



**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, April 25, 2018 at 10:00 am in Memorial Hall, 3rd 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, City Councilor Kathleen Robey, Officer Andy Larose – MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Solicitor Don Rider and local resident Doris Maffioli. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, March 25, 2018.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File.

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules and take the agenda items out of order as Ms. Maffioli was in attendance for Old Business Items 3c. All in Favor.

3-Old Business

3c) Request to open Sandini Road as two-way street for residents.

Ms. Maffioli, a longtime resident of Conrad Road, was not at the last meeting and wanted to know what was going on with this issue. Chief Giorgi advised that this issue was discussed at length at last month's meeting. He said that he recently sent a memo to Councilor Dumais explaining that the Traffic Commission does not feel that making the roadway a two-way street for residents will work. A sticker system would be extremely difficult for the Police Department to enforce and if it were allowed on this street, it would set a precedent and open up the same type of thing to residents of other streets. He could not find another community where this type of sticker system occurs. It was also discussed that many residents cut through the Do Not Enter signs anyways. It is a "Catch 22" because it keeps traffic out of the neighborhood but it is also an inconvenience to

residents. There is a purpose for the Do Not Enter signs and if it is altered, it defeats the purpose. Other traffic will also enter the neighborhood as well.

Ms. Maffioli explained how it is extremely inconvenient for her because she travels back and forth from Northboro frequently and it takes much longer for her to get home when she has to circle around via Hayes Memorial Drive. She also mentioned that you can't take a right on red at Ames Street, even at 11:00pm, when there is no one else in the area. Tim Collins explained that the No Right Turn on Red is there for the westbound traffic and the U-turn.

Ms. Maffioli said that she sometimes does go down Sandini. She asked what would happen if an officer was there and stopped her. When the officer saw her license and knew she lived there, does he have to give her a ticket?

Chief Giorgi explained that some neighbors are in favor of the sticker system and others are not. It is too difficult to try to implement and it is not something that will work right now. Councilor Dumais was here at the last meeting to discuss the issue on behalf of the residents and he has all this information.

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

2 – New Business

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

Chief Giorgi advised that there are people inhabiting their cars in the City's parking garage. He asked Don Rider, the City Solicitor, if he would look at the language in this section of the Traffic Rules and Regulations Manual and see if language could be added that would prevent this from occurring.

Don Rider explained that he amended subsection D, as a discussion starter. He pointed out that this language would affect all off-street parking areas, not just the parking deck. It also pertains to anytime of the year for 365 days. It refers to “overnight occupancy” for more than one consecutive night or “day to day occupancy” for three or more consecutive days is prohibited. He also added specific timeframes for “overnight”. He was trying to make the language very specific. He gave an example of a similar situation in LA in 2014 where the statute said that no person shall use a vehicle as “living quarters” when parked on the street. The Court struck it down because the statute did not define “living quarters”. Any vagueness in the wording needs to be avoided.

Officer Larose said that part of the issue is that people keep leaving the vehicle and returning. Is it not a continuous period of occupancy if they leave for a period of time to get a pizza or something? Lisa Thomas brought up a few other instances where groups of people were congregating on the top floor of the parking deck. It also seems to be a public safety issue.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that we shouldn't be bothering groups of people in the lot unless there is an issue. If kids are skateboarding, for example, the police can be called. All did agree, however, that living in the vehicle is a health and safety issue. Officer

Larose said that they have seen human waste outside the vehicle and trash etc. to be cleaned up. The language should be applied to all city owned lots to prevent people from just moving to another lot. It was also questioned as to if signs were needed to advise the public to the new condition. Don Rider said that if overnight occupancy is prohibited it would become an enforcement issue for the Police Department. It is something that would need to be monitored. There is a video monitor there. Commissioner Ghiloni said that the overnight issue is the big problem. At 6:00am they are asleep in their vehicle with drapes and towels over the windows. Overnight parking on all floors can't be prohibited as this is where people park their cars during storms and the winter parking ban.

Commissioner Ghiloni also noticed that there is the timeframe of 11/15 to 4/1 in the wording, however, we would want this language applied all year. Tim Collins advised that the time frame was used initially when there were meters used in the City. Councilor Robey said that we do need the time frame as we don't want people parking there overnight all the time. The purpose was initially to use the garage for overnight parking during the winter parking ban.

Officer Larose noted that there are many references to metered parking and said that if we are going to make changes to this chapter and section we should update the whole thing. Tim Collins advised that the Traffic Commission discussed this before and decided to leave the wording about the meters in, in case the meters ever came back.

There was also discussion about time limit parking on certain levels and discrepancies between the language and the actual signage in place. The entire section needs to be reviewed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for the next meeting in order to continue the conversation and clarification of the entire section.

3-Old Business

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

Update: Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this is all in process. It has been referred to City Council. The issue was over ownership. The City does not own this area and is trying to obtain ownership from the CDA.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

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

Tim Collins passed out diagrams and proposed language for all the regulations in this parking lot. He split the parking lot up into separate sections since there are no street names here and he wanted it to be clear. The sections are referred to as:

- South Parking Lot
- Bus Drop Off Lane

- Bus/Van Drop Off Lane
- Loop Driveway
- North Parking Lot
- East Parking Lot
- Maintenance Alley
- Loading Dock Area

The specific schedules addressed are:

- Prohibited Right Turns
- One-Way Streets
- Stop Intersections
- Do-Not-Enter Streets
- No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime
- Parking Prohibited Certain Hours
- Crosswalk Locations

Mr. Collins highlighted each specific area on the diagram as it was addressed. New signage will be added as necessary. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that any new signs would not be added until school is out to avoid any confusion.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT the language for the regulations as drafted and explained by Tim Collins. Chief Giorgi will create the regulations using this language and forward to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 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 April 25, 2018, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, March 25, 2018.
- Copy of Chapter 586-33 "Municipal Off -Street Parking Areas", from the Rules and Regulations Manual.

Additional Handouts:

- Copy of Draft language for revised Chapter 586-33, "Municipal Off-street Parking Areas.

- Copy of City Council Order No. 18-1007159, regarding winter overnight parking ban.
- Copy of City Council Order No. 18-1007159A, regarding winter overnight parking ban.
- Diagrams and proposed wording for regulations at 1LT. Charles Whitcomb School.