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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, November 25, 2020 at 10:00 am. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen, Commissioner of Public Works Sean Divoll and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Sgt. Zac Attaway from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey and City Councilor Mike Ossing.

Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk, was not in attendance but will transcribe the minutes from the recorded meeting.

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:06 and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, October 28, 2020.

Commissioner Divoll noted a revision necessary on page 5 with regard to an incorrect date. (10/27/27 changed to 10/27/20).

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

**2 - New Business –**

NONE

*Commissioner Divoll asked to discuss an item not specifically on the Agenda.*

**Speed Limit signs attached to Utility Poles.**

At the last meeting, the Traffic Commission addressed the issue of installing additional speed limit sign on Church Street. It was discussed that these signs could be installed on existing utility poles. Commissioner Divoll asked if the City had a specific policy for posting signs on utility poles. He would prefer not to do this as the City would need approval from the Owner of the pole. Also, he feels that it gives “an unkept look” in the City.

Tim Collins advised that placing signs on utility poles used to be frowned upon back when linemen were working and had to physically climb the poles. There is nothing specifically written that addresses this issue, however, if we had a separate pole for every sign there would be way too many poles. The poles can also cause problems for the sidewalk plow.

Chief Giorgi asked if the utility companies have ever complained or objected? Mr. Collins advised that the City does not have official permission to use the poles, however, they have never been asked to take the signs down. Commissioner Divoll said that he would prefer to use our own poles but there could be a Plan A and a Plan B. We would only use the utility poles if there was an extenuating circumstance. Mr. Collins said that the sign crew works for the DPW and they should be aware of where the sign is going, and which sidewalks are plowed.

Chief Giorgi asked Commissioner Divoll if they had a specific policy in Oxford where he was previously employed. He said no it was just an internal issue where they wouldn't use the poles unless they had to. It would be his preference going forward, not to use the utility poles “for the sole purpose of making the City look better”.

Chief Giorgi advised that he would add this issue to the formal agenda for the next meeting.

**3-Old Business****3a) Signage on Lincoln Street regarding Truck Traffic.**

**Update:** Tim Collins had sent a letter to the MA DOT with a request to install two signs. One sign would advise that a truck exclusion was ahead. The other would direct trucks into the left lane, forcing them down East Main Street, which is the true truck route. This would then help to keep trucks off Stevens Street. Engineering previously determined that there was not enough truck traffic on Stevens Street to allow for a specific truck exclusion.

The MA DOT agreed with the recommendation and created the appropriate signs. Mr. Collins advised that they were installed yesterday.

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

**3b) Request for Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street.**

**Update:** Items a & b were addressed together – see above.

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

**3c) Speed and Parking Issues on Church Street.**

**Update on Speed Issue:**

At the last meeting, the locations of new speed limit signs were discussed. Mr. Collins was looking to do this in the easiest way possible which included using existing utility poles for sign placement. He advised that he would revisit this with regard to putting up new posts for the signs. He will have to check which sidewalks are plow routes and make sure there is room.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

**Update on Parking Issue:**

Mr. Collins advised that he was hoping to meet with Tom DiPersio prior to the meeting today to discuss the location of the No Parking signs, however, he was out all week. There were site distance issues between Commonwealth Avenue and Greenwood Street that needed to be addressed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

**3d) Request for a Speed Limit Sign on Church Street in the area of Hildreth.**

The speed limit sign issue was addressed above in item 3c. REMOVE from Agenda

**3e) Request for No Parking Sign – Paquin Drive.**

Chief Giorgi advised that the residents of Paquin Street who were having the parking issue planned on joining the meeting last month, however, they did not receive the link to connect to the meeting. Chief Giorgi said that he did speak with them yesterday and that they do want to be a part of the discussion, however, they had another meeting at the exact same time as this meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for the December meeting so that someone from the Beach Association could be present.

**3f) Complaint Concerning No Parking Signs on River Street.**

At the last meeting, the Traffic Commission voted to amend the regulation to include a specific timeframe for the parking restriction. It was determined that parking would be restricted on the commercial side at all times on the entire length. The residential side would restrict parking Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This would allow residents to park there at night and on the weekends. All agreed that this seems to be the fairest solution.

Tim Collins pulled up the proposed wording for the new regulation. The existing regulation would need to be repealed first. Chief Giorgi advised that he did not have a chance to draft the new regulation and that he will have it done for the next meeting. Mr. Collins will forward the wording; however, the Traffic Commission can still vote to approve the amended regulation based on the proposed working.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation. Chief Giorgi will create the amended regulation and forward it to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

**3g) Parking Violations, Issues & Complaints – Preston St, & Maplewood Ave.**

Sgt. Attaway advised that Officer Larose and Officer Connors have been monitoring this intersection. It doesn't seem to be much of an issue anymore as calls have been limited. Chief Giorgi said that it seems that stepping up enforcement has helped. As such, the Police Department will continue to monitor rather than making any changes.

Chief Giorgi asked Councilor Robey and Councilor Ossing if they anything else they wanted to discuss. No further issues.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 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, November 25, 2020 including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, October 28, 2020.
- Email chain from Tim Collins to Ann Sullivan (DOT), dated 11/17/20, re: Marlboro – E Main Street – Truck Exclusion Sign.

**Additional Handouts**

None