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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, January 29, 2020 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, Sgt. Zac Attaway and Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit and City Councilor Christian Dumais. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business - (2a & 2b discussed together)

2a) Poor Streetlight Conditions – West Main St./Winthrop St.

Councilor Irish submitted this issue on behalf of a concerned resident after the recent pedestrian accident at this location. He referred to it as “the subpar street lighting situation on West Main St./Winthrop St.”

2b) Request for Crosswalk Warning Signage – West Main St. @ Winthrop.

Sgt. Attaway submitted this request for the same intersection. In addition to the recent pedestrian accident here, he also noted that “the crosswalk is commonly used for foot traffic going to and from Short Funeral Home and it leads to a school on Orchard St.”

Officer Larose was on scene the night of the pedestrian accident. He is a member of the CEMPLAC Reconstruction Team and is the lead investigator for this accident. As

background, he explained that the female pedestrian was crossing from the South side to the North side at Short Funeral Home with 2 dogs when she was hit in the crosswalk. Both dogs were killed. The pedestrian was seriously injured but will be OK.

The investigation is ongoing, however, he pulled up photos of the intersection along with video of the roadway showing both dry and wet conditions from different views. In the daylight when dry, the visibility was pretty good even though the crosswalk is faded. The video showing wet conditions was taken the same night as the accident. He noted that the rain and the glare from the lights makes the crosswalk almost invisible. He doesn't think it is due to the street lighting. Even in the daylight it can be difficult to see the crosswalk. The accident occurred at 8:26 pm. It had been raining during the day and was misty at the time of the accident. The speed limit here is 30 mph (not posted) and there are no advance warning signs for the crosswalk. He explained that a vehicle travels 44 feet per second at 30mph and would need 114 feet to see, react and stop. Chief Giorgi asked if you could see the crosswalk with better paint? Or if not, because of the grade of the road? Tim Collins said that the safe thing is to not enter the crosswalk until the road is clear. The pedestrian also has some responsibility. All agreed that the crosswalk should be repainted. Another issue is that this particular crosswalk is almost a midblock crosswalk and a driver doesn't expect to stop here.

Officer Larose said that he has been monitoring the area since the accident and that this is a very busy crosswalk. He said that he didn't realize how many people actually cross here. It would also be helpful if Short Funeral Home had a sign that they could put out during services that would designate, "Yield to Pedestrians".

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to paint the crosswalk and install advance warning signs and to REFER to Sgt. Attaway to reach out to Short Funeral Home on the sign. Also, Chief Giorgi will talk to Councilor Irish and advise him of the discussion.

3-Old Business

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

Chief Giorgi prepared the amended regulation for the "Time Limit parking" on John Street (i.e. No Parking from Dawn to Dusk) near the playground and presented it for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation as drafted.

3c) Hillside School – Dangers on Robin Hill Street.

Update: Tim Collins advised that there was nothing on the site plan about putting in a crosswalk. It was discussed that the Traffic Commission can create the safety zone for children to cross, however, the regulation should be contingent upon the school putting in the crosswalk. Chief Giorgi advised that he can talk to the school or Priscilla regarding the site plan.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation, however, implementation (i.e. putting up signage) for the 20 MPH Safety Zone will be contingent upon installation of the crosswalk. ALL IN FAVOR.

Chief Giorgi asked to suspend the rules to discuss an item not on the Agenda.

Recent incident involving bus traffic to and from the NESC and a resident of Ferrecchia Drive.

Chief Giorgi passed out a copy of an email from Officer Snapp explaining that the residents of 94 Ferrecchia Drive wanted the Chief to be aware of this incident. The resident followed the bus and made contact with the driver to advise him that he was not supposed to be using Ferrecchia Drive to travel to the rink. A disturbance ensued and the police were called to the area.

Tim Collins pulled up an aerial photo of the area and said that buses are supposed to be advised by NESC not to use residential neighborhoods for bus travel. The driver of this particular coach bus said that he was never advised as to any alternate route and he also did not see any signs to this effect. Tim Collins said that at one time there was an agreement with the local hotels (that were currently open) and the rink to use other preferred routes for bus travel. Steve Kerrigan said that he used to work at a hotel and people would come to the desk and ask for directions. Now, many new hotels have opened in the area and people use apps on their phone for directions and best routes.

Chief Giorgi advised that Lt. Hassapes had a meeting recently with all the local hotels. The discussion was on criminal activity; however, he could also discuss preferred routes for busses. It was also discussed that it would be helpful if NESC would work with the Police Department when big events are occurring. Fire Chief Breen said that the owner of NESC had agreed in the past to work with the hotels. Chief Giorgi said he is also hoping that Lt. Hassapes can work with all the hotels in this group network on the bus route issue as well.

Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins asked to discuss another item not on the Agenda.

Crosswalk and Crossing Beacons for the “Green Project” on Simarano Drive.

Tim Collins pulled up an aerial photo and diagram of Simarano Drive and the intersection of the I495 Interchange. He said the plan is for condos to be built in this area. He highlighted the proposed crosswalk on the diagram and the proposed “rapid beacon push button signal” at the crosswalk. Mr. Collins advised that Engineering has reviewed the plan and he is now bringing it before the Traffic Commission for pre-approval of the diagram with regard to the proposed crosswalk and turn. This will also need to be regulated later.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he would like to look at the plan more closely before taking any action.

Tim Collins said that the members of Site Plan brought up these traffic enhancements and now the finance people want to make sure the plan is approved. The plan has been “conceptually” approved by Site Plan. All agreed the plan was “conceptually” OK.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 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, January 29, 2020 including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, November 27, 2019.
- Email from Councilor Irish to Chief Giorgi, dated 1/15/20, re: West Main St./Winthrop St.
- Email from Sgt. Attaway to the Traffic Commission, dated 1/15/20, re: Request for crosswalk warning signage for West Main @ Winthrop.
- Copy of amended regulation re: Time Limit Parking on John Street.
- Copy of amended regulation re: Creation of Safety Zone Speed Limit of 20 MPH on Robin Hill Street.

Additional Handouts:

- Copy of email from Officer Snapp to Chief Giorgi re: Incident Report #20-327-OF – Disturbance Call.
- Aerial photo and diagram of Simarano Drive and I495 Intersection.