



**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, July 26, 2016 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 Thomas DiPersio, Jr., Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins and local residents Charles Davis and Gary Lubin. Minutes taken by: Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

(Lisa Thomas was not in attendance last month and abstained from voting.)

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE

2 – New Business

2a) Parking concerns on Middle Street.

Mr. Lubin was in attendance for this issue. He explained in his email to Chief Leonard that they were having issues with the neighbor's truck being parked on the street. He said that the truck has a severely cracked windshield. It leaks oil and grease onto the street. It used to have commercial plates on it and was constantly parked on the street with equipment attached (stump grinder, tree shredder). They were changed to residential plates once Code Enforcement got involved. He also feels that the truck could prevent emergency vehicles from going up Middle Street. He is asking what it would take to have no parking anytime signs posted on Middle Street. He does not mean this as a personal attack. He lives at #3 Middle Street. His neighbor lives at #1.

Chief Leonard advised that he went up there to take a look and he does agree that it is a “tough street”. Tim Collins said that it is basically a “paved sewer taking”. Chief Leonard said that the issue is that Middle Street may not actually be a public way. It is almost more of a driveway. He said that it would certainly be tough to get a fire truck there on a “good day”.

Mr. Lubin said that he brings his trash barrels down to Francis Street. Mr. Collins said that he knows that a pickup truck has to do the trash pickup here. Mr. Lubin also said the City does plow Middle Street though. Mr. Collins also said that the area where the truck is parking is private property. The property owner actually lives on Francis Street. Mr. Lubin said that the woman who owns that property was supposed to be here at the meeting.

Chief Leonard said that the Traffic Commission can't regulate a private way or private property but maybe something can be done from a public safety standpoint. Commissioner Ghiloni asked if the property owner could say something if the truck is parking on her property. Mr. Lubin had a photo and there appears to be a dirt area where he is partially off the road.

Chief Leonard asked Mr. Lubin to have the property owner call him to discuss the issue. Fire Chief Breen also said that he would like to take a look at the area.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for now and await a call from the property owner and also see if Chief Breen sees it as a public safety issue.

2b) Request for stop signs on Weed St. at Florence St.

Chief Leonard added this item to the Agenda. He included the narrative and diagram from a recent accident where a car coming out of Weed Street did not stop and hit a car coming down Florence Street causing it to roll over onto the driver's side. There is no stop sign on Weed Street. Tim Collins said that Weed Street technically ends at City Hall. Sully's had a Florence Street address. A stop sign here would actually be on property owned by Community Development. Commissioner Ghiloni asked if we can make the whole area an actual street.

Mr. Collins said that we can put a stop sign there but technically Community Development would need to give a Grant of Authority and allow the stop sign and then we could regulate it. Chief Leonard asked the Commissioner if he speaks regularly with the CDA. This is a T-intersection and a stop sign can be used here. Commissioner Ghiloni will talk to Doug about this. He also needs to look into making Weed Street a public way to Newton Street. Mr. Collins said that it would require a “taking” from City Hall. He would need a description drawn up to submit to the City Council. Chief Leonard just wants to get the Grant of Authority quickly so the signs can go up. Commissioner Ghiloni can work on the other issue later.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Commissioner Ghiloni to get a Grant of Authority from the CDA and get the stop signs put up.

Chief Leonard made a motion to suspend the rules and take the agenda items out of order. All in Favor

3-Old Business

3d) Parking concerns on Washington St.

Chief Leonard prepared two regulations for a vote.

The first is to delete the existing parking restriction on the South side.

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

The second regulation is to add the amended parking restriction on the North side. The new regulation restricts parking Monday to Friday from 7am to 5pm from Bolton Street, extending westerly for 305.5 feet. This is the entire length of the driveway in front of the DEC Center.

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

The main parking issue occurs during school hours in front of the DEC Center. We are now allowing parking on the South side from Devens St. to Bolton St. Other restrictions are already in place, they just need to be enforced. For example, no parking within 20 feet of an intersection or 20 feet of a driveway or in front of a fire hydrant.

Mr. Davis was in attendance for this issue. His biggest issue has now been addressed. His main concern was with cars parking in front of the school. He did also ask about the parking restriction on Devens Street. Tim Collins advised that there is no parking allowed on either side of Devens Street. Chief Leonard said that we can now wait and see how it all goes. Lisa Thomas asked Chief Leonard to send her an electronic copy of the regulation.

Tim Collins said that the no parking signs would go up within the next two weeks. He will also confirm if the appropriate signs are on Devens Street.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Tim Collins to have the proper signage installed.

Fire Chief Breen had to leave the meeting at 10:30 for a conference call with the Mayor. Meeting continued as quorum still present.

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Tim Collins advised that he is almost finished with this project. He anticipates that he has about 1/12 hours left. He said that he would definitely do it for the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

New item not on the agenda.

Tim Collin wanted to make a note of a change in traffic pattern at East Main Street and Granger Blvd. The straight through lane has changed. The old arrows have now been blacked out and the new markings are in place. Advance warning signs are still needed so that people know which lane to get into. There was some confusion initially but it will be better once all the proper signage is in place. The left turn does not have the right of way. It is not an exclusive green arrow. Traffic has to yield on the green ball. A sign indicating yield to straight traffic is also needed. Chief Leonard said he thinks it will make sense once people understand the change. They did use the warning signs for “traffic pattern change”.

Fire Chief Breen returned to the meeting.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

At the last meeting the group discussed the possibility of a dashed line that would more clearly show the turn movement at the intersection. Tim Collins passed out two photos. One is an aerial view with the new line indicated the second is a street view of the same. It was reviewed that many options have been discussed but so far none have seemed to work.

Tom DiPersio suggested that possibly the island could start back further with a hybrid of a rumble strip and an island. This elongated island would be a good visual to make the turn. Chief Leonard said that this does kind of make sense. The problem with the rumble strip is that people tend to drive over it but an island with it is a viable option. Tim Collins advised that he would draw something up for the next meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3c) Crosswalk on Donald Lynch Blvd. @ New England Sports Center.

Chief Leonard will make sure the NESC knows that the Traffic Commission has approved the crosswalk location they suggested.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard to discuss with NESC.

3e) Timing of traffic signals on Lincoln St. @ Bolton St.

It appears that the timing on the lights at this intersection is now working correctly. No new complaints have been received.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the agenda.

3f) Request to restrict parking on one side of Howland St.

Tim Collins advised that the number of parking spaces needed on each side depends on the number of units and the number of bedrooms. The assumption is that a one bedroom unit equals 2 spaces (i.e. husband and wife). There is a definite need for parking on Howland Street as there is an overflow. He said that the east side needs 76 spaces and the west side needs 65 spaces. There are potentially 88 spaces on the right side and 91

spaces on the left. He passed out a GIS diagram with the number of spaces indicated. The Traffic Commission needs to decide which side to allow parking and which side to restrict.

Chief Leonard said that the easiest choice is to allow parking on the side with the most spaces but the reality is that with the multifamily, even if there are sufficient spots in the driveway, they often park in the street so they don't have to move their cars to let others out. Before granite curbing, cars used to just park over the curb. Now they can't do that anymore. They were not supposed to be on the sidewalk anyways.

Chief Leonard said that if he had to choose it would make sense to allow parking on the east side between Chestnut and Elm. Commissioner Ghiloni asked the Chief if he was hesitant to make a change as the Traffic Commission has received only one complaint. The concern is that the road is too narrow for parking on both sides when cars are parked right next to each other but it's not a problem if the parked cars are spread out.

The group discussed it further and decided to monitor the issue before making any changes. Chief Leonard said that he would also like to take a look at it at night.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE for now and continue to monitor the issue.

3g) Intersection of Boston Post Road West and Ames St. – U-turns.

Tim Collins advised that he sent an email last Wednesday to his contact at MA DOT, however, he has not yet heard back from him.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3h) Request to make Emmett St. one-way from South St. to Orchard St.

The original request was to make Emmett Street one way. Tim Collins recommended that the no parking area at the corner be extended back 50 feet. The restriction is normally for 20 feet, but by extending it back it may alleviate the issue at the corner. He also said that the homeowner would need to cut back their bushes to allow for site distance. He said that within 20 feet of an intersection the hedge cannot be more than two feet tall.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that he has been up there a few times and has actually seen cars parked within the 20 foot section. Mr. Collins said that maybe people don't know about this or don't know where 20 feet stops/starts. He also suggested that a sign needs to be put up. We would be changing it to 50 feet when people don't even know about the 20 feet. No parking within twenty feet of an intersection is a city ordinance. Realistically this can't be marked at every intersection.

Chief Leonard advised that we should hold off for now. He can try to get his officers out there to enforce the ordinance. We can try to educate the residents that they can't park within 20 feet on the intersection.

Lisa Thomas suggested putting something on the City's website. Chief Leonard also said that we could highlight some problem areas. There could be a section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) or prepare some bullet points and make it into a PDF that Lisa Thomas can upload. Chief Leonard asked if the MUTCD had anything prepared about parking distance from crosswalks.

Lisa Thomas said, however, that she would rather get the Code Book completed first. Then people would have something to refer back to when looking for regulations on specific streets.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Chief Leonard and the Police Department to monitor.

Mr. Davis asked one further question not on the agenda.

Can the area around the DEC Center be zoned as a School Zone?

Chief Leonard advised that specific criteria needs to be met for a School Zone., such as the number of walkers and crosswalks on the property. He did not think that any children walked to the DEC Center. Mr. Davis said that some parents walk there.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 11:08am.

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 26, 2016. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of minutes from Wednesday, June 29, 2016.
- Email from Gary Lubin to Chief Leonard, dated 7/13/16, re: Parking on Middle Street.
- Copy of Accident Report from role over accident at intersection of Weed Street and Florence Street on June 18, 2016.
- Copy of revised regulation to delete old parking restriction on the North side of Washington Street.
- Copy of revised regulation to delete time limit restrictions to the no parking regulation on the South side of Washington Street.
- Copy of revised regulation to add time limit restrictions to the no parking regulation on the North side of Washington Street.
- Copy of revised regulation to add a parking restriction to both the North and South sides of Emmett Street.

Additional Handouts:

- GIS map of Howland Street with number of parking spots on each side indicated.
- Aerial photo of intersection of Wilson Street and Hemenway Street.
- Street view photo of area of 268 Hemenway Street.
- Engineering diagram of "Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project"