



**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, August 25, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. in City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman Police Chief Mark Leonard, Vice Chairman – DPW Commissioner Ronald LaFreniere, Fire Chief David Adams, City Clerk Lisa M. Thomas, City Planner Nancy Savoie. Also present: Timothy Collins, Engineering Division, City Councilors Edward Clancy and Steven Levy and Captain Tim Naze – MPD, Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

That the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To APPROVE.

2-New Business

2a. Crosswalk in front of 200 Nickerson Rd.

A request was received to repaint the crosswalk at this location. Ron LaFreniere advised that if the crosswalk was “permitted” it could be repainted immediately. If not, this issue would have to be addressed first. Tim Collins advised that he went out and did a visual of the site. He explained that the location was initially developed as a private driveway and later became a public way – as per City Council Order #95-6355, dated 12-4-09. In his memo of 8/20/09, to the Traffic Commission, he further explained this site and the sidewalk/crosswalk/stop sign locations. He noted that when the location was changed to a public way the traffic regulations were never amended to include the four crosswalk locations and the stop conditions. It is his recommendation to amend the rules and regulations to reflect this.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the Chairman (Chief Leonard) to draw up the proper format for adding the crosswalks and stop conditions.
To APPROVE.

2b. Left Turn restriction from Brown St. onto Main St.

Tim Collins presented a memo to the Traffic Commission, dated 8/25/09, requesting changes to the intersection of Brown Street and Main Street. The memo explains the traffic flow in the area. Tim is requesting that 1) the "RIGHT TURN ONLY" on Brown Street be eliminated and the green arrow signal changed to a green ball and that 2) the "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" restriction be expanded to include the intersection of Brown and Main St. Tim also showed two diagrams of the intersection - one indicating the proposed left turn from Brown Street onto East Main - and one indicating the current northbound option (right onto Main, left onto Ames, left onto Granger returning to the original signalized intersection).

Chief Leonard questioned the geometrics of the intersection. The left out of Brown Street causes an unusual turn pattern. We are all aware that not everyone stops at the "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED". If someone does a "rolling stop" or takes an illegal right on red out of East Main St. it could be very dangerous. The Chief also questioned the safety for emergency vehicles. Ron LaFreniere agreed with the Chief. He said that even if traffic stops at the "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" they are often looking left and would potentially not see someone taking a left out of Brown Street. The inconvenience to the residents on Brown Street wanting to travel northbound on East Main does not outweigh the safety issues for the general public.

It was agreed that there should be a "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" at Brown Street for consistency.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE - the memo from Engineering (dated 8/25/09) to the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to put together the regulations to enact the "NO RIGHT TURN ON RED" from Brown Street.

3-Old Business

3a. Long term oversized vehicle ordinance.

Councilor Levy was interested in an update on this issue. Chief Leonard advised that this issue initially came up because of neighborhood concerns regarding large campers, boats etc. parked in driveways. This progressed into a larger issue regarding commercial vehicles on public ways. Councilor Levy remembered that landscaping vehicles on public ways was an issue. Ron LaFreniere mentioned problems with commercial vehicles in driveways. Is it a commercial vehicle because of the license plate or wording on the outside of the vehicle? The Chief advised that the Commission had looked into ordinances in other communities but never really came to any conclusions. It was never really narrowed down as to what we were trying to regulate (public vs. private).

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

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

Chief Leonard does not see a school zone going in here. This issue will probably work itself out on its own.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE until further information is available.

3e. Communication from Kenneth Almeida, re: Four way stop request – Porter Rd. @ Phippen Rd.

Chief Leonard reiterated that the Commission was going to wait until school is in session to obtain accurate traffic counts in this area. He also noted that there would be increased enforcement in the area at the start of school.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE.

3f. Crosswalk @ Artist's Lofts on Lincoln Street.

The wording to amend the Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission was prepared by Chief Leonard and presented to the Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To APPROVE the new crosswalk location on Lincoln Street.

3g. Communication from Jim Joubert, re: Stop signs on Bigelow St.

Tim Collins advised that the traffic counts have started. Two intersections have been completed. Chief Leonard mentioned that Councilor Juairé wants to be kept informed on this issue. Any changes here would affect the residents in his council district. It may turn out that all the stop signs are justified, however, if any changes are to be made, the abutters would need to be notified and a public hearing would need to be held in the evening. There are arguments on both sides with regard to the four way stops. It would be a controversial issue that would need to be looked at in a public forum. Tim Collins advised that he did find some old counts and that they indicated a 30% drop in volume after the stop signs were put into place. It is possible that traffic would increase if the signs were removed. Chief Leonard indicated that the goal is not necessarily to slow traffic, and there are other factors that need to be considered. The Commission has been very strict with regard to requests for new stop signs. The location must meet the

warrants spelled out in the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). The only exception has been safety issues, i.e. with regard to traffic accidents).

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE until we have final traffic counts and an update from Engineering.

3h. Communication from Councilor Clancy, re: Request for hidden driveway sign at 369 Stevens St.

Tim Collins presented two photos that he had taken of this location. This roadway is currently under reconstruction. He said that the driveway is 150 feet from the crest of the hill. The houses on the street are set back about 30 feet, the speed is posted at 30 MPH and he noted that the school zone signs will be going up soon. There is actually a large tree that is part of the problem. It obstructs the view when backing out of the driveway. The resident was not asking that the tree be taken down. The request was for a warning that hidden driveways were ahead. It was brought up that the finish coat was going on today and that speeds would pick up. This is the roadway that people use to get into the back driveway of the high school.

Ron LaFreniere does agree that there are issues here but also noted that he doesn't know how much benefit a sign would be.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to install the appropriate signage.

3i. Additional item brought up by Lisa Thomas – status of the Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations Manual.

Lisa noted that she was working on updating this manual when she first came to work for the City. She took several different versions and began to merge them into one in a web accessible format. The project has become too much for her to continue and is getting more and more behind as new advertisements and amendments constantly need to be added. There are actually two issues to be addressed 1) the format 2) the content. It was discussed by the group and determined that the format should be completed first and then content would need to be addressed page by page. Ron indicated that the project would require an appropriation from the city. They would need to hire someone to get the document into the proper format. Lisa said that her office could keep the manual up to date once it is current.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Lisa Thomas (City Clerk's Office) to determine the time frame and cost to bring the manual up to date.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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