



**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 Thursday, March 28, 2017 at 10:00am 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 Tom DiPersio, and Incoming Police Chief Dave Giorgi. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, March 2, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO TABLE for next meeting. Minutes were passed out at today's meeting and were not yet reviewed by Traffic Commission members.

**2 – New Business**

**2a) Request to swap stop sign on Bigelow St. from Nashoba Dr. to Shea Dr.**

Chief Leonard received an email from a resident of Bigelow St. stating that the intersection with Shea Drive has become very dangerous with the removal of the stop sign. She said that now you cannot see the cars coming up the hill and that they drive very fast. She also said that with the snow and the way it is plowed, the southbound lane of Bigelow is almost totally blocked. She is requesting that the Traffic Commission reconsider and change the stop sign from Nashoba to Shea.

Chief Leonard reviewed the thought process that went into deciding which stop signs to take down. It was well researched when the decision was made. None of the stop signs on Bigelow Street were warranted and the Traffic Commission had to come up with a compromise in order to keep some of them. It was determined that if sidewalks were installed at a future date which would connect certain areas they could at least meet

potential future warrants for pedestrian crossing areas. The stop signs that remain in place fit into the outline for potential future sidewalks.

Tom DiPersio noted that the email also mentioned a sight distance issue and asked if this had been looked into recently. Chief Leonard said that maybe there is an issue now with vegetation or something blocking the view.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT the communication and REFER to ENGINEERING to look at the site distance issue.

**2b) Request for turn lane into 894 Boston Post Rd. East.**

Chief Leonard received an email from the General Manager of New England Academy of Gymnastics on this issue. He said that their building is part of a busy commercial lot, across the street from Raytheon and that he has dealt with numerous accidents at this intersection. He said that there have been about five just year. He said that their club services many children and families here in Marlborough, “about 500 per week to be more precise”. He feels it is “only a matter of time before we are dealing with a fatal crash, possibly involving children”. He asked about a possible turn lane into their location.

Chief Leonard said that he has not yet reviewed the specific accidents at this location. He did note, however, that this area is part of MA DOT’s layout and therefore is not under the control of the City of Marlborough. He advised that he emailed the General Manager back to let him know.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he is actually meeting with MA DOT tomorrow regarding potential changes to Rte. 20. He can also bring this specific issue to their attention at the same time.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW for further discussion with MA DOT since they control this portion of the roadway.

**2c) Request to look at parking restrictions on Gay and Witherbee Streets.**

A request came in on SeeClickFix asking if it was possible to restrict parking to only one side of the street. It was noted that “they are both narrow streets which allow for parking on both sides which complicate passing traffic as a two-way street”.

Chief Leonard advised that he has not received any other complaints about this issue except if maybe something specific was going on at the library. Commissioner Ghiloni mentioned that there is a possible new library in the future which would include the City buying additional property in the area. He advised it would be better to wait and see what happens here.

Chief Breen said he would look at the roadway to make sure there was room for fire apparatus.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the FIRE DEPARTMENT for review.

And

TO TABLE and revisit the issue if/when a new library is planned.

### **3-Old Business**

#### **3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.**

Lisa Thomas advised that if you look at the Traffic Commission's website you will see everything that needs to be added to the Traffic Code. She said she gave Chief Leonard the new contact information for General Code. Everything has been advertised and the new regulations can be sent to General Code for recodification. Any new regulations will be added as amendments. She said that this will come out of the Police Department's budget. It should be all set to go once someone confirms that we have a regulation to match each add.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to coordinate and finalize this project.

#### **3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.**

**Update:** Engineering advised that they would be waiting until the Spring to make any changes here. They don't want to install the new island with the snow.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

#### **3c) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.**

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

#### **3d) Parking restriction on Forest Street near AMSA.**

**Update:** Commissioner Ghiloni is hoping to have the proper signage installed before Chief Leonard's last day on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW for proper installation of the new signs.

#### **3e) Request from Tim Collins to evaluate the flashing yellow light at Main/Maple/Hildreth Sts.**

Tim Collins noted that in addition to voting on the regulation for a new stop sign on Maple street we also needed to include a stop condition on Hildreth. He noted that "the

Hildreth Street STOP sign/line was regulated by the Signal Permit that will be discontinued so a new regulation for Hildreth Street should be adopted". He forwarded the proper wording to Chief Leonard on 3/17/17. Chief Leonard prepared the amended regulation for a vote. He will also forward the regulation to Lisa Thomas to advertise. Ms. Thomas advised incoming Chief Giorgi that she pays for all advertisements out of her budget, even for the Traffic Commission. Advertisements appear in the Main Street Journal, which comes out every other week. If a regulation needs to go into effect sooner an Emergency Preamble is also voted upon.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation for a stop sign on Hildreth Street at the intersection of Main/Maple/Hildreth Sts. and a stop sign on Maple Street at the intersection of Main/Maple/Hildreth Sts. ALL IN FAVOR.

**3f) Elm Street @ Bigelow St. intersection concerns.**

Tim Collins provided a sketch of the intersection showing a reconfiguration of the turn movement off Bigelow Street onto Elm Street. The re-alignment creates more of a 90-degree turning movement. If the Traffic Commission is in favor of this idea he will mark it on the pavement "so the Traffic Commission can field observe what the change will look like".

Chief Leonard also said that the other issue was to highlight the stop condition. He agreed with the idea of narrowing the throat but he also wanted to make sure the stop sign was visible and the proper advance warning signage was in place.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to mark off the new turn movement and REFER to ENGINEERING to review the best way to highlight the stop condition.

**3g) Signage/stop condition on Dicenzo Blvd. at Boston Post Rd.**

**Update:** Lisa Thomas checked the Special Permit for this area, however, it basically had "nothing on it." The Traffic Commission thought it may have had a requirement to make a connection onto Dicenzo Blvd. so drivers could take a left out of The Village at Hager Meadows and circle around to the signalized intersection to safely take a left turn onto Rte. 20.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he and Tom DiPersio could discuss this issue with MA DOT at their meeting tomorrow as this area is also part of the MA DOT layout.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for further discussion with MA DOT.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert  
Records Clerk  
Marlborough Police Department

**List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:**

-Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 28, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Email from City Council to Chief Leonard, dated 3/20/17, re: Bigelow Street Stop Signs (Original email from Barbara Quinn, dated 3/20/17 – forward by City Council to Chief Leonard.)

-Email from Devan Tonelli, New England Academy of Gymnastics, to Chief Leonard, dated 3/2/17, re: Dangerous Intersection on Rte. 20 (forwarded to Chief Leonard by Karen Lambert).

-Copy of SeeClickFix entry from 3/17/17, re: Parking on Gay Street

-Copy of amended regulation to add Stop Signs on Hildreth St. and Maple St.

-Email from Tim Collins to Chief Leonard, dated 3/17/17, re: New STOP regulation for Maple Street/Main Street/Hildreth Street.

-Email from Tim Collins to Chief Leonard, dated 3/22/17, re: Bigelow Street at Elm Street, along with a diagram.

**Additional Handouts:**

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from 3/2/17.