



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 017**

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 10:00am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and City Councilor Joe Delano. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Motion to amend item 3f), last sentence to read “Boston Post Road East from Peters Ave. to the Sudbury town line is scheduled for work in 2019 and that MA DOT is reviewing the area”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE, as amended – Accept and Place on File

2 – New Business

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules to take the new business agenda items out of order and start with Item 2e) as Councilor Delano was in attendance for this item. All in Favor.

2e) Speed Concerns on Hemenway Street (specifically between St. Mathias Church and the Church of LDS).

A local resident of Hemenway Street sent an email to Councilor Delano expressing her concerns about the speed on this stretch of roadway, especially due to the number of elderly walkers coming from the New Horizons Elderly housing area who cross the street

to get to the sidewalk. She also noted that many of the people living in the single-family homes in the area are also elderly. She is asking about the possibility of 1) implementing a lower speed limit on that stretch in both directions (20-25mph) and 2) speed limit warning signs like the ones on Farm Road that light up with a flashing warning when cars are traveling too fast.

Tim Collins said that the speed limit on Hemenway Street to New Horizons is 30mph and beyond that it is 20mph. He thought it was posted that way. He will check on this and if not, he will post. The specific speed warning signs that she is referring to are approx. \$10,000 each. The state paid for those on Farm Road when they were doing the reconstruction project.

Councilor Delano asked how many portable speed warning signs we have and if we could at least get those out there. Chief Giorgi advised that we have two, however, he also mentioned another type of portable warning sign that Officer Larose had mentioned to him. They cost about \$5,000 each and actually count vehicles and record data as well. It would be more helpful because they provide feedback. Councilor Delano said that “from a layman’s standpoint” he finds that these types of signs do work. When you actually see the speed you’re traveling, it makes you slow down.

Mr. Collins explained that the signs on Farm Road specifically state your actual speed up to five miles over the speed limit. If you are driving above that, it flashes “Slow”. This is so people don’t try to speed by and see how fast they can go. Regarding the request to lower the speed limit, Mr. Collins advised that a speed study would need to be done along with a determination of the curve of the road. Speed limits are set by the State and are based on the speed of what 85% of the traffic is regularly traveling. If 85% were to travel over 40mph, the speed limit could actually be raised. “Thickly Settled – 30mph” signage does not work here either because it should already be posted at 30mph.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to check that the proper signage is in place and to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to get more information on the portable speed signs that collect data. Councilor Delano will also speak to the Mayor about the new portable signs and Chief Giorgi will respond to the resident who made the request.

2a) Cider Hill Condominiums: Frequent accidents and Traffic Safety.

The City Council received an email from a resident of 148 Boston Post Road East on this issue. The resident explained that he and his neighbors are “unable to enter or to leave our parking lot safely and quickly. There is a long wait, the traffic never stops, you wait for it to stop or for someone to let you move.” He said that in the winter it is worse due to the ice and wet roads and mentioned many accidents here also. His is requesting that this “area needs to be widened like the area near the Avalon and a safety island put the whole length of 148 Boston Post Road E to the Sixth Building of Cider Hill or traffic lights allowing Residents of Cider Hill to safely enter and leave their parking lots” or that “maybe Phelps Street should be a right turn only also.” He is requesting that something be done before a more serious accident, or possibly fatality occurs.

Chief Giorgi advised that he ran the accident history for the specific location since January 2015 and found 5 accidents, 2 of which had injuries. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the State is doing a redesign in this area. Tom DiPersio said that MassDOT will be holding a Public Information Hearing on Monday, June 12th at 6:30pm and passed out the memo which included diagrams, photos and crash statistics. He has also now been corresponding directly with this resident and advised that he could come to the hearing.

Tim Collins advised that this is all in the very preliminary stages and that the Central MA Planning Agency has suggested a turning lane that would keep traffic flowing. Chief Giorgi also said that the crest of the hill creates an additional problem. It was discussed that today, the City would never agree to six separate driveways for these condos. Route 20 was not as busy when they were initially built.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER ENGINEERING to continue working with the requestor and MassDOT and follow up with the meeting on June 12th.

2b) Intersection: Walker Street / Rte. 85 / Mill Street South – Traffic Concerns.

Chief Giorgi received an email from a local resident asking if the Traffic Commission would consider “changing the lane designation for vehicles accessing Rte. 85 from Walker Street?” He noted that at the Walker Street stop light, the right lane is for right turn only and painted with an arrow and the left lane is left turn onto Rte. 85 or straight to Mill Street South. He is asking if this could be reversed and have the right lane be marked as right turn or straight and the left lane be designated for left turn only.

Tim Collins advised that this section of roadway is under redesign by the State. This is also what they have suggested, an exclusive left turn. He passed out a diagram and light signal plan. The light sequence plan should also alleviate back-ups on Mill Street South. The issue is being addressed it is just a matter of time. Commissioner Ghiloni said the project is supposed to go out to bid this year for reconstruction in the fall.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT (i.e. Chief Giorgi) to communicate this information to the original requestor.

And

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE (the communication). REMOVE FROM AGENDA.

2c) See Click Fix – Request for Dead End Street Sign at Water St. & Hayden St.

Tim Collins passed out a photo which shows that the Dead-End sign is there it is just covered by vines. He said that you can't see the sign from Water Street right now and advised that the DPW would cut back the vines. Engineering will also review the current signage. Maybe it would also help to have better signage directing drivers to Ward Park.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to the DPW to cut back the vines and to ENGINEERING to look at signage here in general.

2d) Traffic Concerns at Fremont St. & Highland St.

There was an email from Councilor Irish to Chief Giorgi on this issue, however, Tim Collins thought it started as a See Click Fix Item. This could have just been forwarded to the DPW to check on the proper signage. It is not actually a Traffic Commission issue (as with Dead End sign above).

Mr. Collins passed out a photo of the No Parking Sign. It was leaning on the stone wall and just needed to be set at the corner of Highland and Fremont. All has been fixed.

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

3-Old Business**3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.**

Karen Lambert advised that all new amendments (43 in total) have been sent to General Code and that we are just waiting on an estimate. Lisa Thomas asked if we will be using the FY17 or FY18 budget. We will need to wait and see the estimate as we have no idea of the cost at this point. Ms. Thomas would just like to see it done before the City recodification is done in August.

Chief Giorgi advised that we find out the cost and hopefully have a P.O. cut for FY17.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until we have the estimate.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

UPDATE: Tim Collins advised that the traffic island has been painted onto the pavement. It just needs to be constructed. The DPW is in the process of determining who will be doing the work. Discussed and still pending.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending. The CDC owns most of Weeds Street and the Masons own the rest. The City would like to own all of Weed Street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Parking restriction on Forest Street near AMSA.

This item was kept on the Agenda for enforcement. Chief Giorgi had a meeting scheduled with them but AMSA had to cancel.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the AGENDA.

3e) Elm Street @ Bigelow St. intersection concerns.

UPDATE: Tim Collins pointed out that there are two paint lines on the pavement. The one that makes the roadway the widest is the one that is being considered. The suggestion was to try to make the intersection more of a T intersection. Engineering is also proposing a stop sign on both sides of Bigelow to accentuate the stop condition. The crosswalk and stop line would also be painted.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for all to review.

3f) Signage/stop condition on Diconzo Blvd. at Boston Post Rd.

UPDATE: This issue will be addressed at the MassDOT meeting on June 12th.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for additional follow-up.

3g) Request to swap stop sign on Bigelow St. from Nashoba Dr. to Shea Dr.

UPDATE: Tim Collins advised that the vegetation is clear. This seems to have been more of a winter issue. The stop signs cannot be moved.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE. REMOVE from the Agenda.

3h) Request for turn lane into 894 Boston Post Rd. East.

UPDATE: This issue will be addressed at the MassDOT meeting on June 12th.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for additional follow-up.

3i) Request to look at parking restrictions on Gay and Witherbee Streets.

UPDATE: Tim Collins advised that he has been out here multiple times and has not seen an issue. It is, however, a basic issue in the core of Marlborough. We used to have neighborhoods where people walked to work. Now we have many multifamily homes where there is not enough parking. Commissioner Ghiloni said that he did not want to make any changes now because all these same issues will be addressed again with the building of the new library.

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

3j) Public Safety Concerns on Brigham Street.

Chief Giorgi advised that he had directed patrols done here on all shifts and his officers did not find speed to be a real issue. They stopped a random speeder here and there but nothing significant.

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

3k) Parking at Gay, Central and Mechanic.

Chief Giorgi advised that this area was checked multiple time and no issue was found.

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

3l) Request for speed limit signage and sidewalk on Boundary Street (additional follow up).

Tim Collins advised that this area does qualify as “Thickly Settled” which has a speed limit of 30 mph. He can have signs placed, one in each direction. It would be a yellow advisory sign stating, “Thickly Settled – 30 mph”. The request for sidewalks was also discussed, however, the City does not have money available for this. It was noted that the homes on Boundary Street are technically in Northboro, though the street is in Marlborough.

MOTION was also made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to communicate with the resident who made the initial request.

MOTION was also made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for proper installation of the Thickly Settled speed signs.

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

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 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, May 30, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from April 25, 2017.

-Email forwarded by City Council to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/9/17, re: Cider Hill Condominiums: frequent Accidents and Traffic Safety. (Original email from local resident to City Council on 5/8/17.)

-Email form David Chatalian to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/10/17, re: Intersection: Walker Street / Rte. 85 / Mill Street South

-See Click Fix online request forwarded to Chief Giorgi on 5/15/17.

-Email from Councilor Irish to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/19/17, re: Freemont St./Highland St.

-Email forwarded by City Council to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/21/17, re: Speed Limit on Hemenway Street. (Original email from Eileen Coder to City Council on 5/21/17.)

-Email from Kaitlin Fafard to Carrie Lizotte, dated 5/23/17, re: Boundary St., Marlborough.

Additional Handouts:

-Notice of Public Information Meeting from MassDOT – to discuss the Resurfacing and Related Work on the Route 20 project in Marlborough, MA

-Photo of Dead End Sign on Water Street.

-Photo of No Parking Sign at 83 Highland Street.

-Diagram and signal information for Intersection of Walker Street and Mill Street South.