



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 017**

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 10:00am in the City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, 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 Thursday, March 2, 2017 and Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

Minutes from March 2, 2017 – TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File.

Minutes from March 28, 2017 – TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File.

2 – New Business

2a) Public Safety Concerns on Brigham Street.

Local resident Janet Vigeant sent an email to the Traffic Commission outlining her concerns. Over the past two years she has been in contact with city officials and the Traffic Commission numerous times regarding the increased traffic volume and speed on Brigham Street. She said in her email, ‘It is impossible to walk along Brigham Street especially from 6-9 am and 4-7 pm and on Saturdays without coming close to being hit by a vehicle that is speeding’. She is requesting that the city reconsider her request for rolling 25 mph speed bumps such as the ones in place in Southboro, Framingham and Wayland. She also asked again about the solar powered speed signs.

Tim Collins said that a rolling speed bump is basically a speed table. It is the length of a car and has bumps on it that you drive over. He explained that historically the City does not like to use speed bumps as they create drainage problems and plowing issues. He

mentioned another option that just came up recently. They City now has the option of changing the speed limit in Thickly Settled Zones to 20 mph. It is a narrow street with no sidewalks and difficult to walk down. This area could possibly be designated as a safety zone with the lower speed limit and post it as such.

Mr. Collins also mentioned that a truck exclusion had also been discussed for this area in the past, however, Brigham Street did not meet the warrants for a truck exclusion. The warrants state that 5-8% of traffic volume must consist of trucks. If less, the exclusion is not needed, if more, trucks do need to utilize the roadway. Brigham street does not have the required truck volume. There would also need to be a feasible detour route available. Any detour would need to go through Southboro and the Town of Southboro has said no to this request. Also, a truck exclusion requires permission from the State.

Ms. Vigeant also asked about the possibility of solar powered speed signs, like those on Farm Road and Bigelow Street. Mr. Collins advised that the cost of these signs is \$10,000 each. Chief Giorgi said that Officer Larose (of CEMLAC) has been looking into a different type of speed sign which is portable and downloadable. It records speeds and times and the cost is \$4,500 each.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. Chief Giorgi said that he would respond to Ms. Vigeant's email.

2b) Parking at Gay, Central and Mechanic.

Councilor Oram sent an e-mail to Chief Giorgi on this issue. He said that there are problems with parking at the corners and in front of driveways. Chief Giorgi said that he drove through the area prior to coming to today's meeting and it appears that it is posted properly. He noted that he saw yellow curbing that was very faded and said it would be helpful if it could be repainted to make it more obvious.

Tim Collins advised that he would check on the City Ordinance here regarding parking near corners and driveways. He noted that many of the homes here are three family homes or higher so people are parking wherever they can. He said there is only a five-foot separation between some driveways. Cars are parked in front of homes and on grass but it may "open a can of worms" if we try to change anything.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that with the potential new library coming these roads and parking issues will be reviewed again at a later date.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review the regulations and determine what is allowed and how much parking is available.

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

3-Old Business**3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.**

Lisa Thomas advised that all the advertisements are now on the Traffic Commission website except for the one that was just advertised on April 15th. She said that finally after 10 years we can have an updated rules and regulations manual. She also wanted to stress that this update will come out of the police department budget. She will forward the contact information for General Code to the Police Department and suggested that the police department work with them on the proper format to forward all the information to them.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to coordinate and finalize this project.

3b) Traffic Concerns at Wilson & Hemenway Sts.

Tim Collins advised that the traffic island has been painted onto the pavement. It just needs to be constructed. The DPW is in the process of determining who will be doing the work.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the DPW for construction of the island.

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending. He explained to Chief Giorgi that Weed Street currently ends at City Hall. The rest of the roadway is owned by the CDC and Masonic Hall. The Commissioner wants the City to own the full roadway.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Parking restriction on Forest Street near AMSA.

Tim Collins advised that the new signs are in place, however, they are not working. He passed out a recent photo (from last week) of Forest Street at 3:15 pm showing 25 cars queued in the "No Stopping, No Standing and No Parking Zone". Cars wait here for the busses to pull out so they can then pull into the school. The corner is now clearly marked and being ignored. This area of Forest Street is a safety concern especially in the winter when passing cars cannot get through. The proper signage is in place and now it is a matter of enforcement.

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

3e) Elm Street @ Bigelow St. intersection concerns.

Tim Collins gave an overview of the issues at this intersection for Chief Giorgi. He explained how it is currently more of a Y intersection where drivers tend to ignore the stop sign. The Traffic Commission had discussed making it more of a T intersection in

the hopes that drivers would come to a complete stop before making the turn onto Elm Street. Mr. Collins hopes to get it marked out next week for the Traffic Commission to review.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to mark the pavement.

3f) Signage/stop condition on Diczno Blvd. at Boston Post Rd.

UPDATE: Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he did meet with MA DOT and he mentioned this issue and agenda item 3h below as both are part of the MA DOT layout. He said that Boston Post Road East from Peters Ave. to the Sudbury town line is scheduled for work in 2019 and that MA DOT is reviewing the area.

3g) Request to swap stop sign on Bigelow St. from Nashoba Dr. to Shea Dr.

Tim Collins said that the question here is if there is enough site distance when making the turn from Shea onto Bigelow. He passed out two photos: 1) at the stop line and 2) at the edge of the roadway. He noted that 200 feet of site distance is required. When you pull up to the edge of Shea you do have the required site distance. He said that if you creep forward to the end of the road before turning you can see fine. You just have to be careful.

He noted, however, that there could possibly be a separate issue involving vegetation. He said that there is a separate ordinance that states that there needs to be a clear triangle at the corner with 25 feet of clear view on Shea and the same on Bigelow. He said that we can check with Code Enforcement to see if any vegetation needs to be cut back.

It was also noted in the original request that last winter a snow pile had been plowed onto the triangle of site distance. Next winter the DPW can be instructed to keep this area clear when plowing. The original request had also been to move the stop sign from Nashoba to Shea. He advised that this can't be done. The intersection of Shea and Bigelow does not meet the warrants for a stop sign. There would need to be 300 cars coming out of Shea Drive daily to meet the warrants. The Traffic Commission was able to keep the stop sign at Nashoba with the possibility that future sidewalks could increase pedestrian traffic and then meet warrants other than traffic volume.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to CODE ENFORCEMENT and the DPW for next year's plowing.

3h) Request for turn lane into 894 Boston Post Rd. East.

See Agenda Item 3f above. Fire Chief Breen also wanted to review the area to see if there was any issue for fire trucks. He was unable to attend this meeting.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3i) Request to look at parking restrictions on Gay and Witherbee Streets.

This item was previously discussed above under New Item 2b).

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from Agenda

Chief Giorgi asked for a suspension of rules to discuss two items not on the Agenda. - ALL IN FAVOR.

Request for sidewalk at Gikas Lane.

A resident of Gikas Lane called the Chief's to make this request. Tim Collins advised that this is the new development over by Boston Scientific. He said that a sidewalk is planned, it just hasn't been constructed yet. The plan includes a sidewalk and crosswalk. He also noted, however, that the request for the specific location for the crosswalk and sidewalk will need to come before the Traffic Commission for approval.

Mr. Collins advised that he would call the resident and advise that her issue was discussed and explain the process to her.

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

Parking Issues on Warren Avenue.

The Police Department received a request to have an officer take a look at several cars that have been parking on the sidewalk and on the wrong side of the street. Chief Giorgi advised that he forwarded this request to the shift supervisors to follow up.

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

Traffic Commission Meeting Schedule for 2017

Lisa Thomas passed out another copy of the schedule to all members.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 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, April 25, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from March 2, 2017.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from March 28, 2017.

-Email from Janet Vigeant to Chief Leonard, dated 4/1/17, re: Public Safety Concerns on Brigham Street.

-Email from Councilor Oram to City Council (forwarded to Traffic Commission by Karen Boule), dated 4/7/17, re: Parking at Gay, Central and Mechanic.

Additional Handouts:

-Two photos of intersection of Shea and Bigelow, one at the stop line and one at the edge of the roadway.

-Photo of traffic on Forest Street near AMSA school at 3:15pm, showing 25 cars in no stopping, no standing and no parking zone.

-Email from David DesRosiers to the Police Department, dated 4/24/17, re: Parking issues.

-Email from Carrie Lizotte to Chief Giorgi, dated 4/24/17, re: Request for a sidewalk (following a phone call from local resident, Gabrielle Miller).

-Copy of Traffic Commission Meeting schedule for 2017.