



**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, 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. Russell 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 a no parking restriction on both sides of 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.

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 repaved. 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 Leonard 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.

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

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**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."