

June 24, 2020

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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 as a **virtual meeting** on Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 at 10:00 am. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, Assistant City Clerk Wilson Chu, City Councilor Katie Robey and City Councilor Sean Navin. Also present: local residents – Bruno Resteghini and Leonardo Mercado.

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

John Burke from the IT Dept. started recording the meeting at 10:05 am. Chief Giorgi welcomed everyone and made introductions.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, 5-27-20.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business –

2a) Traffic Issues on Stevens Street and Reservoir Street.

Councilor Navin spoke to Chief Giorgi regarding his concerns and followed up by email. This is his first Traffic Commission Meeting as a new City Councilor.

Stevens Street Issues:

Councilor Navin said that speeding in the State, Chandler and Akroyd area has been a concern for a long time, especially at the bend of Stevens and State. He has received

many calls from constituents including one who has lost his fence a couple of times. Truck traffic is also a concern.

It was discussed that the last truck count in this area was done in November and the result was nowhere near the count needed for a Truck Exclusion. He asked if a new count could be done now during the construction season. He was also asking if the electronic speed signs could be put out again to gather current data as this would be helpful.

He also has a concern with cut through traffic on Chandler and State Streets. Cars are cutting through here to get around the light at Lincoln and Bolton and then speeding through the area. He said that these are not residents. Google and Waze send you this way. He is asking if the left turn from Stevens to Chandler could be restricted to residents only. He has worked with Waze before on having specific options removed from their algorithms and has found them to be very responsive. People that use the turn regularly will continue to use it but those that are looking up directions won't be sent this way.

Chef Giorgi advised that he has also heard these same complaints. It is similar to the issue on Sandini Road. There is currently no right turn allowed onto Sandini from Forest Street. Residents wanted it open to residents only so they could enter the neighborhood here. The Traffic commission determined that this could not be the case as it would be impossible to enforce. It needed to be restricted to all or open to all.

Councilor Navin wanted to know what was possible as he has heard from a number of residents that restricting the turn was a good idea. He would like to flyer the neighborhood and advise as to the possibilities.

Officer Larose said that the last time a speed study was done on Chandler Street was in April of 2018 (copy attached). At that time, the average speed on the eastbound side was 15.42 mph with the 85th percentile being 19.78 mph. The average speed on the westbound side was 19.78 mph with the 85th percentile being 24.32 mph. The actual speed limit is 30 mph Chief Giorgi asked Officer Larose if he could get the speed board back out there in the next two weeks to get more current data.

With regard to truck traffic, Tim Collins advised that the city has a new program for truck counts, however, he hasn't used it yet due to the reduced traffic during the pandemic. He is waiting for traffic to get closer to a normal flow. Chief Giorgi said that he thinks it would be better to do it now as there is more construction underway.

Chief Giorgi confirmed that he would like to start with obtaining updated data first with the speed signs and a new truck count.

Speed Signs on Reservoir:

Councilor Navin said that the signs are in the middle of the causeway in both directions and people may not realize they are speeding until they are halfway through the flat area. He is asking if the signs can be moved to each end. Officer Larose advised that there is supposed to be a sign as you come off Bolton Street, however, it is missing, and that coming out of Hudson there are two. One is at the top of the hill. Tim Collins advised

that he has talked to the DPW and the 30mph northbound sign has been erected and is all set.

Councilor Navin had another question in his email regarding crosswalk installation, however, he advised that Chief Giorgi had already discussed that with him.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to conduct a new truck count on Stevens Street and to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to put out the electronic speed signs to collect current data.

2b) Lincoln Street & Union Street – Missing “NO TURN ON RED” signs.

Officer Larose sent an email to Chief Giorgi advising that the Traffic Unit has received complaints from Officers that two signs are missing. One is westbound on Lincoln St. at the intersection of Bolton St. The other is westbound on Union St. also at the intersection of Bolton St. He said that the schedule he found on ECode 360 shows that westbound on Lincoln should have a sign, but only restricted from 8am to 4pm. He and others feel the restriction should be for all hours.

He said that both intersections have limited visibility to oncoming northbound Bolton Street traffic. He feels it is only a matter of time before there is a collision. He said in his email, “We feel it is in the best interest of public safety to restrict right turns on red at the aforementioned locations”. Tim Collins brought up the regulations for the signs. He could not find a regulation for a “No Right on Red” at the intersection of Union and Bolton. With regard to westbound traffic, he can only assume that traffic from the Middle School will back up if no turn is allowed. He had a photo showing cars parked here. Officer Larose said that a crossing guard will be there.

Upon further discussion, all agreed that no one should be taking a right on red at the intersection of Lincoln and Bolton, as the sight distance in both directions is “horrendous”. The time restriction should also be deleted, and a new regulation drafted.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to prepare the language for the new regulations and adjust the signage.

2c) Request for Signage and/or Crosswalk @ 1110 Concord Road.

Annette Fernandez from Meadowbrook Child Garden sent a follow up request to the Police Department for the results of the speed study. She is also still asking if it would be possible to put a crosswalk on Mosher Lane.

Chief Giorgi asked Officer Larose to review the speed study results (copy attached). Officer Larose explained that the study was conducted from 3/11/20 to 3/30/20. The speed limit is 25 mph. The average speed was 26.97 mph with the 85th percentile being 30.06mph. The average volume per day was 606.5 vehicles.

Chief Giorgi also advised that he had reached out to Code Enforcement after the last meeting regarding the trees that needed to be cut back. They are considered a “living fence” and fall under the same city ordinance used for size and height of fences. Tim Collins pulled up a photo showing arrows at the hedge. The Chief said that Pam

Wilderman agreed that the hedge was blocking sight distance and should come down. It was unclear as to which hedges may have belonged to the homeowner and which were on City property. The resident agreed that they could be taken down but was hoping the city would do it. All agreed that this would help with the sight distance. It was also discussed that there is already a crosswalk on Mosher. Chief Giorgi asked Officer Larose to contact Ms. Fernandez to provide feedback from the meeting and results of the speed study.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to OFFICER LAROSE to follow up with Ms. Fernandez.

2d) Parking and Sidewalk Issue on Crescent Street.

Chief Giorgi had a phone conversation with local resident, David Kirkpatrick on this issue. Mr. Kirkpatrick then followed up with an email. The sidewalks on Crescent Street are continually damaged by heavy delivery vans and trucks that park on the sidewalk and crack it. He said that the sidewalk has been replaced three times since he has lived there. He said in his email, "The sidewalk gets destroyed quickly as the concrete is a thin lay, it is not reinforced, it is low and does not have stone street edging as most have." The street is narrow, so vehicles park up on the sidewalk. He also mentioned that town trash trucks and other big trucks U-turn at the top of the street and go up on the sidewalk and crack the tile. There was also a long time where a 6-car carrier truck would park evenings on the sidewalk. He also gave several other examples including cars parking on the sidewalk for funerals. Patchwork has also been done many times and the tiles just continue to break. He currently has tar tiles in front of his house that are distorted and cracked. He asked if it would be possible to mark the outer edge of the sidewalk with yellow striping or a white edge border with no parking indicated. Only one side of Crescent has sidewalks. Restricting parking on the side with the sidewalk would also eliminate the issue. He also noted that the sidewalk parkers are not normally residents.

Tim Collins said that the light mix that has been used to repair the sidewalk is normally meant for pedestrian traffic, not truck traffic. He would hate to restrict parking to one side as many of the cars belong to visitors to the cemetery. He noted, however, that there is a paved alley way at the end of Crescent that is 12 feet wide. The City technically does not own this property yet. It was supposed to have been purchased for \$100. This is basically considered a dead-end street and it is not on the list for reconstruction. If reconstruction were done here, the city would put in granite curbing but not now. Chief Giorgi asked if traffic could be directed out of Mt. Pleasant without the City owning this piece of roadway. Mr. Collins advised that he doesn't think there would be anything stopping us. It was previously agreed that the portion of roadway would be given to the City and they are aware that that was the way it was to be deeded. The strip should be marked as one-way. If signage were added at the top of the street to direct traffic, including trucks, to follow the access road to move to Mt. Pleasant Street, this should alleviate the problem with trucks going up onto the sidewalk to turn around.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to add signage to the top of the street to direct traffic through the access road to exit.

3-Old Business

3a) Poor Streetlight Conditions – West Main St./Winthrop St.**3b) Request for Crosswalk Warning Signage – West Main St. @ Winthrop.****Update on 3a) and 3b)**

Tim Collins advised again that the installation of the crosswalk warning signs is on the “to do” list for the Street Department, however, the crosswalk first needs to be made ADA compliant. Handicap access ramps need to be built. Signs will be installed as part of this scheduled project.

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

3c) Parking Issues on Lakeside Ave.

Update: Chief Giorgi asked if any members of the public in virtual attendance would like to speak on this issue. No one asked to speak at this time. Chief Giorgi advised that he received another email from a resident of Waterwind Knolls Condos on June 14th stating that on Sunday at 2:00pm when The Fix had just opened for outside seating, there were already 7 cars parked on Lakeside Ave., including 2 that were clearly parked in the No Parking area. Photos were included with the email. He is requesting that all of Lakeside Ave. be made a No Parking area. He received a second email on 6/18/20 from another condo resident regarding the same issues and another request to make all of Lakeside Ave. a No Parking area.

The Chief has continued to talk to the Owner of The Fix on this issue. The owner has been working since the Covid-19 shutdown to obtain additional parking in the area. He has reached out to other nearby business owners about using their property, however, has not yet had any success. He has asked his employees not to park on Lakeside Ave.

Alice Wertheimer, resident of Waterwind Knolls, said that some people from the condos want parking on Lakeside Ave. because there is a two car limit for condo residents and some people have additional cars, however, she feels that the majority of residents definitely do **not** want parking allowed on either side of Lakeside Ave. The Chief advised that he received two calls this morning from residents who want to be able to park on Lakeside Ave. Ms. Wertheimer feels that everything will change when the restaurant is fully open. The lighting in the area is also very dark and there is a lot of confusion. Many people that park here to go to the restaurant are not from here and they don't realize the number of walkers, bikers and dogs etc. There are also no sidewalks, and this is the only way for people from the Condos to get from one place to another. She said that “parking here is not OK!”

Chief Giorgi said that the problem is that they can't restrict parking on all streets just because of people out exercising. He asked Tim Collins to provide some history. Mr. Collins advised that in 1983 parking was restricted on the north side. He also found a graphic from 10/9/97 showing a restriction on the south side. When the area was reconstructed and the berm installed, the No Parking signs were never actually put back up. It appears that there already **is** a parking restriction on both sides of Lakeside Ave. in the City regulations, however, the street is just not signed correctly. When leaving the

condo driveway, the area to the right should be marked as No Parking” on the entire length. On the area to the left of the driveway, there is a small section where parking is allowed. The side with the berm should be marked as No Parking the entire length.

Chief Giorgi said it made sense to leave the regulation the way it is and put the No Parking signs back up. All agreed.

Tim Collins asked if the Owner had gone to the D’Angelo’s site. He said there is a huge area in the back for parking. It was noted that even when it was the Allora Restaurant, they were always looking for extra parking.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to reinstall the No Parking signs on Lakeside Ave., as described in the existing regulation. Chief Giorgi advised that he would touch base with The Fix and advise the City won’t change the existing regulation.

3d) Crosswalk Request from Meadowbrook Child Garden– Concord R. @ Mosher Ln.

The issue was addressed under New Business, Item 2c) with regard to 1110 Concord Road.

3e) Brigham Street Concerns.

Update: Tim Collins advised that the new truck count had not yet been done. He was waiting for traffic to return to a more normal volume in order to get an accurate count.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3f) Public Safety Concerns – Wilson Street.

Chief Giorgi drafted the regulations needed to remove the existing stop sign on Hemenway Street and move it to the opposite corner and presented them for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulations. All in Favor. Chief Giorgi will send the regulations to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules to discuss 2 items not on the agenda. All in favor.

1) “No Turn on Red” for Main Street (eastbound) at the intersection of Bolton Street and South Bolton Street.

At the last meeting Commissioner Ghiloni had asked if there was a restriction at this intersection. Tim Collins advised that there is not. He included an aerial photo marked with red sight lines. He sent an email to Chief Giorgi advising of his findings. He said that at the stop line for the approach to this intersection, the old Police/Fire Station building blocks the view of Southbound traffic approaching this intersection from Bolton Street. He noted that a driver has to move into the intersection, past the crosswalk and into the path of southbound traffic in order to obtain the proper sight distance. He

explained that a clear view of 200 feet is what is considered “good sight distance”. All agreed that there should be a restriction here due to the limited sight distance. The restriction for “No Right on Red” should be added to this intersection.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to add the restriction for No Turn on Red on Main Street at the intersection of Bolton and South Bolton.

2) Incorrect regulation under schedule for “Right Turns on Red”.

When reviewing this section of the regulations for item 1 above, Tim Collins found a regulation that was incorrect on Ames Street. Also, this specific intersection (Ames Street at Boston Post Road East), is under the control of Mass DOT and should be repealed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REPEAL the incorrect regulation.

Chief Giorgi wanted to end the meeting with a public thank you to Commissioner Ghiloni (not in attendance) for his years of service to the City and, more specifically, for being an integral part of the Traffic Commission. He feels the recognition is well deserved and he wishes him all the best in his retirement.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 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, June 24, 2020 including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, May 27, 2020.
- Email from Councilor Navin to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/1/20, Re: Follow Up – Issues on Stevens Street and Reservoir Street.
- Email from Officer Larose to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/17/20, Re: Lincoln and Union Streets are missing “NO TURN ON RED” signs.
- Email from Annette Fernandez of Meadowbrook Child Garden to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/2/20, Re: REQUEST – Signage and/or Crosswalk at 1110 Concord Road.
- Email from David Kirkpatrick to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/11/20, Re: Phone conversation of parking and sidewalk issue on Crescent Street.
- Email from Bill Franke to the Police Department, dated 6/14/20, Re: Lakeside Ave. parking issue due to The Fix.
- Email from Alice Wertheimer to the Police Department, dated 6/18/20, Re: Parking Issues on Lakeside Ave.

Additional Handouts:

- Diagram regarding new traffic pattern on Hemenway Street.
- Amended Regulation to REMOVE the existing Stop Sign on Hemenway Street at the intersection of Wilson Street (Easterly Direction).
- Amended Regulation to ADD a Stop Sign at the intersection of Hemenway Street at the intersection of Wilson Street (Westerly Direction)
- Email from Tim Collins to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/28/20, Re: Traffic Commission
- “No Turn on Red” for Main Street along with aerial photo of the intersection.
- Extended Speed Summary Report for Chandler Street (WB) from 4/12/18 to 4/17/18.
- Extended Speed Summary Report for Chandler Street (EB) from 4/9/18 to 4/12/18.
- Extended Speed Summary Report for Concord Road (SB) from 3/11/20 to 3/30/20.
- Aerial photo of Lakeside Ave. with “Tow Away Zone” indicated.