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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, March 2, 2022 at 10:00 am. (This is the February meeting that was originally scheduled for February 23, 2022). The meeting was also recorded and is available to view online at the City of Marlborough's website (www.marlbrough-ma.gov). Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Commissioner of Public Works Sean Divoll and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Ashley Miller also from the Engineering Department, Sgt. Zac Attaway and Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey and Fernanda (last name unknown) from Sugar Heaven Bakery & Café.

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, January 26, 2022:

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

Chief Giorgi asked to take the agenda items out of order and address New Business Item 2c) first as Fernanda was in attendance for this issue.

2 - New Business

2c) Request for 15-minute parking at Sugar Heaven.

The owner of Sugar Heaven is requesting at least two 15-minute parking spaces that her customers can use for picking up orders. Her business is located at the corner of Lincoln St. and Mechanic Street. She has been open for about two years and has received many complaints about there being nowhere to park. The few available spaces always seem to be occupied. This parking issue has caused her to lose business. Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the area for reference. There is a municipal lot across the street but if customers are carrying cakes or a large order it is difficult to run across Lincoln Street. There is also a driveway in the back of the store but there is a dumpster there and this is not part of her property. Fernanda has checked with the landlord about parking here and he said no. She believes there is space for three cars next to her business on Lincoln St.

Tom DiPersio and Ashely Miller reviewed the current parking regulations here. Ms. Miller explained that she found conflicting information. Currently there is a no parking regulation on Lincoln Street that says 160 feet. Mr. DiPersio said it is definitely a tight corner but maybe they could put a 15-minute space further down so trucks can still make the turn. The road is not wide enough to paint a parking space but maybe the area could be marked with a sign for "No Parking Here to Corner" and then one 15-minute space. The regulation could be amended to read "no parking for 60 feet". Also, no one should be parking near the crosswalk. Ms. Miller said that because of the building you can't see around the corner when making the turn or pulling out of the driveway.

It was discussed that when the lot across the street is developed there is talk about widening the street and adding angled parking spots. There is a one-hour parking spot across the street on Mechanic Street, however, there is also a gym on that side and that space seems to always be taken.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to see if two parking spaces (or at least one) can fit on Lincoln Street near Sugar Heaven and what is necessary to create them and provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

2a) Illegal parking concerns at several locations.

Chief Giorgi has received numerous complaints over the past year about cars parking too close to intersections, i.e., within 20 feet of an intersection. The biggest issue is at the corner of Central Street and Mechanic Street. The Chief also received emails from Councilor Irish and Councilor Oram on this issue at this same location. Councilor Oram also referenced parking concerns on Grant Street across from the church parking lot entrance/exit and on West Main Street to the corner of Broad St. Councilor Dumais sent an email regarding parking concerns on Emmett St. Councilor Brown also sent an email regarding parking concerns at West Main St. and Broad St.

Chief Giorgi advised that in the past, this issue has been referred to the Police Department for enforcement. However, it seems to be occurring more frequently and becoming more of a problem. Many times when the Police Department receives a complaint, especially at the corner of Central Street, the vehicle is gone by the time the officer arrives. People are using this area for short term parking to run into the store. The big question is how to address this particular parking issue.

Mr. DiPersio mentioned that the Traffic Commission had previously discussed painting the curbs. This gives a visual reminder but then the curb must be maintained by the city.

Steve Kerrigan said that it's an even bigger problem in the winter when there are piles of snow. Officer Larose brought up photos for reference. Chief Giorgi advised that the Police Department has tried to educate the public. They have made posts on the MPD Facebook page advising that there is no parking allowed within 20 feet of an intersection, however, he's not sure how much this has helped. Officer Larose said that it is easier to enforce this in neighborhoods because it usually involves the same people, and he can write tickets. It's more difficult to enforce this parking restriction on random cars on other streets because the cars are often gone on arrival.

It was discussed that the Police Department will continue to work on enforcement, however, it was determined that a sign for "No Parking Here to Corner" is needed at the intersection of Mechanic St. and Central St.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for continued enforcement and REFER to ENGINEERING to install the proper signage on Central St.

2b) Traffic/Safety Issues on Ash Street.

Chief Giorgi read through the email submitted by Matthew Wisniewski. He expresses concerns that the road is "unfit from a safety and drivability perspective". He mentioned the untreated multiyear road damage, a narrow/windy roadway and the constant flow of traffic and speeding that has led to growing safety concerns. He wants to understand the City's plans to address his concerns in this area.

Mr. DiPersio advised that this road is on the radar and may be a project for this year. It has been on the City's priority list for several years. Chief Giorgi asked what the project would entail. Mr. DiPersio said it is a resurfacing project. It does not entail adding width or sidewalks or anything else. Councilor Robey said that cars tend to go faster when a road is resurfaced and then turns into more complaints. Chief Giorgi advised that he would get back to Karen Boule regarding the discussion as she had forwarded Mr. Wisniewski's email to the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Giorgi to get back to Karen Boule, City Council Secretary.

3-Old Business

3a) Issues with the turn movement at intersection of Boston Post Road West & Ames Street

Update: Ashley Miller had written a follow-up email to Lori Shattuck from MA DOT. Lori advised that they would like to get an idea of how the intersection would operate with the proposed changes now that traffic seems to be more normal. They will do traffic counts and perform an analysis and will get back to her. School vacation and weather may be a factor. Ms. Miller advised that she would continue to follow up. All agreed that the option presented previously by Commissioner Divoll, i.e., eliminating the middle lane, is the best option.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for the next meeting.

3b) Resident concerns at 315 Cook Lane.

Update: Tom DiPersio advised that Engineering has reviewed the request and agree that something can be done to protect the property. They can put together a plan and an estimate. Sgt. Attaway will update the homeowner and advise that Engineering is working on this.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING and to Sgt. Attaway for follow-up.

c) Time Limit Parking at 240 Main Street.

Update: Chief Giorgi prepared the regulation to delete the 30-minute time limit parking on a specific section of Main Street from Article VII, Schedule XII "Time Limit Parking". All in favor.

The only 30-minute parking spaces on Main Street are the 4 spaces in front of 240 Main Street. All the rest of the parking spaces on Main Street are 2-hour parking. With regard to the missing signs, Ms. Miller advised that she would send an email to the appropriate party requesting that the signs be installed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Ashely Miller to ensure the proper signs are installed.

Chief Giorgi asked if anyone else had anything to add:

Councilor Robey asked a question about the left turn into the High School from Bolton Street. She said that the left turn lane is not long enough to accommodate turning vehicles so those wanting to go straight get held up at the light. The road does look wide enough. Commissioner Divoll said that this may be an issue with the timing of the light, but he wouldn't want to change it as it is only an issue for a very short time of the day. Engineering advised that they could take a look at this.

Discussion also followed regarding issues with the lights at Navin on Rte. 85 into Hudson and also at Bolton St. and Union St. Mr. DiPersio advised that new signal equipment is included in their capital budget request. This would definitely be helpful.

The high school issue seems to be more of a timing issue. Sgt. Attaway asked if timing on the lights could be switched for just an hour. Under normal circumstances there is plenty of time but when so many people are trying to turn into the school it becomes an issue. Mr. DiPersio was not sure and said this would be a question for Daigle Electric. Engineering will look into this also.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 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, March 2, 2022, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, January 26, 2022.
- Email from Councilor Oram to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/8/22, re: Parking on Central and Mechanic, including photo.
- Email from Councilor Oram to Karen Boule with a CC to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/17/22, re: Additional pictures for Traffic Commission.
- Email chain forwarded by Karen Boule to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/10/22, re: Ward 5 Query – Plans for Ash Street? Original email from Mat Wisniewski.
- Email from Sugar Heaven to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/13/22, re: Sugar Heaven Parking.
- Email chain dated 2/10/22, with cc to Chief Giorgi, re: Ames Street/Route 20 “No Right on Red”.
- Amended regulation to DELETE a specific section of Main Street from Article VII, Schedule XII -“Time Limit Parking”.

Additional Handouts

- Email to Chief Giorgi from Councilor Brown, dated 2/23/22, re: Friday’s Traffic Commission Agenda (parking issues at the corner of West Main and Broad).
- Email from Councilor Irish to Chief Giorgi, dated 2/24/22, re: Parking on Central St./Mechanic St.
- Email from Councilor Dumais to Chief Giorgi, dated 3/1/22, re: Traffic Agenda Item 2A, including picture (Emmett Street).

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: City Hall, 3rd Floor – Memorial Hall

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Agenda Items to be addressed:

- 1) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
 - a. Review draft from 01-26-2022
- 2) **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Illegal parking concerns at several locations
 - b. Traffic/Safety issues on Ash Street
 - c. Request for 15-minute parking at Sugar Heaven
- 3) **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Issues with the turn movement at intersection of Boston Post Road West & Ames Street
 - b. Resident concerns 315 Cook Lane
 - c. Time Limit Parking at 240 Main Street

THE LISTING OF TOPICS THAT THE CHAIR REASONABLY ANTICIPATES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING IS NOT INTENDED AS A GUARANTEE OF THE TOPICS THAT WILL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NOT ALL TOPICS LISTED MAY IN FACT BE DISCUSSED, AND OTHER TOPICS NOT LISTED MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.