



**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, June 23, 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: City Engineer Evan Pilachowski and Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

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

2 – New Business

2a) Request for speed limit and other warning signs on Simpson Rd.

This request came from a resident of this neighborhood. There are many children living here and Simpson Park is also on this street. She feels many cars drive at “unreasonably fast speeds”. She has made several calls to the police dept. and was told the police would make their presence known, however, she has not seen anyone.

Tim Collins passed out a GIS map of the neighborhood. He also said that he drove through the area. There are sidewalks on both sides but no crosswalks. There is a sign for the park but it is very small. It is also very low and more to alert pedestrians to the entrance than anything else. It would be better to have a sign to highlight the park.

Chief Leonard advised that this would be a 30mph zone and that typically the Traffic Commission does not install slow/children signs, however, it could be considered near a park entrance. Commissioner Ghiloni asked if there was much activity at this park. Tim

did not think so. Chief Leonard asked Engineering to look into the possibility of a “Slow - Playground” sign. He also advised that he would work on enforcement.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and to ENGINEERING for possible signage.

2b) Parking concern, Sawin St. @ E. Main St.

A local resident requested assistance with parking problems around the used car dealer lot on the corner. Tim Collins passed out a photo of the area with a diagram. Chief Leonard advised that Pam Wilderman, Code Enforcement Officer, has also been involved. It appears that customers’ cars are being parked on the corner. Chief Leonard wasn’t sure what kind of signage, if any, was there. The resident was looking for “no parking signs up on that corner and maybe the second telephone pole maybe put up a residence parking sign so no one will park in front of people’s drives or houses”. Commissioner Ghiloni said that it is a tough area to sign and also that there is no curbing there. The Chief thought it would be best to start with the Police Department on enforcement and to get Code Enforcement involved again.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and to Pam Wilderman, Code Enforcement Officer.

2c) Speeding and other traffic concerns on Lakeshore Dr.

Resident is concerned with speed and noted that one area of Lakeshore Drive is posted at 30mph while another is posted at 20mph. He asked if it was possible to reduce the speed of the entire road to 20mph. Also, he noted that there is no stop sign at the intersection of Hill Road and Lakeshore Drive and the intersection of Bruce Road and Lakeshore Drive. He said that he has witnessed many near accidents “of drivers rolling through this intersection.”

Tim Collins passed out a GIS map of the area with the two different speed zones indicated. He could not find written specifics as to why there are two difference speed zones but he assumes the roadway characteristics play a part. He noted that the area that is 30mph is wide open and flat while the area that is 20mph is hilly and winding.

Chief Leonard asked if it was necessary to do a speed study here. The road is really not all that wide and it could be perception, as 30mph may look faster than it really is. He will add this area to the list for radar patrols.

On the second issue, Tim Collins advised that the two intersections at Hill Rd. and Bruce Rd. are T- intersections and meet the MUTCD warrants for a stop sign. Chief Leonard said that it does make sense to him to put stop signs here. He has had this issue brought up before. Evan Pilachowski asked if it makes sense to a crash study here first. The Police Department can do this, however, Chief Leonard doesn’t think we will find much.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for radar patrols and also to compile an accident history over the past five years.

2d) Timing of traffic signal on Lincoln St. @ Bolton St.

Request came from Evan Pilachowski in response to a concern received through SeeClickFix regarding regular traffic backups for westbound traffic at this intersection along Lincoln St. He noted that the concern “centered on the timing of the traffic signal and the exclusive left turn for eastbound traffic on Lincoln Street”.

Tim Collins passed out a chart outlining the traffic signal timing at this intersection. He noted that there are 8 seconds set aside for the exclusive left turn onto Lincoln Street. They had to “steal” the 8 seconds from the westbound traffic on Lincoln Street. Maybe this is too much time. Maybe we need to add time on the Lincoln street approach and reduce the time for the exclusive turn to 6 seconds. Evan Pilachowski does not think those few seconds would really make a difference. It was discussed that most of the traffic on Lincoln Street is straight traffic (to bypass Route 20). Chief Leonard said that he agrees that the westbound traffic does back up during commuting hours but changing the timing by 2-3 seconds will not really make a difference. It would allow just one more car to get through. It just takes one car who can’t make the turn to back up the traffic. It was discussed that the commuter knows the issue and can go around a different way. This is the first complaint the Traffic Commission has received. At this point, it is best left the way it is.

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

2e) Request from Councilor Delano, re: Warning signage in the area of Villages East to assist exiting traffic.

Tim Collins passed out two photos of the area showing a sign in both directions (400 feet in advance of the driveway to The Villages) stating “Turning Vehicles Ahead”. He said that the State put these signs up a few years ago. Chief Leonard advised that he would take a drive by the area himself and let Councilor Delano know that these signs are in place.

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

2f) Traffic Concern on Williams @ Gleason St.

Resident sent in a specific request relative to this intersection along with her Crash Operator’s Report. She stated how dangerous this intersection is during rush hour and how difficult it can be to make a left turn onto Gleason Street. She included pictures showing a car trying to take a left onto Gleason. The car in the left lane may allow you to turn but the car in the right lane doesn’t always see you turning and doesn’t slow down. This is what happened in her accident. Another photo showed a car completely blocking Gleason Street waiting for the light to change. There is no way for someone to turn onto Gleason Street which then causes a backup out onto route 20. She is requesting a Stop Line at the corner of Williams Street and Gleason Street and a Do Not Block Intersection sign.

Tim Collins passed out an aerial photo of the intersection for reference. Chief Leonard said that he understands what she is saying. When it gets busy two lanes do form here. Tim Collins said that prior to Gleason Street there should be only one lane of traffic, however, people start forming two lanes on their own. Cars are still within the markings because there is enough width here. The Chief said that a sign would be helpful to his

officers if they were trying to enforce something here. Commissioner Ghiloni asked if we have this type of sign anywhere else. Tim Collins advised that we do have this in front of the Fire Station on Pleasant Street, in case the trucks have to exit. Chief Leonard said that he would like the Police Department to monitor the issue for now. If it continues to be a problem he will bring it back to the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to monitor.

Lisa Thomas asked to discuss a new issue not on the agenda. - New polling locations at the new Senior Center.

Lisa Thomas wanted to bring to the attention of the Traffic Commission that 5 polling locations will be moved to the new Senior Center. She is waiting for a home rule petition to come back signed, hopefully, before the next election. She was concerned about parking on Election Day. She said that polling workers were going to be instructed to park elsewhere, probably Bigelow school. Constables would be asked to give rides to the poll workers to and from the school. Commissioner Ghiloni said there were 164 parking spaces at the Senior Center. Lisa Thomas just wanted to make everyone aware of what was going on ahead of time.

3-Old Business

Update on item no longer on Agenda – Crosswalk on Williams St.

The crosswalk is in place, however, it was never properly regulated. Chief Leonard presented the revised regulation for a vote. Initially the crosswalk was going to be relocated to Robin Drive, however, it was later determined that the existing location was best. Lisa Thomas will check to see if the Robin Drive location was ever advertised. She will also advertise the new regulation. Chief Leonard will send her an electronic copy.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to LISA THOMAS, City Clerk, to advertise the regulation.

3i) Request for HP spot in front of 2 Hill Rd. and sign restricting parking within 20' of Hill Rd. and Lakeshore Dr.

Chief Leonard advised that he has called the requestor for more information but she has not gotten back to him yet.

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

3h) Communication from Ruben Rassi, re: Lakeside Ave. at Lincoln St. /Bond St. intersection concerns.

Tim Collins provided an update that the striping would have to be yellow not white as was originally indicated.

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

3f) Request to consider making Francis St. one way.

The Traffic Commission has decided not to pursue a one way on Francis Street. It was further discussed that State approval is only necessary if the one way extends into another community or if it is midblock.

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

3g) Communication from Maureen Matott, re: Request for yield sign for traffic on East Main St. @ Stevens St.

Tim Collins passed out a photo which included the proposed yield sign for southbound traffic on Stevens Street tuning left onto East Main Street. Chief Leonard said that it makes sense to him. The only real question was where to put it.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for installation.

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Tim Collins advised that he is still working on this. Lisa Thomas said that she has a lot of items to add for recodification under the City Code. This will be the second time she has recodified in 8 years. She wanted to confirm that it was OK to separate this from the Traffic Commission section since her part was ready to be submitted to General Code.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to separate the two sections and let Lisa Thomas update the City Code with General Code. All in Favor.

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow Street.

Evan Pilachowski advised that they have ordered the necessary equipment for the speed signs. He asked if he needed any official approval or if he could just go ahead. Tim Collins said that he thinks the stop signs were regulated but not warranted. If they were regulated, the Traffic Commission would have to repeal them. The residents would also have to be notified prior to any changes being made. Evan Pilachowski also noted that the MUTCD has a placard that can be placed on the side street stop signs indicating that "other directions do not stop". He advised that he ordered two signs, one for each direction. DCU is paying up to \$10,000.

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.

3e) Towing vehicles from municipal lots for snow removal.

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 11:02 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, June 23, 2015. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from May 26, 2015

-E-mail from Nicole Bisazza to Chief Leonard, dated 5/28/15, re: Slow – Children sign.

-E-mail from KJ Urato to Chief Leonard, dated 6/3/15, re: Corner of Sawin and East Main (used car dealer).

-E-mail from Sean Monaghan to Chief Leonard, dated 6/4/15, re: Traffic Commission in regard to Lakeshore Drive.

E-mail from Evan Pilachowski to Chief Leonard, dated 6/8/15, re: Traffic commission – Lincoln St. at Bolton St.

E-mail from Councilor Delano to Chief Leonard, dated 6/8/15, re: Agenda Item for Traffic Commission – Sign on Rte. 20 requested by residents of Villages East.

-E-mail from Karen Lambert to Chief Leonard, dated 6-10-15, re: Williams and Gleason Street (as requested by Kristin Riddle).

-Regulation to add the crosswalk on Williams Street to Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations under Section 586-60.1: “Crosswalk Locations”.

Additional Handouts

-GIS map of Simpson Road area.

-Map and aerial photo of Sawin Street area.

-Photo indicating “Proposed sign (R10-12), for southbound traffic on Stevens Street turning left onto East Main Street”.

-GIS map of Lakeside Ave. at Williams Street and Gleason St.

-Two photos from different angles of “Boston Post Road East, 400 feet in advance of the driveway to The Villages at Marlborough East.

-Diagram of Traffic Signal Timing at intersection of Bolton St. and Lincoln St.

-GIS map of Lakeshore Drive area with speed limits indicated.

