



**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, November 25, 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, Kevin Maley of Fairfield and local resident Len Beyerssdorfer. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

Karen Lambert brought a revised draft to the meeting as Mr. Pilachowski had made a minor clarification on item 2a) regarding parking on Ames Place.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE the amended packet.

Chief Leonard requested a Suspension of Rules to begin the meeting with Old Business – Agenda Item 3k) as Mr. Shipe, Mr. Russell and Mr. Maley were in attendance for this issue. All in Favor.

3-Old Business

3k) Crosswalks on Ames St. and Reilly Way

The above parties had a revised diagram of the project. It now shows the 8 foot crosswalks, a pedestrian walking figure sign and advance warning signs. They advised that there is adequate site distance in both directions, but since they are new crosswalks, the advance warning signs make sense.

Chief Leonard had prepared the revised regulation to add the new crosswalk locations on Reilly Way and Ames Street to the approved list of crosswalk throughout the city.

Mr. Pilachowski also wanted the Traffic Commission to approve the flashing crossing beacon. This will be the first in the City and he wants to make sure they are effective and not overused. The beacon is 3 sided so it faces all directions and flashes for pedestrians in the area. There will be two of them right at the crosswalk and a camera detects a pedestrian approaching and triggers the light, rather than waiting to push the button. The same type of flashing beacon will be installed on Simarano Drive.

The plans will now be resubmitted to Site Plan since the sidewalk has been changed to the opposite site of Ames Street. They should be all set now from a Traffic Commission standpoint.

Lisa Thomas asked Engineering if it was possible to get a copy of the diagram in scanned form so that it can go on the Traffic Commission website and be submitted along with the advertisement. Yes, they will forward a copy electronically.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation adding the new crosswalk locations and the flashing crossing beacon.

2-New Business

Chief Leonard requested a Suspension of Rules to begin the new business discussion with item 2c) as Mr. Beyerssdorfer is in attendance for this issue. All in Favor.

2c) Communication from Councilor Tunnera, Re: parking concerns on Northboro Road West @ Elm Ridge Condominiums.

Mr. Beyerssdorfer was present at the meeting and advised that there are a couple of unmarked commercial vehicles that are frequently parked here overnight. There has always been sporadic parking on Northboro Road West, however, it is now becoming a problem. This is not a parking lot for commercial vehicles. Police were called to the area over the weekend to address the issue, however, the officer advised that there does not appear to be a parking restriction here so there is nothing illegal occurring.

Tim Collins advised that this is not actually a public way controlled by the City. It is a state highway. He advised that Curtis Ave. has the same issue as commercial vehicles are not allowed to park in the condo complex. MA DOT approval would be required to do anything on this road. He advised that our contact there is Joe Crowley. Chief Leonard said he tends to agree with Mr. Beyerssdorfer and does not know why anyone would need to park here and that we will have to contact Joe Crowley for assistance as we can't regulate this area. Chief Leonard said that with the overnight parking ban starting soon we will be able to ticket there, however, it would be best to see if we can get MA DOT to regulate it.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to draft a letter to send to our contact at MA DOT and go from there.

2a) Request from Councilor Delano, re: signage near entrance to Villages East on Boston Post Rd.

Councilor Delano forwarded this request on behalf of the residents of this complex. They were looking for some type of signage near the entrance that would help to slow traffic on Route 20 so they can get in and out more comfortably.

Chief Leonard advised that this may be a state issue also as MA DOT controls this section of Route 20. He noted that the driveway is just past the old Bertucci's and that the Traffic Commission has talked about this driveway in the past. Lisa Thomas asked what the speed limit was here. Chief Leonard advised that he wasn't 100% sure but that he believes it is 30 to 35 MPH. Tim Collins noted that they have an old style street sign that doesn't stand out. Maybe if they had a newer sign that made it look more like a street than a little driveway they may get a better response.

Chief Leonard said that he wants to confirm if we have already sent something to MA DOT on this. He will communicate this to Councilor Delano and advise him of Tim Collins' suggestion to upgrade to the blue street sign.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to see if a request was ever forwarded to MA DOT and to Chief Leonard to follow up with Councilor Delano.

Chief Leonard requested a Suspension of Rules to discuss an issue not on the Agenda. Gregg Russell, the project engineer for the Route 85 improvements project, was in attendance and asked if he could speak about the project. All in Favor.

New Item: Discussion of Route 85 Improvement Project.

Mr. Russell gave an overview of the project (and showed a diagram) which involves the reconstruction of three existing signals at Walker Street, South Street and the Fire Station. The whole corridor would have raised granite curbing on the sidewalks. They are proposing 12 ft. lanes with 6 ft. shoulders, possibly with a bike lane. He advised that they have done 2 road safety audits and there is currently no formal crossing area. They are looking for the best place for a crosswalk. Mr. Russell is proposing one at the fire station as there is already a signal there. They could have a real stop light for crossing with a rapid flashing beacon and a pedestrian push button.

Chief Leonard mentioned that he has seen a lot of people try to cross further down by Family House of Pizza at lunch time. Mr. Russell advised that they did note this during the audit. They also saw people crossing to and from Dunkin Donuts. Chief Leonard said that it seems to make sense for people to cross near the bldg. at 340 Maple St. It is relatively close to South Street but he doesn't think people would walk up there to cross. The group also discussed the possibility of two crosswalks, the lighted one at the fire station and a midblock crosswalk lower down with the area clearly marked with signage.

Tim Collins said that we would want the protected crossing at the fire station because then if someone truly wanted a safe place to cross they have the option to choose one. Mr. Russell also suggested a crossing at the Harvard Street area. Chief Leonard asked if there was a study done to show the number of people crossing here. Mr. Russell advised, no not in this area. The study was done further up the road. All agreed that this is a heavily used corridor at certain times of the day and that there is fairly heavy pedestrian traffic at lunch time.

Mr. Russell asked if there were any other specific safety issues that should be addressed. Chief Leonard asked about Framingham Road. The diagram appears to change it to a T intersection. Mr. Russell advised that this location was listed as a “high crash” area but it was determined that many of the crashes actually occurred in parking lots in the area. It is obviously not a safe place to drive though and if it is left the way it is, it won’t make it through a safety review.

It was discussed that the area has remained the way it is because there is a cemetery plot at the intersection for a veteran whose body was not returned. The plot is currently marked with a grassy area and a bench. If we can offer to do something special to this area to make it stand out as a veteran’s memorial maybe it can be changed. All agreed this was a good idea. Chief Leonard said that whatever they can do to T off the intersection will be helpful. They will need to work with Gary Brown from the Veteran’s Affairs office. Tim Collins mentioned that they discussed doing this 4 to 5 years ago when there was a proposal for a Dunkin Donuts going in there, however, it never came together.

Mr. Russell also explained another change taking place at the Walker Street intersection. They are proposing to flip the lane usage on Walker Street. Right now there is a right turn only lane that will become the through lane and the end of Mill Street will be shifted over. The problem now is that when someone is waiting to take a left onto Rte. 85 from Walker, cars coming out of Walker bypass the car waiting to take the left and go straight across the intersection rather than take a right (but are in the right turn only lane). Cars exiting Mill Street think they are turning right and don’t expect them to go straight through the intersection. The proposal is for a left turn lane out of Walker rather than a right turn lane.

Mr. Russell also said that the Road Safety Audit showed a sight distance issue here (corner of Walker and Rte. 85). It appears that there is a dumpster on the corner which blocks the site line. Chief Leonard also mentioned the concerns of Mr. Kraft and the problems with the queue at the light and the difficulty getting out of his parking lot at the corner of Mill St. and Rte. 85. It was discussed that there was not much that can be done as far as the roadway goes and that it will mostly have to be handled with light timing changes. The lights here are supposed to be coordinated with the signals at South Street, however, right now they are not. Mr. Russell said that they can definitely look at the timing on the lights & Mill Street to see if they can gain some time for Mr. Kraft and clear the queue.

Mr. Pilachowski advised that they will be meeting with MA DOT next week and that the comments made here by the Traffic Commission are helpful. Hopefully they can proceed with a public hearing in the spring. He noted that the project is on the state’s TIP list.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to back to ENGINEERING for further review.

Back to New Business

2b) Hayden St./Water St. traffic concerns.

Chief Leonard included an e-mail from local resident, Susan Payne, in the agenda packet and said that he has also received a few other e-mails on this same issue. Chief Leonard replied to her that the Traffic Commission has discussed this issue previously and found that part of the problem was with people having difficulty getting to Ward Park. Directional signs for Ward Park were installed. He also explained to her that Hayden Street does not meet the warrants for four way stop signs. She also mentioned wanting a stop sign at the end of Water Street. Tim Collins advised that this is a T intersection and we can put a stop sign there though it is not required.

Chief Leonard understands that residents have concerns, however, the Traffic Commission determined that since the new senior center and park are still under construction, we need to “wait and see” before any other changes are made. He did advise that a stop sign could be installed at the T-intersection at the end of Water Street if it was missing or just never put up. He would just have to check the regulations first and see if it is included. If not, it will need to be added.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to check the regulations for the stop sign on Water Street. All agreed to wait until construction was complete before making any other changes.

3-Old Business

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

Chief Leonard prepared the revised regulation for the parking restrictions on Brimsmead and Tremont (based on Tim Collins’ map and recommendation) and presented in for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation.

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

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from Sgt. McDevitt (4:00pm to midnight shift) on this issue. He wanted to make sure that the Chief was aware of a recent accident involving a city fire truck and a parked car on Pleasant St. There is supposed to be no parking allowed on Pleasant St. between Chestnut St. and Elm St., however, the signs are missing. He noted that there are at least 3 to 6 cars parked on that side of Pleasant St. all the time. The winter parking ban is starting soon which will resolve the issue for now, however, it needs to be addressed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to check the regulations and put up the signs that are missing.

3g) Request to allow parking on Ames Place near Main Street.

The owner of Delana’s Bakery was looking for time limit parking on Ames Street. Tim Collins passed out a GIS map of the area and advised that there was room for three cars to fit here. The map including notations about measurements, including street width. Fire Chief Fortin advised that if cars were allowed to park on Ames Street there is a

width issue for the ladder truck. As such, parking can't be allowed here. Chief Leonard advised that he would explain this to Mr. Delano.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE. Also to REFER to Chief Leonard to communicate this information to Mr. Delano.

3h) Pedestrians crossing Granger Blvd. near New St.

Tim Collins passed out an aerial photo of Granger Blvd. with the proposed crosswalk indicated along with three ground level photos from different angles. He determined that the best location for site distance is at the crest of the hill at Liberty Street. There is nothing there now. He will forward the specifics to Chief Leonard so he can prepare the regulation for the next meeting.

It was also discussed that there should be some form of protection with a light as there would be elderly crossing here due to its proximity to senior housing. Mr. Pilachowski advised that that we could have a pedestrian activated yellow "rectangular rapid flashing beacon."

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to refer to Tim Collins to provide the necessary information to the Chief so that he can prepare the regulation for the new crosswalk for the next meeting.

3j) Traffic concerns on Hildreth St. and Curtis Ave.

As a follow up from the last meeting, Tim Collins advised that signs were installed indicating "truck exclusion ahead" on the west side of East Main and from the other direction. New signs have been erected that make the truck exclusion more clear from all directions. Hopefully this will help to keep trucks off of Hildreth.

3i) Request for crosswalk on West Main St. near Broad St.

Tim Collins said that he has a photo from 2000 that shows the crosswalk. There is also a regulation in the manual. We must have forgotten to have it repainted. He advised that it is on Kenny's "radar" to repaint, however, it may not happen until the spring.

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

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.

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 11:20 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, November 25, 2014 (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft copy of minutes from 10/28/14.
- E-mail from Councilor Delano to Chief Leonard, dated 11/3/14, re: Slow traffic signs.
- E-mail Susan Payne to Chief Leonard, dated 11/6/14, re: Traffic concerns – new Senior Center and Ward Park overhaul along with Chief Leonard’s response, dated 11-6-14.
- E-mail from Len Beyerssdorfer to Councilor Tunnera, dated 11/17/14, re: Northboro Rd. West Parking Problem. Councilor Tunnera forwarded to Chief Leonard 11/17/14.
- E-mail from Sgt. McDevitt to Chief Leonard, dated 11/3/14, re: Parking/Pleasant St.
- E-mail from John Shipe to Evan Pilachowski, dated 11/19/14, re: Ames Street and Traffic Commission Crosswalk Lengths.
- Revised regulation to add crosswalks on Reilly Way and Ames Street.
- Revised regulation adding the parking restriction to Brimsmead Street and Tremont Street.
- Letter forwarded by Ronald Guest, Parking Clerk, to the Traffic Commission, dated 10/24/14, re: Request for parking space from the Housing Division of the C.D.A. Request letter is from Douglas Bushman, MCDA Housing Director, dated 10/20/14.

Additional Handouts

- Aerial photo of Granger Blvd. with proposed crosswalk location and advance warning signs indicated.
- Two ground view photos of the area for the proposed crosswalk location (at the crest of the hill) on Granger Blvd and one photo of the proposed crosswalk looking northbound at the end of Liberty Street.

-GIS map of Ames Place indicating parking restriction and proposed space for three cars to park.

-GIS map of Northboro Road West and surrounding area.