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CITY OF MARLBOROUGH TRAFFIC COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2014

- 1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
- 2) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Request to allow parking on Ames Place near Main St.
 - b) Parking concerns at end of Manning St. (gate blocked)
 - c) Pedestrians crossing Granger Blvd. near New St.
 - d) Request for a crosswalk on West Main St. near Broad St.
 - e) Traffic and parking concerns on Tremont St.
 - f) Traffic concerns on Hildreth St. and Curtis Ave.
 - g) Crosswalks on Ames St. and Reilly Way
- 3) OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Municipal off street parking regulation.
 - b) High School parking regulations.
 - c) Stop signs on Bigelow St.
 - d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.
 - e) Request for parking restrictions on Brimsmead St. and Tremont St.
 - f) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: Parking issues on Dalton Rd.
 - g) Parking concerns in the vicinity of 131 Pleasant St.

Mark F. Leonard
Chairman



**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 30, 2014 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 James Fortin and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Evan Pilachowski and local resident Jim Joubert. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE

2-New Business

2a) Request for parking restrictions on Brimsmead St. and Tremont St.

Chief Leonard received this request from Chris LaFreniere, Jr. Civil Engineer for the DPW. He said that both of these streets are in the process of being reconstructed and now have vertical curbing along the sidewalks. Since this was done, he has received complaints from residents that when vehicles are parked on both sides of the street it restricts two way traffic flow. He is looking for a parking restriction on one side of each street. It was determined that this should be sent to Engineering to review and advise on which side should be restricted. They normally look to see which side has the most parking spaces available.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

2b) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: Parking Issues on Dalton Rd.

Councilor Irish sent an e-mail to Chief Leonard regarding a continuing problem with cars parking in the cul-de-sac on Dalton Street. Residents say that it has become a “daily occurrence” and that “they see the same cars every day, at the same time of day, for the same duration of time (usually overnight)”. Often cars are parked on both sides making it difficult for residents to get out of their driveways. It is also a concern for children in the area riding bikes or scooters. He asked about restricting parking on one side or making it “Parking with Resident Permit Only”.

Chief Leonard says he does not want to go down the path of “permitted parking”. He has not looked at the area in question, however, he believes it to be a small cul-de-sac. He questioned if it is possibly an issue with a particular neighbor. Mr. Pilachowski went there today at 7:30 am and only saw one car there. He said it is actually a wide road. He advised that Engineering could take a better look at it.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review and advise as to their findings at the next meeting.

2c) Parking concerns in front of Christopher Heights on Pleasant St.

Lt. Gould from the Fire Department sent an e-mail to Chief Leonard explaining a parking problem they had over the weekend. Christopher Heights had an annual cookout in the back parking lot which brought more people to the facility with reduced parking available. As a result, four cars were parked directly across from Station 2. They were unable to get the Engine out to respond to calls as the parked cars were in the way. When officers came to assist they advised that the street was not posted for no parking. There is only a sign that says not to block the intersection. Lt. Gould would like to see it officially posted as a no parking area to avoid any future problems.

Chief Leonard said that this definitely makes sense. Mr. Pilachowski advised that Engineering has already taken action. He found that there is an existing regulation in place, however, the signs were missing. Two new signs have been installed and all is in order.

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

2d) Parking concerns in the vicinity of 131 Pleasant Street.

This request came from Lt. Jusseume to Chief Leonard. Lt. Jusseume has received numerous calls from the resident at this address regarding parking complaints. It appears that there is only one no parking sign and the restriction is unclear. A brief discussion followed as to the actual restriction on each side and how it is marked.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for further review to see what makes sense here and advise at the next meeting.

Chief Leonard requested a motion to suspend the rules to discuss an item no longer on the Agenda. All in favor.

Tim Collins had requested an extension of the parking restriction on Causeway Street. We had addressed Causeway Street Extension but not Causeway Street. It hasn't been an issue but it makes sense to keep the no parking restriction in the area consistent. Chief Leonard submitted the revised regulation to the Traffic Commission for a vote. The new regulation restricts parking all year long rather than just during the summer months.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation. Chief Leonard will forward the regulation electronically to Lisa Thomas.

3-Old Business

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow Street.

Mr. Joubert, resident of Bigelow Street, was in attendance for an update on this issue. Chief Leonard explained that we have a potential funding source for the solar powered speed signs and that things are looking good. Quotes have been obtained and forwarded to the funding source. It looks like it is all coming together.

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

3e) 413-417 South St. blind driveway.

Chief Leonard wanted to provide an update on this issue so he included a copy of a letter from Mr. Pilachowski, City Engineer, in the agenda packet. The letter is the result of Engineering's review and gives their formal observations and recommendations which have been discussed previously. He advised that the blind driveway sign is in place, however, the mirror on the pole is not. Chief Leonard also said that it looks like some of the brush has been cut back.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE this item from the agenda. All issues relative to the Traffic Commission have been addressed.

3f) Extension of parking restriction on Hosmer St. near Memorial Beach.

Chief Leonard presented the amended regulation to the Traffic Commission for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE. Chief Leonard will forward the regulation electronically to Lisa Thomas.

3g) Parking issues on Liberty Street.

Chief Leonard presented the amended regulation to the Traffic Commission for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE. Chief Leonard will forward the regulation electronically to Lisa Thomas.

3h) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: No parking signs on Harrison Place; weight and dimension restrictions on West Hill Rd.

Update on Harrison Place - Mr. Pilachowski provided a map of the area with notations regarding proper signage. He advised that the regulation is already in place and it is just the proper signs that need to be added and/or replaced.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to replace and/or add signs as Tim Collins would suggest. All in Favor.

Update on West Hill Rd. – Possible signs indicating “narrow road” were discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Pilachowski advised that there is nothing in the MUTCD specifically for this issue. He passed out a map of the area along with examples of potential signs and their written descriptions. There were two potential advisory signs “Road Narrows” and “Hill Blocks View”, however, these weren’t really meant for this specific situation. He also included examples of “object markers” that would make trees or objects close to the road stand out. These are used more to guide people, especially at night.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that West Hill Road has been redesigned and that they should have a better idea of what they are doing in the next few months. The road is currently 17 feet wide at its narrowest point. New roads are built with a width of 22 feet. The impact on trees and stone walls would be “tremendous”. They are trying to figure out the best way to move forward. The capital plan will be submitted to the mayor in the next few weeks. Chief Leonard advised that there is already a special speed regulation of 25 mph here.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for now until more information is available on the reconstruction project.

3i) Plymouth St. parking restrictions.

Chief Leonard presented the amended regulation to the Traffic Commission for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE.

3a) Municipal off street parking regulation.

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

3b) High School parking regulations.

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

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

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 10:40 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 30, 2014 (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft copy of minutes from 8/26/14.
- E-mail from Chris LaFreniere to Chief Leonard, dated 8/27/14, Re: Brimsmead St. & Tremont St. parking restriction.
- E-mail from Councilor Irish to Chief Leonard, dated 9/5/14, Re: 1200 Berlin Rd. & Dalton Rd.
- E-mail from Lt. Brian Gould (Marlborough Fire Dept.) to Fire Chief Fortin and Police Chief Leonard, dated 9/7/14, Re: Pleasant Street across from station.
- E-mail from Lt. Jusseaume to Chief Leonard, dated 9/9/14, Re: Parking complaints 131 Pleasant Street.
- Copy of a letter from City Engineer Evan Pilachowski to the Traffic Commission, dated 8/5/14, Re: 413-417 South St. – Sight Distance Concerns.
- Copy of regulation to amend the parking restriction on Hosmer Street.
- Copy of regulation to restrict parking on east side of Liberty Street.
- Copy of regulation to amend the parking restriction on Causeway Street.

Additional Handouts

- Diagram of Pleasant Street indicating No Parking area in front of Christopher Heights.
- Map of Harrison Place with no parking areas indicated.
- Map of West Hill Road
- Sign diagrams – Object Markers, Road Narrows and Hill Blocks View – along with sign descriptions.

Mark Leonard

From: Edson Silva <delana84@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2014 1:46 PM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: Fwd: Permission

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Edson <delana84@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 1:53 PM
Subject: Permission
To: "mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov" <mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov>
Cc: Delana's Bakery <delanasbakery@gmail.com>

Delana's Bakery
44 Mais St, Marlborough, MA

August 1, 2014

Dear Chief Mark Leonard:

My name is Edson Delana and I am the proprietor of the Delana's Bakery located on 44 Mais St, Marlborough. During the eleven years that I have run my business, I have noticed that 95% of my clients park their car, buy and leave the Bakery in an average of five minutes. My parking lot is small, and when there are no more parking spaces, my clients leave and give up from buying, causing an economic loss in my business.

I would therefore like to ask permission for my clients to park for five to ten minutes on the street Ames PC. This street is adjacent to my bakery, and it is a quiet street without much traffic.

If you have any doubts, please contact me. Thank you for your comprehension and collaboration.
Sincerely,

Edson Delana
508 962-8462

Sent from my iPad

Mark Leonard

From: Patricia Bernard
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 1:05 PM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: Traffic Commission

Hi Chief,

Mayor Vigeant would like you to discuss the area between New Street and the Senior Housing on Main Street in regards to crossing Granger Blvd. Should there be another crosswalk added or an overpass put in to facilitate foot traffic to the senior center.

Thank you.

Regards,

Trish Bernard
Executive Secretary
Office of the Mayor
City of Marlborough
508.460.3770

Mark Leonard

From: doreen@blueskiesdesignstudio.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 9:11 PM
To: Police Dept
Cc: Mayor; City Council
Subject: RE: Tremont Street /Attention Traffic Commission

Hi Mark,

First, thank you for addressing this matter.

As a note, traveling up the street is directly west.

Unfortunately the removal of trees has caused the sun's glare to be blinding on the hill.

Add that to a blind spot, I personally found traveling up Tremont Street to be quite dangerous a few times last week.

Maybe someone should measure the street and assess if there should be "no parking" for both sides on the crest of the hill?

This is my suggestion based on the sun's glare as an added variable.

I'll end the conversation now.

Thank you again,
Doreen Howes
21 Bicknell Street
Marlboro, MA 01752

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

Subject: RE: Tremont Street /Attention Traffic Commission
From: Police Dept <police_dept@marlborough-ma.gov>
Date: Wed, October 08, 2014 2:55 pm
To: "doreen@blueskiesdesignstudio.com"
<doreen@blueskiesdesignstudio.com>, Police Dept
<police_dept@marlborough-ma.gov>
Cc: Mayor <mayor@marlborough-ma.gov>, City Council
<citycouncil@marlborough-ma.gov>

Hi Doreen,

We will be discussing this at our October 28th Traffic Commission meeting. You are welcome to attend, however it is not necessary that you be there.

Sincerely,

Mark F. Leonard
Chief of Police
Marlborough Police Department
355 Bolton Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Office: 508-485-1212 x6974

Fax: 508-624-6938

From: doreen@blueskiesdesignstudio.com [mailto:doreen@blueskiesdesignstudio.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 9:43 AM

To: Police Dept

Cc: Mayor; City Council

Subject: Tremont Street /Attention Traffic Commission

Dear Mark,

After calling the city engineers regarding the blind hill on the top of Tremont Street, I was informed that you would be addressing the matter with the Traffic Commission.

Unfortunately the street was narrowed with the recent reconstruction, so when vehicles park on both sides of the street only one car can pass. Since it's a blind hill this creates the perfect storm for a head-on collision. Residents are aware of the situation and drive with caution, but the street is used as a cut-through — traffic from RT 85 avoiding the Lincoln Street lights — these vehicles tend to speed up the hill.

As you are aware, the solution is restricting parking to one side of the street. I would only suggest that the sidewalk side be chosen, so drivers don't exit onto the "new landscaped" side of the street and passengers can exit onto the sidewalks. When evaluating the need for street parking, please note at the top of the street the residents don't require a lot of street parking, it's visitor parking that has created the obstacle.

I understand this process takes time to complete, but for public safety I would recommend immediate action. Temporary signage should be considered.

Respectfully,
Doreen

Doreen Howes
21 Bicknell Street
Marlboro, MA 01752

Cell: 508-357-8855

Mark Leonard

From: Beth Gerber <b78gemini@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 9:16 PM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: Re: Public Safety Concerns

Dear Mark,

I so appreciate the opportunity to correspond with you regarding my concerns. Thank you for getting back to me so promptly.

My husband and I recently moved to Marlboro and live at 92 Curtis Avenue. Since residing in our new home I have witnessed two traffic accidents at the top of Curtis Avenue. I understand from our neighbors that there are countless more, even in the few months we have lived here. It is clear that Curtis Avenue is a cut through street offering access to Hildreth, Cook Lane, Maple street, etc. I am becoming increasingly concerned not with the volume of traffic but rather the speed of traffic and the inconsideration for speed limits and public safety on this street. Understandably you cannot keep drivers from being jerks- they will continue to drive the way they do- so in the end the solution appears to be forcing them into driving more safely by making some modifications.

Neighbors have stated that they are advocating for a stop light at the top of the hill- the intersection of Curtis Ave and Hildreth Street. I strongly disagree. This will be a cost to install, maintain and only lead to more speeding. It is my observation that drivers often speed up to avoid missing the 'green light' and we all know it costs dollars to install the system, keep it running and fix it when it is down. Stop signs- these are another solution but again we have to count on drivers adhering to them and it will still cause the problem of clogging up traffic.

Has the city considered speed bumps on Hildreth avenue? The speed is the issue. When I make a left or right onto Hildreth from Curtis I have to check 3 times before proceeding because some drivers come flying over the hills on Hildreth. Not everyone will be this cautious. In my limited research of traffic issues around the country I keep coming up with the same possible solution. Modify the street, not the intersection. Nobody likes speed bumps but they are sometimes necessary to slow folks down. There is an elementary school on Hildreth too and seeing folks driving sometimes upwards of 40 miles an hour on this residential street is downright scary. Maybe a series of stop signs on Hildreth will aggravate enough people that they will avoid the street altogether after being forced to maintain a reasonable speed for the length of the street. I imagine this pushes them onto other streets and creates issues there which I am not going to pretend to know the ramifications of. Maybe a median strip is the answer to slow people down as they approach Curtis to avoid driving into the median. And the more I type this to you I also realize that slowing folks down on Hildreth may cause them to catch up on time by flying up and down Curtis even faster. I guess it never ends! I don't pretend to know the answer but I'm not going to express concern without tossing solutions out there. At the end of the day manicured medians, stop signs and speed bumps are much less maintenance cost over time and they don't cost electricly for the town.

I ask that you consider my ideas and help our neighborhood advocate for a resolution for this concern which is wide spread through the neighborhood.

Thank you so very much for your time, attention and anticipated consideration Mark. I truly appreciate it.

Best,
Beth Gerber

On Tuesday, October 21, 2014 3:56 PM, Mark Leonard <mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov> wrote:

Beth,
You can contact me at 508-485-1212 ext. 6974, or by email at: mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov

Sincerely,
Mark F. Leonard
Chief of Police
Marlborough Police Department
355 Bolton Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Office: 508-485-1212 x6974
Fax: 508-624-6938

From: Beth Gerber [mailto:b78gemini@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 2:52 PM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: Public Safety Concerns

Request From: Beth Gerber
Email: b78gemini@yahoo.com