



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 017**

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 10:30 am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni and Fire Chief Kevin Breen. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and City Councilor Ed Clancy, City Councilor Rob Tunnera, City Councilor Katie Robey, City Counselor Dave Doucette and Dave McCay, from Mirick O'Connell. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

The Meeting was originally scheduled for 10:00 am but delayed until 10:30 am since no quorum was present. The Traffic Commission needs to have at least three members present to hold an official meeting. Fire Chief Breen was delayed at another meeting.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File

2 – New Business

2a) Parking Issue at Shawmut and Maple (Update).

Chief Giorgi received an email from Karen Boule, advising that local resident Stefanie Ferrecchia was looking for an update on this issue. She advised that Ms. Ferrecchia had previously been working with Chief Leonard on “illegal parking at the intersection of Shawmut and Maple Streets which make egress at Maple and Shawmut clearly dangerous”. Ms. Boule also forwarded an email she received on 6/27/17 from Ms. Ferrecchia regarding a bad accident at this intersection that she stated is “totally the fault of that electric company and its employees parking right up to the corners and on the sidewalks.”

Tim Collins provided a GIS aerial photo of the intersection. Chief Giorgi had two photos that he took this morning showing that the view was obstructed. Vehicles are parking on each side out of Bridge Street. Tim Collins advised that parking is not allowed within 20 feet of an Intersection. The other issue is that people are parking on the sidewalk on Shawmut. There is no curbing and it's easy to just pull over onto the sidewalk. Also, with the curve in the road, view is obstructed by the building. There is also frequently a boat or car trailer parked at the corner. It was discussed that the boat at the corner is legally parked but when you make the turn with the boat or trailer there the lane becomes too narrow to make the curve.

Tim Collins advised that he can look into proper signage and review the no parking area.

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

2b) Request for Crosswalk on Northboro Road East.

Chief Giorgi received this request from Marlborough Hills Rehab. Employees of Marlborough Hills use the parking lot at the Double Tree Hotel across the street since they have limited parking onsite. They pay the hotel for this service. There is concern about traffic and speeding with their employees trying to cross the street.

Tim Collins advised that the Traffic Commission has received this request a few times before. Marlborough Hills is looking for a mid-block crosswalk and there is no curb cut there either. They want a crosswalk that is specifically for their property. There is not enough traffic volume to place a crosswalk at this location specifically for their use. Mr. Collins also noted that a crosswalk gives a false sense of security that this is a safe place to cross. It is actually better just to look both ways and wait to cross safely.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT. Chief Giorgi advised that he would contact Marlborough Hills and explain what was discussed at the meeting.

2c) Warning Sign Permit – Application – Beach Street.

When this issue was initially reported, it was also learned that there was a deaf child living on the street. Chief Giorgi advised that he went out to speak to the family and brought them the application for a specific warning sign that could be placed on the street for additional safety. The completed application is being submitted for a vote. The application would need to be renewed annually.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the application for a warning sign indicating “Slow Deaf Child Area” on Beach Street. All in Favor.

2d) Warning Sign Permit – Renewal Application – Goodale Street

The completed renewal application for a warning sign indicating “Caution Handicap Area” was submitted for a vote.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the renewal application. All in Favor.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Karen Lambert advised that the Police Department recently received the new pages for the Rules and Regulations Manuel. She will review them to be sure that all the requested amendments have been included.

Lisa Thomas was not in attendance to discuss this issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3b) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending and needs to stay on the agenda.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3c) Elm Street @ Bigelow St. intersection concerns.

Engineering has been working to determine the best option for the concerns at this intersection. Tim Collins reviewed that there is a warning sign near Nashoba Dr. indicating that there is a stop sign ahead. It was originally on the wrong side of the road and too far away. The sign has been moved to the proper location. Vegetation has also been cut back to make the stop sign clearly visible. They are now looking at changing the opening of the roadway and made pavement markings to this effect. The visual appears very narrow and there have been many concerns from area residents that the proposed turn movement would be too narrow. Tom DiPersio said that it is deceiving to look at right now because of where the current center line is located and it was just repainted. It is actually the same alignment that the planning board uses for all new subdivisions.

Chief Giorgi also advised that he recently spoke to Councilor Juiare about this also and that he had asked about the possibility of installing 2 flashing electronic stop signs. There was further discussion about the cost of these signs (approx. \$2,000 each) and that the City received just as many complaints about the signs because they are too bright and some people just don't like them.

Councilor Robey asked if it was just the pavement lines that we were talking about moving. Mr. DiPersio said no that they are looking to take out the pavement and change the curve of the road.

Upon further discussion, the Traffic Commission is not ready to vote on any changes. Engineering would like to table for another month for further review.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Vehicles Speed and Safety Assessment – Bolton Street (Route 85)

Tim Collins provided a memo with his comments/recommendations to the Traffic Safety Plan proposed by McMahon and Associates in conjunction with the Benchmark Senior Living project at 421 Bolton Street.

Pavement Markings

They were proposing two 12-foot travel lanes on the shoulders that act as a “traffic calming” measure that would slow traffic through the area. Mr. Collins said that the City did this on Curtis Ave. and it seems to be working. His only concern is that the shoulders that would be created could then be used as “parking lanes”. He is suggesting that a no parking regulation also be incorporated into the design.

Signage

The signage plan includes advance warning signs and the replacing of existing signs and placing them on new posts. Mr. Collins said in his memo, “as this is a sidewalk plow route, signs on utilities poles last longer than signs on their own post”. He is recommending that the new signage be installed and that the locations remain where they are, however, he would like to see the signs on the poles or off the sidewalk so they are not in the way of the plow.

Crosswalk

Mr. Collins also noted that the current crosswalk at the driveway of 397 Bolton Street is not A.D.A. compliant on the opposite side. Councilor Clancy had asked about having this addressed.

Electronic Speed Signage

These signs (with electronic speed feedback) have been used in other areas of the City and work very well and help to deter speeding in the area. Councilor Clancy had also suggested that these signs be used here.

Councilor Robey asked about the posted speed. Tim Collins advised that it is posted at 35 mph in this area of Bolton Street, however, it increases to 40mph at Bolton Street Tavern. He explained how speed studies work and how the posted speed is based on what 85% of drivers are traveling. The road opens up over the lake and people tend to go faster here.

The group discussed making these suggestions a condition of Site Plan Approval.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT the recommendations outlined in the memo prepared by Tim Collins. All in Favor.

3e) Speeding on Beach Street

Chief Giorgi advised that one of the new speed signs that provides feedback is at this location now and that he had the speed trailer there out there before. The neighbors are very happy with the sign; however, it can't stay there. The Chief said that the Police Department would continue to monitor speed here.

Tim Collins advised that two other signs are faded and will be replaced.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for continued enforcement and to ENGINEERING to replace the faded signs.

3f) Hudson Street bike path concerns.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that green pavement similar to that on Hudson Street will also be added to the two other crossing areas (Ash Street and at Boston Scientific). A special paint is used and it costs \$2,000 to paint each one. They have also requested permission from MADOT to paint the crosswalk at Fitchburg Street.

Councilor Robey asked if it would be possible to put signs on the bike path telling people which way to walk or ride. She uses the bike path and has constant issues with people in her way when she is on her bike. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the City owns the bike path and he will have arrows painted on the path to indicate the direction of bike travel.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW for painting.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 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, July 25, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from June 28, 2017.
- Email chain from Karen Boule to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/27/17, re: Parking Issue Shawmut and Maple (including email chain from Stefanie Ferrecchia.
- Email from Alex Popsuj, Director of Physical Plant, Marlborough Hills Rehab. & Health Care Center, to Chief Giorgi, dated 7/10/17, re: Crosswalk on Northboro Rd. East.
- Warning Sign Permit Application for Beach Street.
- Warning Sign Permit Application for Goodale Street (Renewal).

Additional Handouts:

- Email from Chief Giorgi to Karen Lambert, dated 7/21/17, re: Councilor Juare's concerns at the intersection of Bigelow and Elm.
- Memo from Tim Collins to the Traffic Commission, dated 7/25/17, re: Traffic Safety Plan for the Vicinity of 421 Bolton Street – For Benchmark Senior Living.

-GIS Aerial photo of intersection of Maple Street, Shawmut Ave. and Bridge Street.