stopped for turning into the neighborhood are residents. Commissioner Ghiloni said that if the City were to open the road to everyone it would increase traffic in the neighborhood. People will start to cut through here to get to the Apex Center.

One resident asked about Glenn Street and why it was closed. Tim Collins advised that this street was also closed at the request of residents because it was being used as a cut through street. A resident of Glenn Street said that when the road was open, the traffic up and down was crazy. He could never get in or out of his driveway due to heavy traffic. When the road was closed and narrowed, it was the best thing the City could have done.

Another resident asked if a new fire station was coming to this side of town. Commissioner Ghiloni said that there has been no determination made as to where it will go. Fire Chief Breen said that there is discussion going on as to the need for a fire department on the western side of the city and there is money dedicated for this purpose as part of the development of the Apex Center. They are discussing the location and doing a space and needs analysis. He is meeting with architects and reviewing plans and hopefully this will happen.

A resident of Foley Road also commented on the tremendous traffic in front of his house. He is the last house on Foley Road before the school. He asked what the plan was for Richer School. It was discussed that the plan is to keep this school open with a plan for a new school also.

Another resident commented that the Traffic Commission needs to think “outside the box” to help the residents of Sandini. He said it is ridiculous that they have to take the long circle around. Another resident asked if a timeframe for research on resident stickers could be set. Chief Giorgi advised the he would have an update at the next meeting.

Another resident present was not in favor of opening up Sandini. He said it has been this way for 30 years and that most people coming in and out are residents. There are no more traffic lights on Route 20 then there were 20 to 30 years ago. Yes, it is an inconvenience but it is also a benefit to residents. The school is also a nightmare to get in and out of at certain times. There is no good solution.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to research options.

**2d) Why no right turn from 99 Restaurant onto Glen Street? Request for discussion.**

Tim Collins advised that this was also done at the request of the neighborhood. The intent was to keep traffic out of the neighborhood. One resident commented that nobody pays attention to this sign anyways. If they want to turn right, they turn right. Mr. Collins said that this is not a Traffic Commission issue. It has nothing to do with the public way. It was a part of the site plan agreement. He also noted that the geometry of the cubing doesn't lend itself to a right turn.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to look at the signage.

*Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules and take the agenda items out of order as Helen Donis-Keller was in attendance for Old Business Item 3c and New Business Item 2c. All in Favor.*

**3 - Old Business**

**3c) Request for Parking Changes on Lincoln St. and Winthrop St.**

Ms. Donis-Keller said that there is a sign up on Winthrop but it does not have an arrow to clearly show the no parking area. She called the City to ask about repainting the curb yellow to have it stand out. It was painted before but has worn off. The response she received was that the Lofts should paint the curbing themselves. Commission Ghiloni was not happy with the response from the City and advised that he would check into it for her.

Tim Collins confirmed that you can't park within twenty feet of an intersection. The sign is there and a yellow stripe would help to clarify this. Chief Giorgi said to call the station if people are parked there and they would send an officer down.

Commissioner Ghiloni confirmed that the two-hour parking sign will be installed on Lincoln Street. The only reason it hasn't been done yet is due to the weather. There is no existing pole so a new pole needs to be installed.

## **2 – New Business**

### **2c) Proposed Crosswalk Improvements at 406 Lincoln Street.**

Chief Giorgi received an email from a local resident on this issue. She said she discussed this previously with Chief Leonard in 2011 and presented it to the Traffic Commission in 2015. She wanted to revive the issue again because it is "extremely dangerous and challenging to navigate when trying to cross the street". She said that many drivers refuse to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk and they are often speeding or distracted and fail to recognize that a pedestrian is even there. She said that she has almost been hit about a dozen times. She noted a specific incident on 2/22 when one of our officers, Officer Castriotta, actually witnessed her almost get hit. She said the driver had to come to a "screeching halt".

She noted the following issues:

- It is not well lit
- The crosswalk lines are not bright or reflective
- No posted signs near the crosswalk
- Speed of vehicles
- Bus stop location

She included a copy of the document she presented to the Traffic Commission in 2015 entitled "406 Lincoln Street Proposed Crosswalk Improvements" (copy attached) in which she also included recommendations.

- Post speed limit signs along Lincoln Street
- Temporarily implement radar speed display sign warning motorists of their speed
- Improve the crosswalk to highlight that there is a crosswalk to motorists
- Re-paint crosswalk in bright colors
- Install solar-powered flashing pedestrian crosswalk signs which can be activated by programmable timer or push button to avoid "always" flashing

Ms. Donis-Keller said that 90% of the time, when the sign is in the center of the crosswalk, it is good and works, however, it obviously doesn't work at night or when snow is an issue. There is a fair amount of foot traffic here and it is a documented issue of how dangerous it is to cross here.

Tim Collins advised that the City has installed pedestrian crossing signs and advance warning signage in both directions. He said that they are asking for a solar flashing light on both sides of the crosswalk, however, the crosswalk was installed by the Lofts and it is

their responsibility to maintain it. Commissioner Ghiloni said that there was conversation in the past about the Lofts putting a light on the side of the building that would shine on the crosswalk. Tim Collins also said that the crosswalk is not where the Traffic Commission would have suggested. It would have been better off moved further down near the light pole, however, it was placed at the entrance to the Lofts, in a driveway opening, not at a sidewalk.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the City has applied to MassWorks for a grant for the reconstruction of Lincoln Street, which would allow for a curb cut where it belongs.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to paint the crosswalk.

**2e) Request for No Parking signs on Broadmeadow Street near Callahan State Park.**

Chief Giorgi received an email from a resident of the dead-end section of Broadmeadow Street. He said that the gravel section of road here is narrow and there are a couple of “turn-outs” allowing vehicles that are coming from opposite directions to pass each other. One of these turn-outs is at a trailhead and people are parking here to use the trail rather than going further down to the state parking lot. He is requesting that this area be marked with a “No Parking Sign”.

Tim Collins passed out a diagram with the area he is referring to marked with a red arrow. Fire Chief Breen had the impression that people are driving all the way down and turning around at the resident’s property. Mr. Collins advised that he went out and measured the roadway and it is 14 to 15 feet wide and said that two cars can pass each other without having to use the turnout. He wasn’t sure if the turnout was supposed to be a parking area for the trailhead. The resident is really the only traffic coming down the road. Also, someone has put up homemade “no Parking” signs. Commissioner Ghiloni said that the homemade signs should be taken down. This is a public way all the way down. Maybe Priscilla Rider, the Conservation Officer, could give some input. Chief Giorgi advised that he would speak to her and invite her to the next meeting. Chief Giorgi will communicate back to the resident.

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

**2f) Request for stop sign at intersection of Russell St. & Pleasant St.**

Tim Collins advised that there is no regulation for a stop sign here and there was never a stop sign at this location. He pulled up a photo on the screen which clearly shows that this is a T-intersection with a pole right at the end. A stop sign would only be used if it was a strange angle, more of a Y-intersection. A stop sign is not normally used at a T-intersection as it is “the rule of the road” to stop here. Mr. Collins said that unless there was an accident history here, drivers need to follow the normal rules of the road. Sgt. Campbell said that he would check on the accident history. Chief Giorgi advised that he would communicate back to the resident.

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

**2g) Discussion of Ch. 586, Section 33: “Municipal Off-street Parking Areas” relative to parking decks on Weed Street.**

Chief Giorgi advised that he would like to discuss this issue with the City Solicitor first and he has not yet had the opportunity to do this.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

**3-Old Business**

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

**UPDATE:** Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he is meeting with the CDA tomorrow to discuss this issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

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

**UPDATE:** Tim Collins was ready to present on this agenda item; however, the meeting was running late and the group decided to wait for the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

**3c) Request for Parking Changes on Lincoln St. and Winthrop St.**

This issue was already addressed above.

**3d) Request to investigate traffic design at intersection of Cook Lane & Hildreth Street**

Wording will be added to the existing signs as discussed at the last meeting.

- 1) On Cook Lane (northbound approach) – ONCOMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP)
- 2) On Hildreth Street – TRAFFIC FROM LEFT DOES NOT STOP

The signs may have already been changed. If not, it is on the schedule and will be done soon.

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

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 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 March 28, 2018, including meeting agenda.

- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

- Email from Janet Vigeant to all Traffic Commission Members, Karen Boule and Andrew Vigeant, dated 3/3/18, re: Safety on Brigham Street – continued concern.

- Copy of flyer entitled “Brigham Street Neighbors Traffic & Safety Concerns”.

- Email from Doug Kehlmen to all Traffic Commission Members, dated 3/14/18, re: Brigham Street Safety Concerns.

- Email from Councilor Dumais to Chief Giorgi, dated 3/11/18, re: Brigham St., Sandini Rd., and Glenn Street issues.

- Extended Speed Summary Report for Brigham Street @ Westborough, EB.

- Email from Jo Daly to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/26/18, re: Crosswalk Safety and Speeding, along with document entitled “406 Lincoln street Proposed Crosswalk Improvements”.

- Email from Colie ODonnell to Chief Giorgi, dated 3/22/18, re: Broadmeadow Street – No Parking request, including diagram.

- Email from Neeraj Bhatia to the City Clerk’s office, dated 2/27/17 (forwarded to Chief Giorgi on same date), re: Missing stop sign at intersection of Russell St. and Pleasant St.

- Copy of Chapter 586-33 “Municipal Off -Street Parking Areas, from the Rules and Regulations Manual.

**Additional Handouts:**

- Copy of email from Jairo Moura to Christian Dumais, dated 3/27/18, re: Brigham Street Safety Concerns.

- Diagram of Callahan State Park area off Broadmeadow Rd. with red arrow indicating area of concern.