



**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, August 25, 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, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Lisa Thomas. Also present: City Engineer Evan Pilachowski and local resident James Joubert. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, July 28th, 2015.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO TABLE - not yet complete.

2 – New Business

2a) Parking Concern on Calder Street

Resident of Calder Street has requested assistance with a parking issue. When cars are parked on the right side of Calder Street, as you enter from Pleasant Street, it becomes a tight 1 lane street. He said that he drives on the curb to pass parked cars and feels that emergency vehicles would not be able to get through.

Chief Leonard advised that officers have been sent up to this location. He noted that there is a citywide regulation that states “no parking within 20 feet of an intersection”. He agrees that the street is very narrow and that it may be a matter of educating residents as to the specifics of the no parking ordinance. Fire Chief Breen also went out to look at the area. There were no cars parked there at the time, however, he said that he can’t imagine that it wouldn’t be a problem if cars were parked here. He doesn’t see why people would park here as it would obviously create a problem. He also noted that the way the trees are angled it would cause a problem even if cars were parked 25 feet back

from the intersection. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the DPW is in the process of cutting back the trees. Chief Leonard suggested that the Police Department continue to monitor the area. If it continues to be a problem, the Traffic Commission can look into it further.

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

2b) Request for restricted parking for buses during certain hours on Newton Street near the parking garage.

Chief Leonard received this request from the Mayor's office. Nick Milano, Executive Aide to the Mayor, explained in his e-mail that the MADOT and Peter Pan buses are beginning a bus line into Boston. It will park outside of the Newton Street garage for arrivals and departures. The inbound trips will leave Marlborough at 6:35am and 7:35 am. The return trips will leave Boston at 4:45pm and 5:45pm. They are specifically requesting that the four parking spots outside of the garage be marked as No Parking from 5-8am and 5-8pm to allow space for the bus to park.

Chief Leonard said that this would definitely be a benefit to commuters going into Boston. He believes there was a time that these spots were designated for commuters so that they are currently not subject to time limit parking. Evan Pilachowski noted that the buses would come in off of Granger Blvd. The bus kiosk is actually further down the road but other parking spots in the area (closer to downtown) are for business and handicapped spots.

Since this is supposed to start soon, Chief Leonard suggested that the Traffic Commission take a verbal vote now and he will prepare the regulation for the next meeting. The time limit parking will be added to the appropriate section in the regulations.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE a verbal amendment adding the time limit parking to the four parking spots in front of the parking garage on Newton Street. ALL IN FAVOR.

Chief Leonard will prepare the formal regulation for the next meeting. He will also let Nick Milano know so that he can respond to the MADOT. Lisa Thomas also advised that she will advertise the change right away. Evan Pilachowski will look into the formal wording. It will be similar to what is currently in place in front of the former Senior Center at 240 Main Street.

2c) Request for crosswalk on Northboro Road at Marlborough Hills.

Employees of Marlborough Hills Rehab are allowed to use the parking lot across the street at the Embassy Suites hotel when they are working. The facility has asked the DPW about the possibility of installing a crosswalk here.

Chief Leonard said that he recalls Ken Calder bringing this up before. There were several issues brought up as to why this is not a good location for a crosswalk. 1) This would be a "midblock crosswalk" which is not the norm. 2) There is only a sidewalk on one side of the road, opposite from Marlborough Hills Rehab. 3) There is no curb cut to

make it handicap accessible and they would not want it to go into the driveway. 4) The area is also on an incline. There was a recommendation last time to clear vegetation to make the sightline better.

In light of the above, Chief Leonard does not feel that a crosswalk in this location is necessary nor is it something the City would want to be involved in at this point. He will reply to Ken Calder of the DPW.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to advise Ken Calder of the issues so he can pass along the information.

2d) Communication from Councilor Irish, re: Parking concerns on Russell St. at Pleasant St.

Chief Leonard received an e-mail from Councilor Irish stating that residents are having a difficult time getting out of their driveways when cars at the corners of Russell St. and Pleasant St. He also mentioned cars being parked on the sidewalks. Chief Leonard again noted the citywide regulation that cars are not to be parked within 20 feet of an intersection. He noted that the problem seems to be more on Russell Street than Pleasant Street. Some of this is an enforcement issue, however, he also thinks the Police need to educate the residents about the parking restriction near an intersection.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and see what happens. If it continues to be a problem the Traffic Commission can look into it further.

2e) No parking regulation, Williams St.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that Tim Collins asked if we could hold off on this issue until they had more information. Commissioner Ghiloni met with Evan Pilachowski this morning to try to figure it out. There appear to be two issues. 1) Cars are parking on the sidewalk. 2) Cars are blocking handicapped access. Commissioner Ghiloni asked what they did before the sidewalks were installed. It appears cars just parked in the gutter. Busy court mornings seem to be the problem and they need to figure out how to keep cars off the sidewalk.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until more information is available to properly assess the situation.

3-Old Business

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the DPW is meeting next week to discuss this issue. The same situation is happening now when they are trying to clean the lots. They need to have vehicles removed from city lots in order to sweep them. They are “losing man hours” trying to work around people who are parking there. The problem is how to enforce the rules and regulations that are in place.

Chief Leonard advised that the notification piece has been the issue for the Police Department. He said that a representative from the Police Department can be involved in the discussion if Commissioner Ghiloni would like someone to attend.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until the next meeting.

3d) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Lisa Thomas noted that the recodification of the City Code is ready to be done, however, they will be keeping the Traffic Commission piece separate.

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

Communication from Jan Keith, re: Hemenway St./Wilson St. traffic concerns.

Evan Pilachowski advised that Tim Collins is off today. The update will be tabled until the next meeting when Tim Collins is available.

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

3f) Communication from Janet Vigeant Re: Brigham St. traffic concerns.

Evan Pilachowski advised that all six of the counters are not working properly and have been returned to the company to be fixed. Chief Leonard also asked about the issue of centerline striping. Engineering advised that the entire issue will stay on the agenda until the counters are fixed and they can get an accurate truck count.

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

3g) Minutes from June Meeting.

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

3c) Stop signs on Bigelow St.

Mr. Joubert was in attendance for an update on this issue. Mr. Pilachowski advised that a taller pole was needed in order to get the best sunlight. The pole has been delayed coming in. Once it was received, Engineering will work the electrical contractor to get it installed. It will hopefully be a fall project and should be installed quickly once it comes in.

Mr. Joubert also commented that he likes the lighted stop signs at the end of Bigelow Street. Chief Leonard advised that this type of sign was something the city was testing

out. He would actually like to see more on them. Commissioner Ghiloni commented that it is a “test run” to see what happens and how long they last.

Chief Leonard went on to explain the entire issue in more detail to the new Fire Chief. Fire Chief Breen said he also drove down Bigelow Street to understand the issue being discussed.

Update on item no longer on agenda -

Intersection of Williams Street and Gleason Street

Mr. Pilachowski advised that the intersection has been boxed out but the signs still have to be installed.

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.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 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, August 25, 2015. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).

-E-mail from Gregory Stewart to Chief Leonard, dated 7/22/15, re: Calder Street.

-E-mail from Nicholas Milano (Executive Aide to the Mayor) to Chief Leonard, dated 8/24/15 and 7/30/15, re: Parking for commuter bus line into Boston.

-E-mail from Ken Calder to the Traffic Commission Members, dated 8/4/15, re: Crosswalk at Marlborough Hills Rehab.

-E-Mail from Councilor Irish to Chief Leonard, dated 8/12/15, re: Parking on Russell and Pleasant St.

-Revised No Parking Regulation for Williams Street, along with aerial photo (GIS).

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from June 23rd, 2015.

Additional Handouts:

None