

September 25, 2019

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**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, September 25, 2019 at 10:00 am in Memorial Hall, 3rd Floor, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Officer Andy Larose - MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey, City Councilor Christian Dumais, City Councilor Ed Clancy and local resident Keith St. John. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE – All in Favor - Accept and Place on File.

2 - New Business

2a) Issues concerning the Commercial Motor Vehicle Restriction on various roads.

Officer Larose sent an email to the Traffic Commission outlining his concerns on this issue. He explained that it is difficult for the Police Department to enforce the Commercial Motor Vehicle Restriction with the current signage. There are several areas he feels are not clearly marked. One of the issues which he noted in his email, “Where there are signs, a commercial vehicle is already committed to the turn or is already on the road before they are advised. He went out and looked at all the current signage and outlined his findings.

Tim Collins pulled up a diagram with the areas where no trucks are allowed highlighted in pink. He also reviewed each area and noted his findings and/or action items directly

on Officer Larose's email in red. Certain signs will be relocated, branches covering signs will be cut back, Mass DOT will be contacted for permission to install advance warning signs. It was noted that trucks are allowed on specific roads for "Local Deliveries" so signage indicating that commercial vehicles must turn in a specific direction might be appropriate. Some of these roads have many businesses that are receiving deliveries, so yes, there are frequently trucks in the area. He also explained again that one of the requirements for a truck exclusion is to create an acceptable detour route. This route may have to travel through another town and the other town may not want to approve the detour route. Mr. Collins also noted that in order to create a truck exclusion 3 to 8% of traffic volume must consist of trucks. If less than 3% there is not enough truck volume to warrant the restriction, if more than 8% trucks are necessary here.

See the attached specific memo from Mr. Collins with specific answers to each concern.

It was discussed that more signage providing better alternatives is necessary. For example, trucks are not allowed on Farm Road but they don't see any signage until it is too late and then they are unable to turn around. GPS also causes problems because it doesn't show the truck exclusions, it just shows the quickest route. Officer Larose said that a truck GPS is supposed to show the exclusions but sometimes it is not uploaded properly.

Mr. Collins said that all the proper regulations for the existing truck exclusions are in place we just need better signage for the preferred routes. This will then allow Officer Larose and the Traffic Unit to be in a better position to enforce the Commercial Vehicle Restriction.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to adjust signage and make a request to Mass DOT for permission to install advance warning signs on Boston Post Road East for the Commercial Truck Exclusion on Farm Road.

Officer Larose asked to bring up an additional issue not on the agenda.

While discussing Farm Road, Officer Larose also wanted to discuss an issue at the intersection of Farm Road and Broadmeadow. He was out there the other day and stopped at least 10 cars. There is a sign that says right turn after stop on red, however, many just turn automatically. There is a traffic light and stop bar there. When he stops people, they say, "Everyone else was doing it." They don't seem to realize that the cars coming from the opposite direction have a green arrow for the left turn. They need to realize it is a right turn on red after stopping first. It was further discussed that the turn is confusing. The traffic light is further down the road and it looks like the red is for everyone to stop. They don't realize there is also a green arrow for the left turn. It was asked if there was any accident history here. Officer Larose will look into this and bring it to the next meeting.

2b) Request for "Do Not Enter" sign at intersection of Rawlins & Central.

Sgt. Attaway spoke to the local resident who made this request. The resident said there used to be a "Do Not Enter" sign here, however, it was removed during road work a few years ago. He is asking if it can be replaced. Sgt. Attaway said that there is already a One Way and No Left Turn sign.

Officer Larose said that it is clearly one way and he does not see an issue with enforcement here. Maybe there is someone taking a quick left to get to their own house. It appears to be more of an enforcement issue.

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

3-Old Business

3a) Parking Issues on John Street around the playground area.

The Traffic Commission is looking to create a No Parking area on both sides of the street near the playground but the key is the exact location of the new crosswalk.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until the St. Mary's Plan is finalized.

3b) Crosswalk Concerns on Stevens Street near Lodi Road.

Update: Tim Collins advised that he went out to the area yesterday and the new/revised signage has not yet been installed, however, he knows that this is on the list to be done soon.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to keep this on the agenda until proper signage is installed.

3c) Request for a Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street.

Update: Tim Collins is working on the truck count but has been having problems with the counters. He is working with the counter company and our IT Department to get them working properly.

Councilor Clancy again reviewed some of the complaints he has received with trucks approaching Lincoln Street and then they can't go forward. He said it's not really tractor trailers but the 10 and 18 wheelers that cause the problems also the loud Jake Brakes. He asked if the solar signs could be used to monitor trucks. Mr. Collins explained that these provide a lot of information but they can't tell the weight of a vehicle, which is how trucks are counted. Nothing can be done until a new truck count is completed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until the truck count is completed.

3d) Crosswalk request / parking issues on Dicenzo Blvd.

Update: Tim Collins reviewed the specifics for the edge line (fog line) painting and crosswalks and provided a detailed outline. See attached for specifics.

In summary:

Edge Line – There are 38 feet of pavement which allows for 19 feet on each side of the double yellow center line. This leaves room for a 12-foot travel lane, similar to Farm Road, and a 7-foot shoulder on each side painted with a white edge line. He also said that part of the problem is that there is not enough parking for the condos here so the overflow spills out onto Diconzo.

Crosswalks - Mr. Collins reviewed the existing conditions (i.e. sidewalks and curbing) at Diconzo Blvd., the service driveway at Target and the area across the street at the Home Depot Parking Lot and advised as to what changes were needed. Chief Giorgi asked to view the area on the map so Mr. Collins pulled up the area on the screen. It was also discussed that the crossings would need to be made handicap accessible.

Mr. Ghiloni asked what the distance would be between the two crosswalks. He thought it seemed like a long way. Mr. Collins did a quick measurement on the screen and advised it was about a ½ mile.

Mr. Collins also provided the proposed wording to add the two new crosswalks on Diconzo Blvd., one at Lilac Circle and one at Target/Home Depot. All agree that the two new crosswalks and fog lines are a good idea.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to create the regulation for the two new crosswalks.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to install the crosswalks and edge lines.

Chief Giorgi asked if any City Councilors present had any new issues they would like to discuss.

1) Concerns with traffic at the High School when the new elementary school opens.

Councilor Clancy is concerned with the high school traffic off Stevens Street when the new school opens. He mentioned that parents often bring elementary school students to school and they will be driving through the student parking area of the high school. Also, elementary school parents will be arriving to pick up students when the high school is getting out and having practices and after school activities. The end of the day for the high school is 2:00pm and the end of the day for the elementary school will be 3:05pm. He said that he hates to be “an alarmist” but he’s wondering if any thought has gone into these concerns.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that there has been discussion about widening Poirier Drive. It was also discussed that the adjacent Navin Rink has a lot of parking and that area can possibly be utilized by creating a way to cut through the back to the high school. The State owns the area around the rink.

2) Parking Issues on Jefferson Street during football games.

Councilor Clancy also wanted to discuss this issue. He tried to get through Jefferson Street with his pickup truck during a game recently and he had about ½ inch space on each side with his mirrors. People were legally parked on both sides of the street but it was really tight. He was asking if it would be possible to post signs restricting parking in certain areas during events. This has been done during baseball games over at the field on Williams Street.

Chief Giorgi advised that the Police Department can look into this parking issue. He noted that there is police coverage at the field during high school football games but not during AYF games or Shamrock games.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 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 Wednesday, September 25, 2019, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, August 28, 2019.
- Email from Officer Larose to the Traffic Commission Members, dated 8-22-19, Re: Commercial Motor Vehicle Restriction.
- Email from Sgt. Zac Attaway to Karen Lambert for inclusion in Agenda Packet, dated 9/18/19, Re: Traffic Meeting – Issues/Concerns from local resident Frederic Allen, i.e. Request Do Not Enter Sign at intersection of Rawlins & Central.

Additional Handouts:

- Body of email from Officer Larose re: Commercial Motor Vehicle Restriction, with action items outlined in red by Tim Collins.
- Map diagram of Commercial Truck Exclusions.
- Traffic Commission Update on Diconzo Boulevard Issues
- Proposed language for two new crosswalk locations on Diconzo Blvd. – One at Lilac Circle and one at Target/Home Depot.
- Copy of revised regulation with Emergency preamble for crosswalk locations on Church Street.