



**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 Tuesday, September 25, 2015 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: City Engineer Evan Pilachowski and 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 25, 2015.

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

2 – New Business

2a) Spring Street traffic and speeding concerns.

A resident of Spring Street expressed concerns about speeding and Spring Street being used as a cut through. He offered his driveway as a “speed trap” location and also asked about the possibility of making Spring Street one-way or making the intersection of Spring and Frye a four way stop. Currently there are stop signs on Frye but not Spring.

Tim Collins passed out a GIS map of the area for reference with Spring Street highlighted and the lights at the corner of Elm Street and Pleasant Street indicated. Chief Leonard advised that officers have been up in this area for speed enforcement as this issue has come up before. This street is used as a cut through as cars try to avoid the light at Pleasant and Elm. It was discussed that this is the “nature of the street”.

Tim Collins noted that the traffic on this road would not meet the warrants for a four way stop at Frye. The “peak hour warrants” call for at least 300 cars in one hour. It was

noted that the speed on Spring is posted at 20 mph. It is a narrow road with no sidewalks and is thickly settled. The traffic counters are currently being used on West Hill Road.

It was discussed that making this street one way would just move the traffic onto Frye Street. Chief Leonard advised that this is not something that would be done. Fire Chief Breen asked how many electronic speed boards we have. It was discussed that there are two that are working and we try to keep one on each side of the city. There is currently one on Williams Street.

Tim Collins noted that there will eventually be two permanent electronic speed signs on Farm Road that will reflect your travel speed.

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

2b) Speeding concerns on Williams Street near courthouse.

Chief Leonard received a phone call regarding this issue. The caller's dog was hit by a car in this area. Chief Leonard advised that the new crosswalk and advance warning signs have been installed, however, he wanted to check to see if any other signs were missing. This is now really an enforcement issue. The speed board is currently out on Williams Street.

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

Chief Leonard requested a suspension of rules to discuss an additional new business item not on the agenda. – All in favor.

Parking Garage Issue – (Garage behind City Hall)

Melissa Irish, Planning Board Secretary, sent an e-mail on this issue to Chief Leonard. She described a close call with a head on collision as she was trying to back into a parking spot on the lower level. Another vehicle entered the garage and “immediately took the hard left to access the ramp for the lower level parking.” The other driver was “not looking as the driver was scouting for a parking spot.” She mentioned how the lower level had 2 access points. She is asking if it would be possible to make one a down only ramp and one an up only ramp.

Chief Leonard agreed that it is “a little blind here”. Lisa Thomas gave an example of an incident she had here and also says she understands the concern and that it is “definitely tight”. Lisa Thomas questioned if anyone would actually follow it if the Traffic Commission were to make a change here. The first level appears to be the only problem area.

Tim Collins said that the benefit of making the change is that if it is posted as “Do Not Enter” and you do enter and then cause an accident, you are definitely at fault. Chief Leonard asked the group for their thoughts. Fire Chief Breen mentioned “striping”. This would at least give a visual that you need to keep to the right. It may help the driver to understand that vehicles could be coming from the opposite direction. Chief Leonard

agreed that if the line were extended you would have a visual on the turn. Engineering advised that they would look into the issue and make a recommendation relative to striping or signage.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for review and recommendation.

3-Old Business

3h) Minutes from July Meeting.

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

3g) Communication from Janet Vigeant Re: Brigham St. traffic concerns

This issue is still pending. Evan Pilachowski advised that that the traffic counts should be completed next week. There is nothing that can be done until that information is available. Tim Collins added that counts were done here before but it was determined that Engineering would do them again to see if anything has changed.

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

3i) Request for restricted parking for buses during certain hours on Newton Street near the parking garage.

Chief Leonard prepared the regulation to add the specific time limit parking restriction for bus parking only. The Traffic Commission voted to verbally approve the regulation at the last meeting. Tim Collins advised that he had also talked to the sign crew and passed out a diagram of the area, a GIS photo of the same, specifics for the regulation and examples of proposed signage. Engineering suggested green signs with “permissive parking for buses” rather than the red signs for “restrictive parking”. Hopefully the signage will be installed in the next few days.

Tim Collins also advised that he updated the “downtown map”. He took out the landscape island on Main Street and added the 4 new parking spots that were gained. He also added the four new bus parking spots. The original map was given to Lisa Thomas to keep in the Clerk’s office. Tim Collins advised that he would send an electronic copy to the Traffic Commission.

Chief Leonard advised that he will revise the wording on the regulation to reflect “for bus parking only” as he had not included this. He will add this under the heading of “Time Limit”. He will make the change and send it to Lisa Thomas for advertising.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation as amended. All in Favor.

3e) Towing vehicles from municipal lots for snow removal.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he is still working on this issue.

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

3b) High School parking regulations.

Chief Leonard advised that he would like to get this signage completed. This item has been carried on the Agenda for a very long time. We need to align what is actually there with existing regulations and figure it all out. He mentioned that the new Principal at the High School has asked about closing the back gates. It was discussed that “years ago” the School Committee granted a “Right of Authority” to the Traffic Commission to have control over this area. The Traffic Commission does not want the gates closed and has the authority to make the proper regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review the regulations and advise,

3f) Communication from Jan Keith, re: Hemenway St./Wilson St. traffic concerns.

Tim Collins advised that there have been complaints of speeding and accidents here. He asked the Police Department for a 5 year accident history. Over the 5 year period, only two accident occurred and they were not related to speed. He also asked Dave O’Malley for a history on hydrants being damaged in the area. Tim Collins was advised that there were no repairs made to any hydrants there.

He passed out a GIS map and a photo of Hemenway Street at its intersection with Wilson Street and included speed limits and a proposed Advance Warning Sign “showing the geometric configuration along with an Advisory Speed Limit for the intersection”. This type of sign (advisory) would not require a regulation or advertisement. It could just be put up.

He also suggested moving the Stop Sign away from the street sign so as to make it more clearly visible that there is a separate street there. Chief Leonard also said that officers have also been sent to do directed patrols in this area.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to install the signs as recommended by Engineering. All in Favor.

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow St.

Evan Pilachowski advised that they are still waiting on the pole for the electronic speed sign. It was also discussed that later the Traffic Commission would have to vote to remove the regulations for the Stop Signs. The Blackboard Connect System could be used to advise the community. Temporary signage would also be helpful so that people will realize that Bigelow Street does not stop, something to the effect “through traffic does not stop”. This will have to stay in place until people become familiar with the change.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE until pole comes in.

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Tim Collins advised that he still needs to put this information into the proper format.

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

Farm Road Update (Not on the Agenda)

Evan Pilachowski advised that they are getting close to installing the traffic signal on Farm Road. It will begin as a flashing light and then change to active. Residents will be informed as to when this will occur. He advised that the Traffic Commission will need to make a regulation for the new lights. He also noted that there will probably be some new crosswalks on Farm Road that will need to be regulated. Tim Collins advised that he will bring this information and also information on exclusive turn movements onto Broadmeadow Road to the next meeting.

3a) Municipal off street parking regulation.

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

3j) No parking regulation, Williams St.

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

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 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 22, 2015. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting.

-E-mail from Nicholas Milano to Chief Leonard, dated 8-26-15, Re: Spring Street traffic and speed.

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from 7-28-15.

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from 8-25-15.

-Amended regulation to add the commuter bus parking area on Newton Street.

-E-mail from Melissa Irish to Chief Leonard, dated 8-19-15, Re: Parking Garages.

Additional Handouts:

-GIS map of Hemenway Street/Wilson Street Intersection along with photo and proposed Advance Warning Sign.

-Diagram of proposed commuter bus parking area on Newton Street in front of Parking Deck along with GIS map of the same, language for the new parking restriction and proposed signage.

-GIS map of the Spring Street area.