CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING RECEIVED

15

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission	CITY OLERM'S OFFI
Date: November 25, 2014	2014 MOV 19 P 4:
Time: 10:00am	
Location: City Hall, 1st Floor Committee Meeting Room	
Agenda Items to be addressed:	
1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 2) NEW BUSINESS a) Request from Councilor Delano, re: signage near entrance to Villages Eab) Hayden St./Walker St. traffic concerns. c) Communication from Councilor Tunnera, re: parking concern on Northbridge Condominiums. 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) Parking concerns in the vicinity of 131 Pleasant St. g) Request to allow parking on Ames Place near Main St. h) Pedestrians crossing Granger Blvd. near New St. i) Request for a crosswalk on West Main St. near Broad St. j) Traffic concerns on Hildreth St. and Curtis Ave. k) Crosswalks on Ames St. and Reilly Way	

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, October 28, 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, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, John Shipe of Columbia Design Group, Gregory Russell of VHB and Kevin Maley of Fairfield. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED: TO APPROVE

2-New Business

Chief Leonard requested a Suspension of Rules to begin the meeting with New Business – Agenda Item 2g) as Mr. Shipe, Mr. Russsell and Mr. Maley were in attendance for this issue. All in Favor.

2g) Crosswalks on Ames St. and Reilly Way

Mr. Shipe presented a large diagram of the proposed project on Ames Street. He explained that they had originally designed the crosswalk on Ames Street on the opposite side of the street, however, once a pedestrian reached Route 20 and tried to cross they would either be crossing at the area of "predominant movement for traffic" or they would then have to cross Ames Street to make the safer crossing of Route 20 on the opposite corner. It would not be a "real pedestrian connection" as people would be inclined to run straight across Route 20 the easier way rather than make the circle around. It makes

more sense to have the crosswalk on the South side where it would continue onto a safer crossing for Route 20. There is already a sidewalk on the opposite side of Route 20 (in front of the RK Plaza). They are looking for an "informal approval" from the Traffic Commission at this point before going any further with their plans.

They also discussed a 2 stage crossing for Route 20 with a 12 foot island in the center. The existing island would be reconstructed with pedestrian detectors and pedestrian crossing buttons on poles. Fire Chief Fortin expressed concern with regard to a pedestrian assuming that they can run all the way across the road and that west bound traffic is also stopped. The engineers advised that there would also be audio with the push buttons advising pedestrians not to attempt to cross. There is currently no island on the other side and a pedestrian would be crossing four lanes of traffic. The question was also raised as to the crossing time. It was noted that the average walking speed for a pedestrian crossing is 3 ½ feet per second. The signal permit would have to be handled through the MA DOT.

Chief Leonard advised that he has discussed this issue with Mr. Pilachowski and that he agrees that it makes more sense for the sidewalk to be moved to the south side. Hopefully people will then cross where they are directed to do so. Mr. Pilachowski also advised that there would be warning signs for the crosswalks at Ames and Reilly Way as there is concern as to speed and making drivers aware of the crosswalk. He said that they would be similar to the warning signs on Simarano Drive.

Fire Chief Fortin asked where the bus stop was on Ames. It was noted that it is actually off the diagram past Reilly Way. It was discussed that solar powered flashing beacons could also be used to highlight the crossing on Ames.

Chief Leonard advised that from a Traffic Commission standpoint, he is fine with the Reilly Way and Ames Street crossings and the flashing beacons. The other intersection at Route 20 would need MA DOT approval, however, he agrees that it seems to make sense. There were some environmental issues noted on the other side of Ames Street anyways. He asked if he could be provided with the linear feet for the proposed crosswalks so that he could add them to the crosswalk regulations.

Fire Chief Fortin asked about the construction schedule. The engineers advised that the plans have been submitted and they have gotten feedback. They will work through clearing the site over the winter. They should get a permit in December. They haven't worked out all the details on the sidewalk but that could be done as early as next summer. They wanted to get an OK from the Traffic Commission before going before MA DOT. Chief Leonard advised that if they needed something in writing regarding the sidewalk that can be provided. It was also noted that they would need to get a permanent easement from the property owner on the south side. It hasn't been presented to the Site Plan Review Committee yet.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to get the specifics on the proposed crosswalk to Chief Leonard so he can prepare the amendment to the crosswalk regulation for the next meeting.

2a) Request to allow parking on Ames Place near Main Street.

Mr. Delana, owner of Delana's Bakery at 44 Main Street, has asked if his customers could be allowed to park on Ames Place adjacent to the bakery. He noted in his e-mail that his customers normally only park for an average of five minutes, his parking lot is very small, and he loses customers when they cannot find a place to park. He is looking for short term parking on Ames Place. Tim Collins passed out an aerial photo of the location. There is also one spot on Main Street in front of the bakery. It was noted that there is raised granite curbing on Ames Place and that if cars were parked here it could potentially cause an issue for fire trucks. There is currently no parking restriction on Ames Place and the photo shows two cars parked here. It was also noted that with the driveway openings and intersection requirements, you can't fit more than three cars here anyways. Fire Chief Fortin advised that he does not have a problem with cars parked here.

Chief Leonard asked for thoughts on allowing 30 minutes parking here. Commissioner Ghiloni expressed concern that other business on Main Street would want the same thing in front of their businesses. Tim Collins advised that all of Main Street currently has time limit parking, i.e. two hour. Other businesses may want 15 minute parking. It would create a designated spot for the business to use. He would not want to go to 15 minute parking because "it is a whole new thing". There are other areas in the city where 30 minute parking is allowed and the parking spots on Ames Place could be added to the existing section of the regulations. Chief Leonard advised that he does not have an issue with 30 minute parking. Tim Collins advised that there are often other restrictions with 30 minutes parking, for example, a time frame like 6:00am to 6:00pm. Fire Chief Fortin is also fine with it if the width of the roadway is adequate.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to check on the width of the roadway and advise at the next meeting. The issue will be TABLED until then.

2b) Parking concerns at end of Manning St. (gate blocked).

Chief Leonard received a phone call regarding this issue. Manning Street is a dead end and there is no parking allowed on the south side. The caller advised that the gate at the end of the street is often blocked by parked cars. Tim Collins passed out a photo and map of the area. He advised that the gate was required for the storage unit initially as a secondary exit. The caller was requesting that the area across the back of the roadway also have restricted parking so that the gate is not blocked.

Chief Leonard advised that he went to the area this morning but no cars were parked there. He noted that if someone is actually parking where the caller says, the vehicle could probably be ticketed as is. It would just have to be enforced. He doesn't think we need to do anything at this point and can deal with the issue as it is.

Fire Chief Fortin said that it could also be put on the onus of the property owner, perhaps with a sign indicating "Do Not Block Gate'. It is really his responsibility to keep the emergency exit open.

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

2c) Pedestrians crossing Granger Blvd. near New St.

This request came from Trish Bernard, on behalf of Mayor Vigeant. She asked if the Traffic Commission could have a discussion on this issue. Should another crosswalk be added or an overpass put in "to facilitate foot traffic to the senior center". Tim Collins passed out an aerial photo and street view photos of Granger Blvd. in this area. It was discussed that crossing has long been a concern here with traffic coming around the turn on Granger at a high rate of speed. Would crossing at Liberty Street be any better? All agreed it is a tough call. The Traffic Commission would need to determine the best site distance even if was a midblock crosswalk. Mr. Pilachowski advised that Engineering would need to look at a few options. It was noted that peak sun time was also a consideration.

4

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review and make recommendations.

2d) Request for crosswalk on West Main St. near Broad St.

Chief Leonard received a phone call on this issue. People from this building want to cross here rather than having to walk further down. Chief Leonard thinks there may actually have been a crosswalk here before and that maybe it was never repainted when the roadway was repayed. He asked if Engineering could look into this.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to look into this issue and advise at the next meeting.

2e) Traffic and parking concerns on Tremont St.

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from a local resident on this issue. She noted that Tremont Street was made narrower with the recent reconstruction and when cars are parked on both sides only one car can pass at a time. She said that residents are aware of this but that others use it as a "cut-through" and tend to speed. She stated in her e-mail, "Since it's a blind hill this creates the perfect storm for a head-on collision". She is looking to have parking restricted to one side. Chief Learned advised that she has also spoken to Ken Calder.

Tim Collins has looked into this situation relative to another issue under Old Business – Parking restrictions on Brimsmead St. and Tremont St. He passed out a diagram with all potential parking spaces indicated. He found that it does make sense to restrict parking to one side and was already in the process of determining which side made the most sense.

There is currently a sidewalk on the south side of Tremont from Huntington Ave. to Short St. and on the north side from Short St. to Bolton St. There are a total of 33 spots in the areas with the sidewalks. There are 17 spots on the sidewalk side between Huntington and Short and 16 spots on the sidewalk side between Short and Bolton. All agreed that this makes sense.

The second issue involves the crest of the hill and the glare from the sun. Chief Leonard advised that he is fine with what Tim has suggested. It is not a heavily traveled roadway and the parking restriction will help.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to prepare the amended regulation for the parking restriction for a vote at the next meeting:

2f) Traffic concerns on Hildreth St. and Curtis Ave.

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from a resident of Curtis Ave. with regard to difficulty in turning left or right from Curtis Ave. onto Hildreth and her concern with speed in the area. She gave several suggestions relative to handling the speed issue, i.e. medians, stop signs and speed bumps.

Chief Leonard advised that he also received several similar phone calls. He is thinking that the bushes on the corner of Hildreth and Curtis may be an issue again. Tim Collins commented that it is an ongoing issue because the brush grows back every year. The city ordinance states that brush cannot be 2 ft. to 6 ft. in height. The guardrail on Curtis is 2 ft., so all brush must be kept at that level. It is harder to judge on Hildreth Street. Pam Wilderman has to constantly remind property owners to keep their brush cut back. Chief Leonard advised that he can follow up with Pam. Tim Collins said that accidents here are probably related to the problems created by the bushes.

Chief Leonard said that he also gets many concerns on truck traffic even though Hildreth Street has a truck exclusion. There is signage on Hildreth off of Main Street regarding trucks, however, there may not be signage on East Main so trucks end up on Hildreth (where they aren't supposed to be) and turn off onto Curtis.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to follow up with Pam Wilderman on the brush issue and to the POLICE DEPT on enforcement of the truck exclusion and speed limit.

And

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to check on the signs for the truck exclusion.

3-Old Business

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow Street.

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

3e) Request for parking restrictions on Brimsmead St. and Tremont St.

The parking restriction on Tremont St. was addressed above under new business. Tim Collins also did a review of Brimsmead St. to determine which side of the street had the most parking spots available. He found that there were 39 spots on the south side with the sidewalk and 37 spots on the opposite (north) side. He is recommending that parking be restricted on the north side and allowed on the south side where there are more spots available. All agreed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to prepare the amended regulation for the parking restriction for a vote at the next meeting.

3f) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: Parking Issues on Dalton Rd.

Engineering took a look at this area. It appears that the problem may have to do with people who live on Berlin Road and it may be more of a night and weekend situation. Berlin Road is narrow and has a parking restriction. People may be choosing to park on Dalton so they don't have to "jockey for spots" on their own property if someone needs to get their vehicle out early in the morning. Since parking is allowed on Dalton Road there is no action to be taken at this time.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE this items from the Agenda.

3g) Parking concerns in the vicinity of 131 Pleasant Street.

Tim Collins took a look at this area. There were definitely some signs that were missing. He went on to explain the parking restriction. There is a no parking regulation on the 131 side of the street. The restriction goes from West Main St. to Elm Street. The entire length has no parking on the east side. He advised that the missing signs have been replaced.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE this item from the agenda.

Lisa Thomas requested a Suspension of Rules to provide an update on an item no longer on the agenda.

Update on Traffic Commission Website –

Lisa Thomas advised that the agenda packets, meeting minutes and advertisements are all now available on the website. The whole idea is to make as much information as possible available to the public so that they can research issues more easily by themselves. She asked if there were any links she could add to state agencies or maps etc. All agreed this was a good idea and would give it some thought.

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 11:18 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, October 28, 2014 (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
 - -Draft copy of minutes from 9/30/14.
 - -E-mail from Edson Delana, of Delana's Bakery, dated 9/19/14, Re: Permission
- -E-mail from Trish Bernard, Executive Secretary to the Mayor, dated 10/9/14, Re: Traffic Commission (Crossing on Granger Blvd. between New Street and Senior Housing).
 - -E-mail from Doreen Howes, local resident, dated 10/21/14, Re: Tremont Street.
- -E-mail from Beth Gerber, local resident, dated 10/21/14, Re: Public Safety Concerns.
 - -Diagram of proposed Ames Street project.

Additional Handouts

- -Aerial photo/map of Granger Blvd. /New Street
- -2 photos of Granger Blvd. from ground level, one showing westbound travel other showing eastbound travel.
 - -Aerial photo/map of Ames Place/Main St./Granger Blvd.
 - -Photo and map of Manning Street and Bldg. with gate at the end.
 - -Diagram of "Potential No Parking Area Tremont St. & Brimsmead St."

From:

Joe Delano <joe.delano@lpl.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 3, 2014 7:58 PM

To: Subject: Mark Leonard

Slow traffic signs

Hi chief, on behalf of the residence of villages east I would like to request some type of signage be placed near their entrance on route 20 that would help slow traffic down so that they can enter and exit more comfortably. Please let me know if I can provide any further information or can be of assistance.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Registered Principal/LPL Financial Delano Financial Management 293 Boston Post Rd. W., Suite 190 Marlborough, MA 01752 Phone (580) 460-8889 Fax (508) 624-8882 Email joe.delano@lpl.com

Securities offered through LPL Financial. Insurance products offered through LPL financial and its affiliates. Member FINRA/SIPC
Sent from my iPhone

From:

Mark Leonard

Sent:

Thursday, November 6, 2014 3:30 PM

To:

'Sue Payne'

Subject:

RE: Traffic Concerns - new Senior Center and Ward Park overhaul

Hi Susan,

I do remember speaking with you – hope things are well with you.

Regarding the traffic concerns you mentioned on Hayden and Water Streets, the Traffic Commission did look at a couple of options, but at this point there has been no action taken. The first thing we discussed was the possibility of adding stop signs on Hayden St., but this intersection does not meet the "warrants" or requirements for the installation of stop signs. It is kind of a long explanation as to why, and I can speak with you about that at some point if you would like.

The second thing we discussed was making the upper part of Hayden St. one-way, and not allowing traffic to enter Hayden St. from Rt. 20. . We felt this may be an inconvenience for residents in the area, so we tried to determine why people would enter Hayden St. and then continue beyond the two-way section and continue the wrong way on Hayden St. We realize that some people may do this intentionally, but we also felt that additional signage on Rt. 20, directing people to Orchard St. to get to Ward Park may be helpful for people who are not aware that Hayden St. turns into a one-way St. (there was only one sign directing people to Ward Park on Rt. 20 at Orchard St., and we recently added one at Hayden St. directing people westbound on Rt. 20 to continue to Orchard St. to get to Ward Park).

The City has historically rejected attempts to install speed bumps, but it may be something we can discuss in this location. I will bring it up at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Please feel free to give me a call to discuss options further.

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: Sue Payne [mailto:spayne@paynelessflooring.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2014 1:22 PM

To: Mark Leonard

Subject: Traffic Concerns - new Senior Center and Ward Park overhaul

Hi Chief Leonard

Not sure if you remember me or not from a few years back. We had met when I hosted a few Labor Day block parties on Hayden Street and requested permits. I still reside on Hayden and I have some concerns regarding traffic flow with the new renovations at Ward Park underway, as well as the new Senior Center. I am aware some discussions had taken place prior to construction and approval of the new senior center. But as we near completion of the center and with

the park renovations slated to open in the spring, I'd like to re-visit some of those discussions. I live on the upper half of Hayden closer to Route 20 where it is currently a two-way. I have spent many, many afternoons outside with my son, watching countless cars go to the park heading down the one way illegally. They pause to see the do not enter sign, and go down the wrong way anyways. I have also witnessed some of your police cruisers do the same thing. I have also watched cars leaving the park round the corner of Hayden and fly up the street towards Rt 20 at ridiculous rates of speed. I have valid concerns about the intersection of Water St and Hayden Street, as cars fly up from the park, they don't seem aware of the cars that enter up from Water St. I've watched many close calls. Again, I know some of these issues had been brought up but this was before any actual work was done. My concern is the fact that there will be increased traffic and I'm concerned of the safety and speed of the cars on the street. Even if it is decided to make Hayden street a complete one-way, you still have people flying up street to Rt 20. If you make Hayden a one way, is there a way to put in a couple of speed humps? They put in those speed humps on Edmands Road in Framingham which was one of the smartest moves ton control speeding on that road. Those are the type of speed humps I'm talking about. Forgive me if I don't use the correct terminology. Or can we put a stop sign on Hayden Street at Water street? You have to remember there are a lot of kids that walk on those sidewalks to on their way to the basketball courts and the pool during the summer. If you want, I'd be more than happy to discuss it with you in person and show you what I see especially in the warmer months when the kids are outside playing more and the kids are out of school for the summer. I welcome the changes to the park and I look forward to utilizing the park more with my children, but I do want to make sure the safety of the neighborhood and the safety of the kids heading to the park isn't compromised.

Thank you and look forward to working with you

Cordially, Susan Payne 14 Hayden St 508-816-1016

From:

Robert Tunnera < rtunnera@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, November 17, 2014 1:58 PM

To:

City Council; Mark Leonard

Subject:

Fwd: Northboro Rd West Parking Problem

Hi Mark,

Here is a concern from one of the owners at Elm Ridge Condominiums, from the people he copied on his email tells me that there might be more than one person with concerns.

Take a look at his email and let me know how you would like for me to respond to him... or if this is something that the traffic commission can take a look at

Talk soon Rob

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

From: EMCATOS WebMaster < WebMaster@emcatos.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 17, 2014 at 11:45 AM

Subject: Northboro Rd West Parking Problem

To: rtunnera@gmail.com

Cc: WebMaster@emcatos.com, chetrudz@yahoo.com, Rwmadden57@comcast.net, spallan@comcast.net,

TedJAntkowiak@gmail.com, andyfagan@comcast.net, glmiller98@hotmail.com,

mariannemadden126@yahoo.com

Hi again, Rob -

Thanks again for keeping us posted on the electricity rate issue. The city certainly came through for all of us.

There is another issue about which I request your advice and help. It concerns vehicle parking on Northboro Rd West.

There has always been some sporadic parking along and at the end (near the Elm Ridge Condominiums entrance) of Northboro Rd West. This typically has not been a problem.

However, over the last couple of weeks there have been consistently one to two two trucks - a pickup (DISH installation) and a large white unmarked panel truck parked at or near the end of Northboro Rd

- during the day and overnight. Clearly these vehicles have no business being parked there.

Maria and I called the police Sunday night and they sent a patrol car down and the officers said there was nothing illegal about the parking. They are probably correct. I talked to the dispatcher and he recommended we contact Chief Leonard to see what could be done.

I think that one option is to go to the city and ask that all parking be banned on Northboro Rd W from Route 20 to the bottom of the hill by the Elm Ridge entrance citing safety, there are four parking lot accesses along the street, the street is narrow, emergency vehicles need unhindered access and to ease snow plowing.

Can you suggest how we could go about this effectively and get a quick resolution?

Any help and guidance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to call me at 774-249-8113 to discuss the matter and to survey the situation for yourself.

Best regards,

Len Beyerssdorfer 475 Northboro Rd W #4

Len Beyersdorfer, EMCATOS WebMaster WebMaster@EMCATOS.COM www.EMCATOS.com 508-460-6172

Rob Tunnera
508-414-0838
Tunnera Real Estate
www.robtunnera.com
Search All Homes for Sale - Get my free app, simply Text: 2013T To: 87778

From:

Richard McDevitt

Sent:

Monday, November 3, 2014 10:33 PM

To:

Mark Leonard

Subject:

PARKING/PLEASANT ST

Chief,

In reading the minutes from the last Traffic Commission meeting regarding parking problems, including Pleasant St, I just wanted to make you aware of accident # 14-943-AC where a city of Marlborough Fire Truck struck a parked vehicle parked on the west bound side of Pleasant St. There was never any parking allowed on that side of the street between Chestnut and Elm St, but the signs are missing, and one of the residents alleged that they were taken down purposely by residents in the area. There are now at least 3 to 6 cars parked on that side of the street all the time, coupled with the people who park illegally on the east side facing north, making the road narrower. In the near term, the winter parking ban should solve the problem for now, but I thought I should make you aware.

Sgt. Richard T. McDevitt
Patrol Supervisor
City of Marlborough Police Dept.
355 Bolton St.
Marlborough, Ma. 01752
508-485-1212
Fax 508-624-6949