

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: October 25, 2016

Time: 10:00am

Location: Memorial Hall, 3rd floor City Hall

Agenda Items to be addressed:

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CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

2016 OCT 20 A 8:56

1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request to review right turn on red restriction on Wilson St. at Boston Post Rd. East.
- b) Beach St. traffic pattern concerns.

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.
- b) Traffic concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.
- c) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.
- d) Parking concerns on Paris St.

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.



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

DRAFT

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief Mark Leonard, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE - Accept and Place on File.

2 – New Business

2a) Parking concerns on Paris Street.

Chief Leonard received an email from the resident of 15 Paris Street regarding 2 issues: **1) Missing Signs (No Parking) and 2) Commercial vehicles parked on roadway for extended period.** The Chief advised that he has not yet checked the area himself.

The resident, Mr. John Graham, stated in his email that Paris Street is a narrow street which has a parking restriction which allows parking on the north side. The No Parking sign on the south side has disappeared and people do park there at times. It is difficult to get a car through when cars are parked on both sides. He is requesting that the appropriate signs be reinstalled or updated.

Chief Leonard said that if signs are missing they need to be replaced. Tim Collins advised that Paris Street is 21 feet wide and confirmed that parking is allowed on one side, though technically there should be no parking on either side. Chief Leonard asked if there was an "appetite" to restrict the entire street. This issue has come up on other narrow streets and the Traffic Commission decided to monitor the issue. The Chief said it is really an enforcement issue, however, we need to at least start with replacing the missing signage.

On the second issue, Mr. Graham is specifically requesting that the Traffic Commission "consider prohibiting parking for commercial vehicles on residentially zoned streets which are also restricted to one side parking." Mr. Graham included a photo of a dump truck and a "minibus" parked on the street. The group discussed the commercial vehicle exclusion. Chief Leonard said he remembers something in the City Code about commercial vehicles, over a certain size, being restricted from parking in residential zoned areas, i.e. tractor trailers. This is a zoning issue though not a traffic issue. Tim Collins advised that he saw the minibus parked in a driveway when we went out to measure the width of the road.

Fire Chief Breen also said that he would take a look and see if he thinks there is a public safety issue and advise at the next meeting. Chief Leonard wanted to have the signs replaced first to see if it would help. The issue can be monitored further after that.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to replace the missing signage.

2b) Commercial vehicles parked in the vicinity of 203 Bolton Street.

Chief Leonard advised that he received a phone call on this issue (nothing in the agenda packet). A woman called and said that there is "always" a truck parked here. She said it was hit twice. The Chief said that it is a wide street and he is not really sure what the issue is. Maybe she thinks the truck is parked too close to the entrance of the condos. He said that one of the accidents here involved an OUI so there were other factors involved. Tim Collins said that there are 18 ½ feet from the curb to the center line.

Chief Leonard said that he can at least have an officer check to make sure the vehicles is legally parked.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to monitor.

2c) Request for HP spaces in the Windsor St./240-250 Main St. area.

Mayor Vigeant's office received a letter from Ms. Debra McManus, of the Commission on Disabilities, in which she stated that "the recent parking lot reconstruction at the end of Windsor Street and behind 240-250 Main Street has resulted in significant loss of handicapped parking spaces in the area." She also noted that there are more general parking spaces than handicapped spaces closer to the door.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that he has already advised the Commission that the handicapped spaces were not decreased. He wasn't sure if the letter in the agenda packet

was received before or after his conversation with them. The spots were moved to the back of the building, where the handicapped accessible entrance is located, and there are actually more than there were before. He said that yes, there are 3-4 spaces closer to the back of the building but they do not meet the requirements for handicapped parking.

Tim Collins advised that we are only required by law to have one handicapped spot and currently there are 7 or 8 here. There are more than enough spaces to meet the requirements of the law. Mr. Collins passed out two photos of the area, one of the side of the building showing where the handicapped spots used to be located and one of the back lot showing what is there now. He said that the old handicapped spots were not valid handicapped stalls because there was no access aisle. The back parking lot now has 4 regular stalls, 1 van stall and 6 handicapped stalls. The spots closest to the building are not legal handicapped stalls because there is no access aisle. The larger parking stalls to the side of the lot are legal handicapped spots.

Chief Leonard said that he has also received complaints that vehicles don't move once they are parked there, however, there is no time limit on HP parking. Commissioner Ghiloni said that there are 22 permits for handicapped parking at the building but there can't be 22 handicapped spots. These spaces are controlled by Doug and he can assign these spots to those who need them.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he will call and speak with Ms. McManus again to advise that it was addressed at the meeting and make sure that she understands.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Commissioner Ghiloni to contact Ms. McManus and advise accordingly.

Additional item not on the Agenda – Handicapped parking at polling locations.

Lisa Thomas advised that she went with Chief Leonard to all the polling locations in the city to look at the handicapped parking available at each location. She took photos and found that some additional spots to be added. Commissioner Ghiloni said that he always adds more HP parking on voting days. She will forward her specific findings to the Traffic Commission. She has already sent the information to Commissioner Ghiloni.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

The revised rules and regulations are in the process of being advertised. Lisa Thomas advised that parts 1 to 5 have been submitted. They are added to the advertisement section as they fit on the page. It may take a few weeks to get them all in.

Chief Leonard and Karen Lambert will work on reconciling what amendments need to be compiled for General Code.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to work with Karen Lambert on compiling what is missing for General Code.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

Update: Many suggestions have been made over the last few months for this area. The agreed upon island and appropriate signage will be installed.

3d) Intersection of Boston Post Road West and Ames St. – U-turns.

Tim Collins advised that the State had initially separated the turn movement here so there was not a conflict. The turn movement was inadvertently changed when the island for the crossing was installed. It has now been corrected, however, if Ames Street starts to back up they could change it to allow the right on red in the far lane.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED TO REMOVE from the Agenda as the issue has been addressed.

f) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.

Commissioner Ghiloni is working on this issue. He advised that it may take a while.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

Additional Item not on the Agenda – Heritage Festival

Chief Leonard wanted to note that it will be very busy in town this weekend with the Heritage Festival. They anticipate a lot of traffic and Main Street will be closed on Sunday for the Festival. It was noted that any road closing request need to go to the City Council not the Police Department.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

-Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, September 27, 2016. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of minutes from Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

-E-mail from John Graham to Chief Leonard, dated 8/22/16, re: 1. Paris Street signage; and 2. Commercial parking on residentially zones streets.

Copy of a letter from Debra, McManus, Chairman of Commission on Disabilities, to Arthur Vigeant, dated 9/6/16, re: Handicapped Parking, Windsor Street.

Additional Handouts:

-Two photos showing handicapped parking spaces in the Windsor Street, 240-250 Main Street Area. One is from 7/16/14, showing the old spaces which were not valid handicap stalls (no access isle). The second is recent and includes 4 regular parking stalls, 1 van stall and 6 Handicapped stalls.

Mark Leonard

From: Mark Leonard
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 8:25 AM
To: 'Karolyn'
Subject: RE: No turn on red sign on farm/wilson and 20 intersection

Hi Karolyn,

This intersection is part of the state highway section of Rt. 20, so MassDOT would have to approve any changes to traffic movements there. However, I know the Traffic Commission has spoken about the No Turn On Red restriction from Wilson St. onto Boston Post Rd. westbound in the past, and the general consensus was that it is necessary, mainly due to the limited sight distance when looking left. While the view is not obstructed (unless cars are parked in the convenience store lot), the curve makes the sight distance less than ideal for the speed at which cars westbound on Rt. 20 typically travel in this area.

I can put this on an upcoming Traffic Commission agenda for discussion to look at any possibilities to improve the turning movements there, including the protected turning movements and the timing of the light cycles.

Sincerely,

Mark F. Leonard
Chief of Police
Marlborough Police Department
355 Bolton Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Office: 508-485-1212 x36974
Fax: 508-624-6938

-----Original Message-----

From: Karolyn [mailto:kgowaski@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2016 7:42 AM
To: Mark Leonard <mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov>
Subject: No turn on red sign on farm/wilson and 20 intersection

Hi Mark,

It's Karolyn Gowaski. Hope you're doing well.

I'm wondering if you're the person to talk to about either getting rid of a 'no turn on red' sign, or having a green right turn traffic arrow added to the existing light.

If you are traveling down Wilson street onto route 20, you are not allowed to turn right on red, onto route 20 west. Is there anyway for this sign to be reevaluated and possibly removed. We recently moved to this part of town and we often sit at this light for quite awhile waiting for it to turn, when no cars are coming. Your view is not obstructed and it would be safe to turn, if it wasn't for the sign. If Marlboro doesn't want to remove the sign... Is there anyway to fix the light, so we can at least turn when the cars already on route 20, are turning onto Wilson street?

Thanks for your help!

Mark Leonard

From: Andrew MacIntosh <atmacintosh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 11:06 AM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: Traffic on Beach Street

Hello

I submitted a request online through the city's "See Click Fix" app today, and I was instructed to direct my request to you.

My request was for some calcification on the traffic pattern at the end of Beach st. There are no signs or road marking and the road is physically wide enough to form at least 2 lanes of traffic. If you are turning left and are all the way to the left side of the road and there are cars turn right (almost always happening) it is very difficult to make a safe left turn due to obstruction view from the cars turning right.

Per the response from the city engineering division, Beach street is a single lane road all the way to the end. They indicated that you are the head of the traffic commission and that i should contact you for possible traffic pattern changes. My personal opinion is that the end of the street should be a single lane of traffic regardless of what direction you are turning. I think road marking and or sign's showing this would be helpful. Would it be possible to look into doing this?

Additionally, with regards to Beach Street traffic, i have seen around town speed warning signs that flash a drivers current speed and the posted speed limit (Farm Road). I feel that one of these on Beach street would help with some of the excessive speeding that i see going down the street daily.

Thank you for you time

Please feel free to contact me via email or phone with any questions or comments you may have

Andrew MacIntosh
132 Beach Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

774-245-0798