



**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 Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 10:00am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and City Councilor Ed Clancy. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules to start the meeting with two items not on the agenda. All in Favor.

1 - Vehicles Speed and Safety Assessment – Bolton Street (Route 85)

Dave McCay, from Mirick O’Connell, and Francisco Lovera, from McMahon Associates, were in attendance for this issue. They provided a copy of the “Vehicle Speed and Safety Assessment” (speed and crash history) that was completed in the area of the proposed assisted living project to be located at the intersection of Bolton Street and Poirier Road (421 Bolton Street). They also mentioned that they have three different permits pending with the City, a Special Permit with City Council one with Site Plan and one with the Conservation Committee. Questions about traffic were brought up under all three permits and they were asked to perform a traffic study here to determine what could be done to mitigate any issues. Their report outlines what they found and what they propose.

They collected data over a 48-hour period on Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th, 2017. Data was collected using an Automatic Traffic Recorder. The posted speed

limit along Bolton Street is 35 mph. The average speed traveling southbound was approx. 37 mph and the average speed traveling northbound was 35 mph. The 85th percentile was found to be greater than the posted speed limit with 38mph for southbound traffic and 41 mph for northbound traffic. (See report for more specifics.)

They also reviewed crash data from MassDOT at three locations for the most recent three-year period available. Crash data at Poirier Drive is slightly above statewide averages for an unsignalized intersection, however, Marlborough High School is located at the end of Poirier Drive. The higher crash rate “can likely be attributed to the high concentration of inexperienced drivers traveling through the intersection”, as stated in their report. The other two areas they looked at had crash rates lower than the statewide average. (See report for more specifics.)

Their review did not find any significant speeding or safety issues; however, they would still recommend minor improvements to reduce speed in the area of the proposed project.

- 1) Upgraded signage along Bolton Street
- 2) Addition of pavement markings along Bolton Street to designate shoulders.

The pavement markings for the shoulders reduce the width of the travel lane. Studies have shown that this is a traffic calming measure which leads to reduced vehicle speed. The intent is not to change the roadway just restrict it with “visual cues” for drivers.

Councilor Clancy said that he had received traffic concerns from senior housing before this project. Residents have trouble when trying to get out of the driveway and turn onto Rte. 85 and also when they are decelerating to turn into the driveway. There is also a crosswalk for the Reservoir Facility across the street but it is not handicap accessible on the easterly side. He also mentioned issues with speeding over the crest of the hill by the Police Department. The proposed facility is a 24 hour per day facility as is the existing Senior Housing and Reservoir Facility. The new facility will also have emergency vehicles entering the location. He would like to see an illuminated sign here closer to the PD. He said that he has talked to Dave Bushman about these issues before.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for review as well as handicapped access and speed signs.

2 – Beach Street

Chief Giorgi received an email regarding speeding on Beach Street which was forwarded by City Council. The original email came from a resident of Beach Street. He did not place this issue on the original agenda as he saw it more as a speed and enforcement issue for the Police Department rather than a Traffic Commission issue. He requested that radar patrols be done in the area. He also went out to Beach Street himself and agrees that it is a narrow street used as a “cut through”, however, he did see adequate signage in place.

In addition to speed patrols the resident had also asked about possible speed bumps, flashing lights, more signage and/or deaf child sign. He was looking for any suggestions. Tim Collins advised as to the procedure for obtaining a Warning Sign, such as a Deaf

Child Sign. He passed out a copy of the Warning Sign Permit Application. The application would need to be completed by a parent on an annual basis.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. Chief Giorgi will contact the resident to advise as to what was discussed and provide a copy of the warning sign permit application.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review for proper signage and/or other recommendations.

2 – New Business

2a) Hudson Street bike path concerns.

Chief Giorgi received an email on this issue from a frequent user of the bike trail. She had concerns about cars not stopping at the crosswalk and almost hitting her or others. She said that the signals added on Ash Street have helped to make drivers more aware of the path. She asked if this could possibly be done on Hudson Street.

Chief Giorgi advised that he responded to her and that he had the “sandwich board” crosswalk sign put out in the crosswalk and was looking for any feedback. It was discussed that the crosswalk is already highlighted in green and has advance warning signs in place. The push button crossing on Fitchburg Street was also discussed.

Councilor Clancy said that he thinks the green crosswalk has held up well. It is a special paint with an applique that was initially installed as a test. Tim Collins noted that any signage needs to read “Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” not “Stop for Pedestrians”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for cost on any other appropriate signage.

and

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for any additional feedback.

2b) Newton Street Bus Parking

Tim Collins asked that this item be placed back on the Agenda. A while ago, four parking spaces on Newton Street at the corner of Granger Blvd. were reserved for bus parking at specific hours to allow for bus pickup and drop off. The funding for this bus service into Boston has been lost so the reserved spaces are no longer necessary. He was asking that the regulation for the parking spaces be rescinded.

Councilor Clancy asked what would happen if the service resumed at a later date. Is it better to temporarily suspend the regulation rather than rescind it? All agreed this made more sense and that it was a more involved process to change the regulation.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to suspend the regulation for the reserved bus parking.

2c) Request for Stop Signs at junction of Stevens Street at Oakcrest Avenue.

This request came from a local resident after she attended a recent public hearing regarding the renovation of the Marlborough High School baseball field. Safety, traffic and speed in the area were a large concern at the meeting.

City Engineer Tom DiPersio said that one of the concerns was trying to turn out of Oakcrest. People also often park on Oakcrest and walk across the street to the field. There is also no good handicapped access to the field. The City is planning to put in a small parking lot on Oakcrest for handicapped parking. Residents are also concerned that this will become a drop off area, which will bring more cars onto Oakcrest. Mr. DiPersio said that the parking lot would need to be clearly marked that it was for handicapped access to the field only and not for drop off.

Councilor Clancy also commented on the speed of cars coming down Stevens Street. Tim Collins said that when coming out of Oakcrest, on the right, the City has already done an easement in order to clean up the corner. There was also continued discussion on the fact that stop signs are not to be used to reduce speed and that the Traffic Commission has continued to follow the MUTCD guidelines for the proper use of stop signs. Traffic volume and accident history are two of the main factors.

Councilor Clancy asked what the speed limit is in the area. Mr. Collins said that it is a thickly settled zone with a 30-mph speed limit, marked with advisory signs. There are also two school zones with reduced speeds during school hours near the high school and middle school. The City does have the ability to reduce the speed in thickly settled zones if it is determined to be a "Safety Zone" and the state is notified.

All agreed that this is an area which needs to be monitored and that, at this point, it is really more of an enforcement issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. Chief Giorgi advised that he would contact the resident who made the request and explain what was discussed.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Karen Lambert provided a copy of the invoice from General Code for the Traffic Code update and the initial estimate that had two questions that needed to be answered by the Traffic Commission. One question was regarding changing the term "Building Inspector" to "Building Commissioner" in any reference under Chapter 586. The other question was on "dates of enactment" for the amendments. There are 42 amendments in total and the cost is \$3,090.

All agreed yes to question one and no on dates for question two. Any future amendments will be added with a specific effective date. These 42 will be added with no date as they were not dated at the time they were voted upon.

Chief Giorgi wanted to pay the invoice out of the current year's budget. Lisa Thomas would like the Traffic portion to be recodified before they City Code is done. The City's portion is normally updated in August.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until recodification is complete.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

UPDATE: Wilson Street will be reconstructed next year. Commissioner Ghiloni would rather wait until then before making any changes. Fire Chief Breen said that he went out here again and does not anticipate any problems with fire apparatus.

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

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending and needs to stay on the agenda.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

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

UPDATE: Chief Giorgi said that Officer Wicks spoke to him about complaints he has received about large vehicles attempting to make the turn at this intersection if the roadway is narrowed as marked on the pavement. Fire Chief Breen commented that he has also heard similar complaints as did Commissioner Ghiloni. Commissioner Ghiloni said he is not sure if he is ready to realign this intersection yet. The center line was actually just repainted and would need to be blacked out and moved if changes were made.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for all to look at again.

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

This area falls under the control of MassDOT and is part of the project under review. A meeting was held recently with MassDOT; however, it was more of an introductory meeting and did not get into anything specific. This is all part of a project to be done in 2019. Engineering will continue to be involved and this issue is not something for the Traffic Commission at this time.

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

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

This area falls under the control of MassDOT and is part of the project under review. A meeting was held recently with MassDOT; however, it was more of an introductory meeting and did not get into anything specific. This is all part of a project to be done in 2019. Engineering will continue to be involved and this issue is not something for the Traffic Commission at this time.

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

3g) Cider Hill Condominiums: Frequent accidents and Traffic Safety.

This area falls under the control of MassDOT and is part of the project under review. A meeting was held recently with MassDOT; however, it was more of an introductory meeting and did not get into anything specific. This is all part of a project to be done in 2019. Engineering will continue to be involved and this issue is not something for the Traffic Commission at this time.

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

3h) See Click Fix – Request for Dead End Street Sign at Water St. & Hayden St.

Tim Collins advised that the Dead-End Sign is all set and that it is very clear as to the way to get to the park and Senior Center.

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

3i) Speed Concerns on Hemenway Street (specifically between St. Mathias Church and the Church of LDS).

UPDATE: Tim Collins advised that this area is now properly signed. One new sign was added.

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

3j) Traffic Concerns at Fremont St. & Highland St.

This item should have been removed from the agenda after last month's meeting.

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 10:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

-Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, June 28, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from May 30, 2017.

-Email from local resident to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/24/17, re: Hudson Street: bike path concerns.

-Email from Tim Collins to Traffic Commission Members, dated 6/12/17, re: Newton Street – Bus Parking (including copy of regulation and diagram).

-Email from Jenna Salvucci Haddad to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/13/17, re: Request for stop signs at junction of Stevens St. and Oakcrest Ave.

Additional Handouts:

-Email from Dave Bradley to Mayor Vigeant, dated 5/25/17, re: Speeding on Beach Street (forwarded by Patricia Bernard to Chief Giorgi).

-Email from Tim Collins to Traffic Commission Members, dated 6/27/17, re: Bigelow Street and Elm Street.

-Copy of Invoice and Price Estimate from General Code for Traffic Supplement No. 1.

-Copy of Application for “Warning Sign”.

-GCIS Map of Newton Street at Granger Blvd. showing reserved bus parking area.

-Memo from McMahon Engineers, dated 6/20/17, re: Vehicle Speed and Safety Assessment, Bolton Street (Route 85), Marlborough, MA