



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

Traffic Commission

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. in City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman Police Chief Mark Leonard, Fire Chief David Adams, City Planner Nancy Savoie. Also present: City Engineer Thomas Cullen, Timothy Collins, Engineering Division, City Councilor Ed Clancey and Private Citizen - Kenneth Almeida, Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

That the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2009.
MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To APPROVE.

2-New Business

2b. Communication from Kenneth Almeida, re: Four way stop request – Porter Road @ Phippen Road.

Chief Leonard advised that the intent of stop signs is to make a site safer not to slow traffic. Specific warrants are spelled out in the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) which dictate the requirements for a stop sign - For example, traffic volume, accident issues, speed requirements, sight distance concerns etc. The Chief stated that the site probably does not meet the requirements. A better option is enforcement and he has requested directed patrols in this area. He had hoped to have 2 dedicated traffic enforcement officers at this time, but the police department is not there yet.

Mr. Almeida was given the opportunity to express his concerns. He has lived in the middle of Porter Road for five years and is very concerned about speeding in the area. He has young children as does his surrounding neighbors. Cars often travel the roadway at what he estimates to be speeds of 40+. It is dangerous to even mow his front lawn for fear of being hit. He cannot allow his children to play in the front of his house. They are having problems with people using the road as a cut through. High school students are part of the problem but local residents cutting through Porter Road are actually the major concern. He also mentioned speed bumps – anything that would help to control the

situation. His optimal dream would be to have a “no through traffic sign” on Porter Road.

Chief Leonard advised that closing of the road was not an option. It would simply send the problem to another area. Porter Road is the most direct and easy access to Lodi. He believes that this is considered a “thickly settled zone” with a speed limit of 30mph. Chief Leonard asked the City Engineers if they can take a look at this area and see if any considerations can be made. They discussed a traffic count; however, they did not believe that it would meet the criteria for stop signs. The minimum volume for a stop sign is 300 vehicles in an 8 hour period with an average delay of 30 seconds between traffic. The requirement is 200 vehicles on a side street. It was determined that a traffic count would be better conducted when school is in session (September) as high school students are part of the problem.

Chief Leonard continued to stress that enforcement was the key here and advised that he would discuss this with his officers. He will also work to get the speed board at the location again.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To collectively (Police, Engineering & DPW) review the situation.

2a. Communication from Linda Minnucci, re: Request for signage on East Dudley near DiBuono Drive.

Ms. Minnucci is concerned with speeding in the area and that it is very difficult to pull out of DiBuono and take a left or a right onto East Dudley. Tim Collins advised that he has driven down this street and that there is advance signage for a crosswalk in the easterly direction; however, the crosswalk has not been repainted and is not visible. DiBuono Drive does come up very quickly when traveling down East Dudley and there is a lot of vegetation here that blocks the intersection. If the crosswalk were repainted it might highlight the fact that the intersection is there. Also the street sign is still one of the old green ones. It could be changed to a new blue one to make it more visible. Also, Engineering can look at the vegetation situation. Sgt. Moran has been trying to find an appropriate spot for the speed board. Increased enforcement would also help the situation.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To refer to the Engineering Department for review and to the Police Department for enforcement.

3-Old Business

3d. Communication from Barbara McGann, re: Request for school zone on Forest St. near AMSA Charter School.

Chief Leonard has spoken to Barbara McGann and this is still an ongoing issue. Engineering is also still waiting to hear back from them.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE

3e. Advance warning signage from crosswalk on Chestnut @ Pleasant St.

Tim Collins showed a large picture of the intersection with the newly painted crosswalks. The crosswalks are clearly visible from 150 feet and the sight distance is no longer a problem. Chief Leonard advised that he is OK with the area as is. Advance warning signs do not seem necessary now.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To REMOVE from Agenda

3f. Request for "School Zone" at Richer School.

Tim Collins showed a diagram of the area with the new school zone indicated. He found that the area does meet the warrants for a designated "School Zone". He included a memo to The Traffic Commission outlining his findings and he recommended that a school zone be established for Richer School. The area would be created with specific signage and the speed limit approaching the school would be reduced to 20mph during the school hours.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To refer to Chief Leonard to set up the proper wording for a vote at the next meeting.

3g. Advance warning signage request for signals at Hildreth St. @ Church St.

Engineering advised that the new signage is up. The problem foliage has been cut back with the exception of the tree/shrub at #66 Hildreth St. (private residence). Tim Collins has requested, by e-mail dated 6/9/09, that Pam Wilderman contact the home owner to discuss the potential violation of a height ordinance.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To REMOVE from agenda as all concerns appear to have been met.

3a. Long term oversized vehicle ordinance.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

3b. Municipal off street parking regulation.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

3c. High School parking regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Lambert - Records Clerk, MPD