

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: September 22, 2015

Time: 10:00am

Location: City Hall, 1st Floor Committee Meeting Room

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

2015 SEP 16 P 5:00

Agenda Items to be addressed:

- 1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
- 2) NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Spring Street traffic and speeding concerns.
 - b) Speeding concerns on Williams St. near courthouse.
- 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) Towing vehicles from municipal lots for snow removal.
 - f) Communication from Jan Keith, re: Hemenway St./Wilson St. traffic concerns.
 - g) Communication from Janet Vigeant. Re: Brigham St. traffic concerns.
 - h) Minutes from July meeting
 - i) Request for restricted for buses during certain hours on Newton Street near the parking garage.
 - j) No parking regulation, Williams 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, August 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 local resident James Joubert. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, July 28th, 2015.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO TABLE - not yet complete.

2 – New Business

2a) Parking Concern on Calder Street

Resident of Calder Street has requested assistance with a parking issue. When cars are parked on the right side of Calder Street, as you enter from Pleasant Street, it becomes a tight 1 lane street. He said that he drives on the curb to pass parked cars and feels that emergency vehicles would not be able to get through.

Chief Leonard advised that officers have been sent up to this location. He noted that there is a citywide regulation that states “no parking within 20 feet of an intersection”. He agrees that the street is very narrow and that it may be a matter of educating residents as to the specifics of the no parking ordinance. Fire Chief Breen also went out to look at

the area. There were no cars parked there at the time, however, he said that he can't imagine that it wouldn't be a problem if cars were parked here. He doesn't see why people would park here as it would obviously create a problem. He also noted that the way the trees are angled it would cause a problem even if cars were parked 25 feet back from the intersection. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the DPW is in the process of cutting back the trees. Chief Leonard suggested that the Police Department continue to monitor the area. If it continues to be a problem, the Traffic Commission can look into it further.

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

2b) Request for restricted parking for buses during certain hours on Newton Street near the parking garage.

Chief Leonard received this request from the Mayor's office. Nick Milano, Executive Aide to the Mayor, explained in his e-mail that the MADOT and Peter Pan buses are beginning a bus line into Boston. It will park outside of the Newton Street garage for arrivals and departures. The inbound trips will leave Marlborough at 6:35am and 7:35 am. The return trips will leave Boston at 4:45pm and 5:45pm. They are specifically requesting that the four parking spots outside of the garage be marked as No Parking from 5-8am and 5-8pm to allow space for the bus to park.

Chief Leonard said that this would definitely be a benefit to commuters going into Boston. He believes there was a time that these spots were designated for commuters so that they are currently not subject to time limit parking. Evan Pilachowski noted that the buses would come in off of Granger Blvd. The bus kiosk is actually further down the road but other parking spots in the area (closer to downtown) are for business and handicapped spots.

Since this is supposed to start soon, Chief Leonard suggested that the Traffic Commission take a verbal vote now and he will prepare the regulation for the next meeting. The time limit parking will be added to the appropriate section in the regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE a verbal amendment adding the time limit parking to the four parking spots in front of the parking garage on Newton Street. ALL IN FAVOR.

Chief Leonard will prepare the formal regulation for the next meeting. He will also let Nick Milano know so that he can respond to the MADOT. Lisa Thomas also advised that she will advertise the change right away. Evan Pilachowski will look into the formal wording. It will be similar to what is currently in place in front of the former Senior Center at 240 Main Street.

2c) Request for crosswalk on Northboro Road at Marlborough Hills.

Employees of Marlborough Hills Rehab are allowed to use the parking lot across the street at the Embassy Suites hotel when they are working. The facility has asked the DPW about the possibility of installing a crosswalk here.

Chief Leonard said that he recalls Ken Calder bringing this up before. There were several issues brought up as to why this is not a good location for a crosswalk. 1) This would be a "midblock crosswalk" which is not the norm. 2) There is only a sidewalk on one side of the road, opposite from Marlborough Hills Rehab. 3) There is no curb cut to make it handicap accessible and they would not want it to go into the driveway. 4) The area is also on an incline. There was a recommendation last time to clear vegetation to make the sightline better.

In light of the above, Chief Leonard does not feel that a crosswalk in this location is necessary nor is it something the City would want to be involved in at this point. He will reply to Ken Calder of the DPW.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to advise Ken Calder of the issues so he can pass along the information.

2d) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: Parking concerns on Russell St. at Pleasant St.

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from Councilor Irish stating that residents are having a difficult time getting out of their driveways when cars at the corners of Russell St. and Pleasant St. He also mentioned cars being parked on the sidewalks. Chief Leonard again noted the citywide regulation that cars are not to be parked within 20 feet of an intersection. He noted that the problem seems to be more on Russell Street than Pleasant Street. Some of this is an enforcement issue, however, he also thinks the Police need to educate the residents about the parking restriction near an intersection.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and see what happens. If it continues to be a problem the Traffic Commission can look into it further.

2e) No parking regulation, Williams St.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that Tim Collins asked if we could hold off on this issue until they had more information. Commissioner Ghiloni met with Evan Pilachowski this morning to try to figure it out. There appear to be two issues. 1) Cars are parking on the sidewalk. 2) Cars are blocking handicapped access. Commissioner Ghiloni asked what they did before the sidewalks were installed. It appears cars just parked in the gutter. Busy court mornings seem to be the problem and they need to figure out how to keep cars off the sidewalk.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until more information is available to properly assess the situation.

3-Old Business

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the DPW is meeting next week to discuss this issue. The same situation is happening now when they are trying to clean the lots. They need to have vehicles removed from city lots in order to sweep them. They are "losing man hours" trying to work around people who are parking there. The problem is how to enforce the rules and regulations that are in place.

Chief Leonard advised that the notification piece has been the issue for the Police Department. He said that a representative from the Police Department can be involved in the discussion if Commissioner Ghiloni would like someone to attend.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until the next meeting.

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Lisa Thomas noted that the recodification of the City Code is ready to be done, however, they will be keeping the Traffic Commission piece separate.

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

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

Evan Pilachowski advised that Tim Collins is off today. The update will be tabled until the next meeting when Tim Collins is available.

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

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

Evan Pilachowski advised that all six of the counters are not working properly and have been returned to the company to be fixed. Chief Leonard also asked about the issue of centerline striping. Engineering advised that the entire issue will stay on the agenda until the counters are fixed and they can get an accurate truck count.

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

3g) Minutes from June Meeting.

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

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow St.

Mr. Joubert was in attendance for an update on this issue. Mr. Pilachowski advised that a taller pole was needed in order to get the best sunlight. The pole has been delayed coming in. Once it was received, Engineering will work the electrical contractor to get it

installed. It will hopefully be a fall project and should be installed quickly once it comes in.

Mr. Joubert also commented that he likes the lighted stop signs at the end of Bigelow Street. Chief Leonard advised that this type of sign was something the city was testing out. He would actually like to see more on them. Commissioner Ghiloni commented that it is a "test run" to see what happens and how long they last.

Chief Leonard went on to explain the entire issue in more detail to the new Fire Chief. Fire Chief Breen said he also drove down Bigelow Street to understand the issue being discussed.

Update on item no longer on agenda -

Intersection of Williams Street and Gleason Street

Mr. Pilachowski advised that the intersection has been boxed out but the signs still have to be installed.

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.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 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, August 25, 2015. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-E-mail from Gregory Stewart to Chief Leonard, dated 7/22/15, re: Calder Street.

-E-mail from Nicholas Milano (Executive Aide to the Mayor) to Chief Leonard, dated 8/24/15 and 7/30/15, re: Parking for commuter bus line into Boston.

-E-mail from Ken Calder to the Traffic Commission Members, dated 8/4/15, re: Crosswalk at Marlborough Hills Rehab.

-E-Mail from Councilor Irish to Chief Leonard, dated 8/12/15, re: Parking on Russell and Pleasant St.

- Revised No Parking Regulation for Williams Street, along with aerial photo (GIS).
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from June 23rd, 2015.

Additional Handouts:

None

Mark Leonard

From: Nicholas Milano
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Mark Leonard
Subject: RE: Spring Street traffic & speed

Chief:

Just to add onto this, he suggested making some of the roads one-ways, can you tell me what that would take from the neighborhood to happen?

What about making the intersection of Frye and Spring a four way stop? Currently, there are stop signs on Frye at Spring, but it is not a four way stop.

He is willing to ask his neighbors for buy-in on changes to the road, but was just looking for guidance from what we/you need.

Thanks,

Nick

From: Patricia Bernard
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:32 AM
To: Mark Leonard <mleonard@marlborough-ma.gov>
Cc: Nicholas Milano <nmilano@marlborough-ma.gov>
Subject: Spring Street traffic & speed

Hi Chief,

Richard Clune, 77 Spring St. came in to voice his concerns about the traffic speeding on Spring Street and being used as a cut through. He said his driveway can be used at any time for a speed trap and he would like to know how to go about making the street a one-way. He can be reached at 617-921-5179. He called the other day and Nick spoke to him.

Thank you.

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



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140 MAIN STREET
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Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, July 28, 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 and Fire Chief Kevin Breen. Also present: City Engineer Evan Pilachowski and Asst. City Engineer Tim Collins. Minutes taken by: Carrie Lizotte, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

MOTION to TABLE was made by Police Chief Leonard, seconded Ms. Thomas, it was duly VOTED: TO TABLE MEETING MINUTES TO NEXT MEETING.

2-New Business

It was duly voted: to move up sections so the audience members could participate.

2f) Request from Trish Pope, re: New St. @ Granger Blvd.

Ms. Pope asked if there was any possibility that the Engineering Department could take a look at the oncoming flow of traffic from Main Street. Her members are trying to turn onto New Street to access the Senior Center. She stated her members coming from Main Street have to make a quick left turn from the left side of the street and it's becoming an issue for some.

Chief Leonard stated that there was some discussion and a study done several years ago regarding the traffic patterns on Granger Blvd. Tim Collins stated that there are arrows on the top of the lanes which follows the lanes through to New Street which may confuse anyone trying to get over to New Street from the left lane.

Ms. Pope stated it may be easier for her to educate her members to use nearby neighboring streets to gain access to the Senior Center.

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

2c) Communication from Carrie-Ann Rawson, re: crosswalk on Lincoln St. @ Cross Street.

Ms. Rawson stated that walks frequently along Lincoln Street and stated there is a good amount of cars ignoring the crosswalks at Lincoln and at Cross Street. She also stated that the amount of people needing assistance with getting into Bouvier Pharmacy and the Advocate Apartments both on Lincoln Street; that the crosswalks are needing attention. She asked if it was possible to add signage to let the drivers know that there are cross walks.

Chief Leonard mentioned that the place signs that go on the street notifying drivers of the sidewalks are good only if they are in busier intersections (i.e. Main Street) and the signs tend to disappear after placement. Tim Collins stated that they could possibly do advance warning crosswalk signs with arrows pointing down to warn the drivers of the crosswalks.

Chief Leonard also stated he will inform the officers to monitor the crosswalk for any violations.

Motion was made to Refer to Engineering for sign placement and to Refer to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for monitoring.

2a) Communication from Jan Keith, re: Hemenway St. /Wilson St. traffic concerns.

Ms. Keith expressed her concern via email to Chief Leonard regarding the excessive speed and lack of failing to stop at the stop sign on Wilson Street by drivers. She stated in her email that cars tend to speed at the corner of Hemenway onto Wilson Street causing several cars in the past years to take out the fire hydrant located at 274 Wilson Street. She is asking for more increased patrols to monitor the speeding and a possible stop sign.

Chief Leonard stated that he can ask the officers to monitor the speed of drivers. Tim Collins stated they can do a study of the sign placement of "curve" to alert drivers of the impending curve.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to refer to the Engineering for a warranted sign and to refer to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for speed monitoring.

2b) Request from Councilor Tunnera re: Jake Brake restriction on West Main St.

Councilor Tunnera's constituent spoke to him regarding the use of Jake Brakes along West Main Street at all hours of the night by semi-trucks traveling throughout the city and using their "Jake brakes" to do a quick stop.

Tim Collins gave a brief discussion when truck drivers use their “Jake brakes” which assists the slowdown of a vehicle. This brakes makes a staccio sound, which can be quite loud going against the City’s Noise ordinance. To enforce the limiting of the brakes would increase educating the drivers of the noise ordinance. However, with the amount of traffic that flows through the City at night, it may not be possible to educate all drivers who use these brakes. Chief Leonard stated that this issue has been brought up before with the Code Enforcement Officer, Pamela Wilderman. He suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer may be able to give some insight on how to enforce the noise ordinance. The Chief also mentioned that he will alert the officers to monitor the area for any signs of the excessive noise.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to Refer to Code Enforcement and the POLICE DEPARTMENT for further review.

2d) Speeding concerns on Laviolette Street

There was some concern regarding cars speeding and using the street as a cut through to the condos located on West Main Street. Officer Wicks stated he has traffic flow through out different times of the day and did not witness any aggressive behavior by the drivers. Chief Leonard stated he has asked Officer Wicks to continue monitor the speeding.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to have the Police Department monitor the speeding.

2e) Communication from Theresa Lee, Speeding concerns on Framingham Rd.

Ms. Lee has is concerned with the traffic of the speeding cars along this one way portion of Framingham Road, siting cars have ran over neighboring pets. She asked if there was any way to slow down the traffic. Tim Collins stated that there is not enough signs properly identifying the miles per hour along this route. It was also discussed about using a speed bump, in which both the Fire Chief and Police Chief were not in favor of this method of enforcement.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to refer to Department of Public Works to adding the signage as needed.

SUSPENSION OR RULES

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to suspend the rules to discuss Kings Grant.

Councilor Clancy, Kings Grant @ Applewood, discussion of speeding cars

Councilor Clancy discussed the intersection of Kings Grant onto Applewood and the cars turning at a fast rate. It was discussed how the cars turning onto Kings Grant speed and have nearly hit several trees or oncoming cars waiting to turn onto Applewood. It was suggested that a possible painted island or a possible rumble strip would be benefitted at that intersection.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to refer to the Department of Public Works.

2g) Communication from Janet Vigeant, Brigham Street traffic concerns.

In a letter to the Commission, Ms. Vigeant stated that she is concerned about the increased traffic throughout the day, in particular the morning hours. She is stating that with construction of Marlborough Hills, the increased amount of commercial trucks on the scenic road makes it dangerous for people to enjoy the area, including walking to Jericho Hill Recreation area.

There was discussion about the traffic flowing into Southborough to alleviate some of the commercial traffic. However, Mr. Collins stated that DPW does not have the right to enforce which way the commercial traffic into Southborough as they would need permission from the Town of Southborough according to MASS DOT. In which case, in the past, the Town of Southborough would not agree to allow commercial traffic. Chief Leonard stated he could ask the patrol officers to enforce the rules of the road.

Motion was made, seconded, duly voted to refer to the Police Department for increased enforcement.

Ms. Thomas excused herself from the meeting.

2h) West Hill Rd. commercial vehicle exclusion request.

It was brought to the Commission's attention that there has been increased commercial traffic on the narrow winding roadway. It was suggested that the Department of Public Works will do a traffic study.

Motion was made, duly voted to refer this matter to the Department of Public Works.

3-Old Business

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.

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow Street.

The Police Chief gave an update, several of the stop signs will be removed within a few weeks. He will report back once they have been removed.

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

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

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

3f) Communication from Maureen Matott, re: Request for yield sign for traffic on East Main St. @ Stevens St.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
To TABLE

3g) Request for HP spot in front of 2 Hill Rd. and sign restricting parking within 20' of Hill Rd. and Lakeshore Dr.

Motion was made, second duly voted:

To TABLE.

3h.) Request for speed limit and other warning signs on Simpson Rd.

Motion was made, second duly voted:

To TABLE.

3i) Speeding and other traffic concerns on Lakeshore Dr.

Motion was made, second duly voted:

To TABLE.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Lizotte
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

-Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, July 28, 2015 (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting)

-Draft of Minutes from meeting on June 23, 2015

- GIS MAP of Granger Blvd & New St, provided by T. Collins.

-GIS MAP of Lincoln Street before Bouvier Pharmacy.

-JAKE Brake information from Maine provided by T. Collins