



**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 23, 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 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 Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:
TO APPROVE

2 – New Business

2a) Blind Driveway sign request at 605 Hemenway St.

Resident of 605 Hemenway Street completed and submitted an application for a blind driveway warning sign. This is the new procedure for this type of request. He advised that there used to be a sign here, however, it was removed and has not been there for several years. He said that it is a terrible blind spot and that “getting out of my driveway can only be somewhat safely achieved by listening for on-coming traffic and by driving out in a forward direction only”. Chief Leonard looked at the driveway and said that he can see his point. There is a tree near the corner of the driveway and he is on the back side of a corner. The Chief also said that there was almost a big berm of earth there too with a lot of vegetation and the driveway comes up quick.

Tim Collins advised that this type of request is normally looked at from the “driveway user’s perspective”, i.e. the driveway is on the crest of a hill or on a curve and the driver can’t see the traffic coming. Tim Collins passed out a photo of the driveway. Chief

Leonard said that his main concern is with the berm, however, he doesn't see it in Mr. Collins' photo. He thinks the photo may be of the wrong driveway.

Mr. Collins advised that he would double check the location and we can look at it again. Commissioner Ghiloni said that he may have had the sign taken down as it was an older sign. It was discussed that the new application process is a way to reassess these types of signs to see if they are still needed, for example, "Slow Children" or "Deaf Child" signs. Most types of signs would be renewed annually but this criteria would normally be waived for a "Blind Driveway" sign because the driveway is not going anywhere.

Since the sign was there before, all agreed that the sign should be put back. The new sign would read "Blind Driveway Ahead".

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to reinstall the Blind Driveway Ahead sign at this location.

2b) Request for speed limit signage on Curtis Ave.

Chief Leonard received a request to install two 25 mph speed limit signs at this location. The resident making the request has lived on Curtis Ave. for almost twenty years and has seen a significant increase in speed over the years. She and other neighbors have made requests for speed bumps, which she has been advised are not warranted. They also made requests for Curtis Ave. to be made a one-way street but was told that this was not possible. The Police Department has done directed patrols in the area, however, this is only helpful for a short time.

Chief Leonard said that he emailed the resident back and advised that a speed study would need to be conducted before any changes could be made to the speed limit. There is no special speed zone here. It is a wide and straight road and people may think the speed is greater than it actually is.

Tim Collins said that this issue has come up before. There appears to be a "party crowd" that hangs out at the car wash on the weekends. The City has put white lines on the sides of the road to make it appear narrower.

Chief Leonard said that it really is an enforcement issue, but asked if we could also install advisory signs for "thickly settled". It was discussed that there is no criteria for thickly settled signs from the MUTCD. Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he does not want to keep putting up advisory signs. Tim Collins said that these signs need to be replaced every six years. The Chief advised that he can get the speed board out there again with directed patrols.

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

2c) Request for parking restriction near 6 Winter St.

The resident of 6 Winter Street advised of a “potentially dangerous parking issue” when cars park along the wall at the intersection of Lincoln Street and Winter Street. The car making the turn onto Winter can’t see the parked cars when they make the turn.

Tim Collins passed out a photo of this intersection. He said that there used to be a guard rail at the end of Winter Street but it got hit so many times that it was taken down. All agreed that this is actually an enforcement issue. There is no parking allowed within 20 feet of an intersection so no one should be parking here anyways.

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

New Issue was brought up that is not on the Agenda.

Large Ditch by New England Sports Center.

Chief Leonard is concerned that if there were an accident here a car would go straight down into the ditch. Tim Collins said this area was not built according to the site plan. It was supposed to be a gradual slope rather than a drop. They said that they will be putting a guard rail here.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Tim Collins passed out a booklet he prepared with the required updates. Each page lists a section, the street names and what action is needed. Lisa Thomas asked if these updates have been advertised yet. Mr. Collins said no, not yet, as we were planning to advertisement them all at once.

Chief Leonard asked for a clarification on what is meant by “new regulation”. Mr. Collins advised that this indicates that something, i.e. a sign, is already there but not properly regulated. In most cases, either the signs are there and not regulated or there is a regulation in place with no sign. He is now catching up on everything that is out there. Lisa Thomas said that she has given all the regulations that were previously advertised to Chief Leonard.

There was further discussion as to the best way to advertise this group. Tim Collins will put the booklet in a different format for advertising and get it to Lisa Thomas by next week. He will break it down by category and then by street, i.e. U-Turn, Prohibited Left Turn, One-Way, Stop Signs. Lisa asked if we could start with maybe 10 -15 streets.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Tim Collins to re-organize into better format for advertising.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

Tim Collins passed out a diagram of the “hybrid island” discussed at the last meeting. It is a smaller island with a rumble strip attached and a dotted line painted to outline the

turn movement. A truck can now make the turn as it can still drive over the rumble strip without doing damage to the island. There will also be signage at either end (on the actual island).

Chief Leonard said that this looks like the best we can do here. He also does not anticipate a big issue for the plows. If a tractor trailer can make the turn, a plow should be able to make the turn. They can plow right over the rumble strip. Commissioner Ghiloni agreed that they are fine with trying it out.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the island as shown in the diagram prepared by Mr. Collins and REFER to the DPW for installation.

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

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the agenda. Issue has been addressed.

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

Tim Collins advised that he has heard back from MA DOT but he is still confused on the issue. He sent an email back asking for them to provide further clarification. He wanted a copy of a sketch that would further explain the email he received.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until further clarification was received from MA DOT.

3e) Parking concerns on Middle Street.

Chief Leonard said that he was waiting for the homeowner to come and see him. Tim Collins said that what the City can do on this road is now “debatable”. Part of the issue was that Middle Street is not a public way. Mr. Collins passed out three old City Council Orders. One from 12/18/44 requesting that Middle Street be made a public way but it doesn’t appear that anything was ever done. The second was from 12/20/84, in which the Public Works Committee recommended plowing on private ways, which included Middle Street. The third was from 10/5/59 and indicated that the City would make repairs to Middle Street, after everyone on the street signed a release.

These all indicate that Middle Street is not a public way and the issue is that the Traffic Commission can’t regulate a private way without a Grant of Authority from everyone on the street. Obviously the person who is parking his vehicle on the street is not going to sign it.

Chief Leonard said that the “real answer” here is that the Traffic Commission does not have the right to regulate this road. The people living on the road own the road. The homeowner can do something on his/her own if they feel that someone is parking on their property but it is not an issue for the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED that he would send an e-mail to Mr. Lubin and advise as to what the Traffic Commission has discussed.

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

Commissioner Ghiloni has requested a Grant of Authority form the CDA and talked to the Mayor about the other issue of making Weed Street a Public Way through to Newton Street. They will work on plans to get the whole street laid out properly.

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 10:55 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 23, 2016. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of minutes from Tuesday, July 26, 2016.
- Request for Blind Driveway sign at 605 Hemenway Street.
- Email from Bernadette Seariac Carlson re: Speed Limit Sign on Curtis Ave.
- Email from Dawn Wellman to Chief Leonard, dated 7/25/16, re: Parking Problem.

Additional Handouts:

- Photo of street view at 632 Lincoln Street.
- Diagram of proposed island at intersection of Wilson St. & Hemenway St.
- Copies of three City Council Orders regarding Middle Street, dated 12/14/44, 12/20/48 and 10/5/59.
- Copy of a booklet prepared by Tim Collins entitled "Marlborough Traffic Commission, Traffic Regulation Update, August 23, 2016.