



**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, March 31, 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 City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of February 24, 2015.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:  
TO APPROVE.

**2 – New Business**

**2a) Towing vehicles from municipal lots for snow removal.**

Chief Leonard and Commissioner Ghiloni have already had a brief discussion on this issue. There have been some legitimate concerns on post storm cleanup, including some irate people, with regard to no notice and no signage in some locations. The Chief said that he “could sympathize with some of them”. He mentioned two vehicles that were towed within the hours when parking was allowed in order to clean lots.

Chief Leonard said he was not sure as to the best way to notify people. Maybe a “blackboard” message about what area is next or temporary signs stating “Plowing Tonight – No Parking”. Commissioner Ghiloni was in agreement that a better plan is needed and thought the temporary signage was a good idea. Chief Leonard also thought that we need to post additional notices to address long term parking issues, for example - No Parking for more than 72 hours etc. As we head into next year he would like to see a notification plan in place. The Chief also mentioned parking around Senior Housing, where some people aren’t driving for many days.

Commission Ghiloni asked that this item remain on the agenda and he will talk with the DPW and come up with a plan.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Commissioner Ghiloni to work with the DPW on a notification plan for next year.

**2b) Request for speed limit signs near 406 Lincoln St., and Mechanic St. at Granger Blvd. traffic concerns.**

**Part 1 (406 Lincoln Street)** - Chief Leonard advised that 406 Lincoln street is the location of “The Lofts”. He noted that the Traffic Commission has looked at this area several times. The crosswalks were highlighted and he has had officers there to monitor speed.

Tim Collins advised that there is no special speed zone for Lincoln Street. It is a Business Zone in this section with a speed limit of 30mph. A yellow advisory sign indicating “thickly settled” is all that could be used. Chief Leonard said that this is clearly a thickly settled area and that there is enough signage there already. Tim Collins agreed that too much signage becomes “part of the landscape”. He noted that if someone truly wants to cross safely they should go up to the light and cross there. The crosswalk in front of 406 Lincoln Street is there for “convenience only”.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE. It will also be REFERED to the Police Department for continued enforcement.

**Part 2 (Mechanic St. @ Granger Blvd.)** - Mr. Daly asked if the light at Mechanic and Granger could be changed to include a yellow arrow with a sign that states “Left Turn Yield on Flashing”. He said that he has seen this used in other towns. He finds this intersection to be dangerous as “people either try to race to beat other drivers with right of way or are just clueless to right of way procedures”.

Tim Collins said that there is no exclusive left turn here and that the “rule of the road” is that whichever vehicle gets there first has the right of way. As long as people use their directionals and follow the rules, this should not be a problem. Commissioner Ghiloni said that sometimes you can fit two lanes here but not always as you go further back. Neither Tim Collins nor Chief Leonard have seen a situation like this here and feel that everyone has a chance to make the left and other vehicles can fit and go straight through the intersection.

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

**2c) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: parking concerns and signage requests on Central St.**

Three issues were discussed:

**1) Vehicles parking at the corner of Central St. and Mechanic Street.**

It was discussed that there is no parking allowed within 20 feet of an intersection.

**2) Vehicles parking in front of Central Auto Rebuilders (blocking the entrance).**

Tim Collins advised that there is a very wide driveway opening here and this should really not be a problem.

**3) More signage needed – no parking any time and adding a one way sign.**

The Traffic Commission feels this area is very clearly marked. There are currently five signs in place. Parking is allowed between Mechanic Street and the driveway and there is no parking on the entire South Side.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. Chief Leonard advised that he can highlight this area with his officers and have them ticket cars that are parked illegally.

**2d) Request to make Brigham St. one way.**

Engineering received a request on this issue. There was a concern related to the width and site distance along Brigham Street. Karen Lambert sent Engineering copies of all police reports for accidents on this street from 2010 to 2015. Tim Collins summarized the accidents as follows: of the 22 accidents noted, 12 involved driver error, 5 were weather related, 2 were unknown and 3 involved vehicles swerving to avoid head on collisions (of these 1 involved an animal in the road).

Engineering's review did not find anything (relative to crashes) that would substantiate the request to make this road one way. Tim Collins also noted that the road is 8,300 feet long and is residential. If the road were one way residents would have to travel for a very long stretch of roadway out of their way to be able to travel in the opposite direction. He noted that vehicles would need to travel 5,000 feet to Clover Hill and circle around. If Brigham Street is ever done over the road would be widened and many trees taken down.

Chief Leonard said that he had meant to check on the center line marking which would help to keep people within their lane. Tim Collins advised that this road may not meet the criteria for a center line. He noted that a single center line is not recognized by the MUTCD. He has not used one in the last 15 years.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW to check on the criteria for a center line.

**2e) Parking concerns on Pleasant St. between West Main St. and Lincoln St.**

Chief Leonard received an e-mail on this issue from a local resident. He was specifically concerned about the area in front of Slattery's Funeral Home. He noted that the street parking here essentially creates a one-way street, especially during rush hour, and it can

be very dangerous understanding who has the “right of way” on the normally two way street.

Chief Leonard advised that when the police department is made aware of a large wake they have made this area one way (allowing traffic to go southbound from Lincoln to West Main) to avoid this situation. In these situations an officer is posted at each end to direct traffic. It was further discussed that all the buildings on the west side have parking lots although Slattery’s does not have enough parking to accommodate a large wake. Parking is already restricted on the opposite side. The Traffic Commission is not sure what else can be done.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to speak with the local resident and advise him of the Traffic Commissions discussion.

**2f) Winter parking ban exemption for 169 Lincoln Street.**

The owner of the two family house here is having problems with parking. He noted that when he purchased the house the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor tenant used the driveway while the 1<sup>st</sup> floor tenant used the grass area on Short Street. He was advised by the City that he could no longer use the grass area and he was advised by Engineering that he could not extend or widen the driveway. He is now having trouble renting the 1<sup>st</sup> floor apt. which he feels is mainly due to the parking situation.

Chief Leonard said that there are typically 4 or 5 streets that are exempt from the parking ban, however, all cars still have to be moved in a snow emergency. Tim Collins said that a two family with six bedrooms in total should actually have parking for 8 cars. He said the driveway is wide enough for one car and long enough for three. There is also a dirt area where cars can park which probably has enough room for 3 cars. He noted that parking in the core of Marlborough is a huge issue. Chief Leonard said that this house has been there for a long time, however, we’ve never had this issue come up before. Chief Leonard questioned where the cars would go when plowing was required.

Chief Leonard will contact the homeowner and advise that the Traffic Commission cannot make the exemption. They have never done this for individuals just for stretches of roadways. Tim Collins also said that other houses have the same issue and would be requesting an exemption as well.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to advise the homeowner.

**2g) Crosswalk on Williams St. near courthouse.**

Chief Leonard prepared the regulation to add the new crosswalk as presented by Tim Collins at the last meeting. An aerial photo with specifications was also provided.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation adding the new crosswalk on Williams Street at Robin Drive. ALL IN FAVOR.

Chief Leonard will forward it to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

**3-Old Business**

*Update on item previously removed from Agenda.*

**Parking concerns on Northboro Road West @ Elm Ridge Condominiums.**

Tim Collins advised that he received a copy (from the State) of the no parking regulation that can be cited if someone questions a ticket received at this location. He said that "Per MADOT 720 CMR" will be out on the bottom of the No Parking Signs.

**3e) Buses on local roads going to NESC.**

**Update:** Lisa Thomas advised that she still needs to check on the gate conditions (at Embassy Suites). She was going to check through the "Special Permits" to see if there were any specific conditions when the permit was issued. She noted that all of this information is in "docushare" and is readily accessible.

**3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.**

A brief discussion followed as to where the Traffic Commission left off on this issue. Tim Collins advised that he has gone through all of the streets but needed to get it into a better format. When spring construction is underway he will have more time available. Lisa Thomas mentioned that it was time to recodify the other City Code and that it would be nice to do them both at the same time but it doesn't look like that will happen. Lisa Thomas said she would ask General Code if they could separate the City Code from the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

To TABLE.

*Commissioner Ghiloni brought up a couple of issues not on the agenda.*

**Plowing of Moffa Lane:**

The City is responsible for plowing Moffa Lane up to the chain across the road at the opposite end. The VanBuskirk family is supposed to take the chain down so trucks can drive all the way through out to Lincoln Street. Moffa Lane is a public way from Tremont to the VanBuskirk's property (a shared driveway with 2 houses). The City is essentially plowing a private driveway. He agrees that it is more convenient for the City when the chain is down but asked why we are doing this? John's issue was that the chain was not always down and trucks would have to back up. Why is it not open all year?

**Requests for Speed Bumps on Farm Road:**

Commissioner Ghiloni was not exactly sure how to answer the continued request for speed bumps on Farm Road. Chief Leonard said that speed bumps actually create more issues than they solve. This is a very heavily traveled road. The last count he can recall, which was several years ago, was 8,000 cars per day. It would be a major issue if all

these cars had to continue to slow down and then speed up. There is also the question as to where to put speed bumps since they need to be placed on a straight roadway and Farm Road has many curves. Farm Road is also a major response road for emergency vehicles. It is also difficult for plows to maneuver and creates a safety issue for motorcycles. Speed bumps have also been known to create drainage problems. There is also the maintenance issue.

Chief Leonard went on to say that traffic calming measures are a better alternative. For example, visuals created with shoulder lines which cause a roadway to narrow and then open up cause cars to slow in certain areas. Another possibility is doing something on the curve to highlight it or the use of specific striping. He would definitely prefer to stay away from speed bumps.

**See Click Fix**

There are some issues that have come up on this link that should be addressed by the Police Department, however, Commissioner Ghiloni was not sure who was handling them. Chief Leonard advised that at this point, they can be forwarded to his attention. It appears that the main concerns are speed issues. The requestor can be advised that the issue has been forward to the Police Department. Chief Leonard said that he would normally advise that directed patrols be assigned to problem areas. There will probably be more activity on this site as the weather gets nicer.

**3c) Stop signs on Bigelow Street.**

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

**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.

***Notice from Chief Leonard regarding next month's meeting.***

**NOTE:** April meeting needs to be rescheduled from Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Time will remain the same: 10:00 am.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 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, March 31, 2015 (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of minutes from Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

-E-mail from Chief Leonard to Commissioner Ghiloni, dated: 2/27/15, re: Towing cars from municipal lots.

-E-mail from Evan Pilachowski to Chief Leonard, dated 3/9/15, re: Traffic Commission Request (See Click Fix).

-E-mail from Jo Daly to Chief Leonard, dated 3/9/15, re: Traffic Commission Agenda (several items relative to Lincoln St., Mechanic St. and Granger Blvd.)

-E-mail from Councilor Irish to Chief Leonard, dated 3/12/15, re: Central Street parking.

-E-mail from Evan Pilachowski to Chief Leonard, dated 3/24/15, re: Traffic Commission (One way on Brigham Street).

-E-mail from Adam Moreschi to Chief Leonard, dated 3/23/15, Re: New Resident: Street Parking on Pleasant St. between W. Main St. and Lincoln St.

-Letter form William Wyskoczka to Chief Leonard, (undated), re: 169 Lincoln Street Parking.

-Aerial photo of William St. with proposed crosswalk indicated.

-Amended regulation to add the crosswalk on Williams Street to the section labeled "Crosswalk Locations".

**Additional Handouts**

-Summary of Brigham Street Accident Reports from 2010 to 2015.