



**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, October 24, 2017 at 10:00 am 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: City Engineer Tom DiDersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, City Councilor Matt Elder, City Councilor Dave Doucette and City Councilor Katie Robey. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

TO APPROVE – Accept and Place on File.

2 – New Business

2a) Request for a stop sign on Brigham Street.

Councilor Elder was in attendance for this issue. He had emailed Chief Giorgi with resident concerns about speeding on Brigham Street. He asked if the Traffic Commission would consider putting up a stop sign at Westboro Rd. and Brigham St. to at least make some cars slow down.

Tim Collins advised that there is already a stop sign on Westboro Road. This issue was also brought up in 2006. He explained how there are specific requirements (warrants) that need to be met for a multi-way stop. One of the requirements is a minimum of 5 or more reported accidents in a 12-month period. This was not the case back in 2006. Another requirement states a minimum of 300 cars per hour for an 8-hour period with 200 cars traveling in the other direction. These requirements are outlined in the MUTCD (Manual on Traffic Code Devices). The Traffic Commission has explained in the past that stop signs are not meant to be used to slow traffic.

Councilor Elder asked if there was any updated data for the volume at this intersection. Tim advised that the last vehicle count was done in 2006. Commissioner Ghiloni said that we can do another count and suggested putting out one of the new temporary speed signs here. The new portable signs also count vehicles and documents speed.

Councilor Elder also asked if there had every been a study about commercial vehicles here. Mr. Collins advised that a study was done a few years ago. A volume of 5 – 8 % is needed for a commercial vehicle exclusion. Also, the City would need to show an alternate route that would be a better choice. The alternate route here would be through the Town of Southboro, however, the Town of Southboro did not agree with this option. The new portable speed signs cannot monitor truck volume. The road tubes are needed to register the weight of a vehicle. Mr. Collins believes that last study was done less than 2 years ago.

Lisa Thomas asked how many of the new speed signs we have and how much they cost. Chief Giorgi advised that the Police Department now has two of the signs and they cost about \$4,500 each.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to forward to the Police Department to move the portable speed sign to this location and provide feedback to Councilor Elder.

Chief Giorgi made a motion to suspend the rules and take the agenda items out of order as Councilor Doucette was in attendance for New Business Items 2c. All in Favor.

2c) Crosswalk concerns on Farm Road. Intersection of Pheasant Hill and Phelps.

Councilor Doucette was in attendance for this issue. A local resident had visited Engineering to discuss this crosswalk, which he felt was a safety hazard. He also noted that the pedestrian sign was obscured by brush along Farm Road. Tim Collins had replied by email that the location of the crosswalk was moved to meet ADA guidelines and is now in the preferred location for a crosswalk. He also noted that the trees to be trimmed for site distance were placed on the tree trimming schedule. He was not sure if this had been done yet.

Tim Collins said that the crosswalk at Farm Road and Country Way has signs indicating that a blind person crosses there. There is a sign on both sides of the street to clearly identify the crosswalk. He suggested that this could also be done at the other intersection to make it stand out more.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING and the DPW to install a second sign at the crosswalk.

2b) Crosswalk Locations on Gilkas Lane & Hudson Street.

Tim Collins asked to have this item added to the Agenda. He advised the developer will soon begin installing granite curbing, which includes not installing them where the crosswalks will be located. He included a diagram and the specific wording for the

regulation to add the crosswalks at the appropriate locations. They want to be sure that there is connectivity to the rail trail. The planning board has approved the locations for the crosswalk. The sidewalk on the east side will be going in soon as the homes on that side are complete. The developer will paint the two crosswalks as well - one on Hudson Street at Gikas Lane and one on Gikas Lane at Hudson Street. It is really just a formality to have it all approved by the Traffic Commission.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to CHIEF GIORGI to prepare the regulation for the new crosswalks for a vote at the next meeting.

2d) Request for Relief from seasonal “No Parking” in front of 147 Cullinane Drive.

Chief Giorgi received this request from the resident of 147 Cullinane Drive. Her elderly parents also live with her. There is very little parking available at or near her property in the summer. She said in her email that her parents and their friends and relatives, “several of which are disabled/aged, are not able to park at or near my property in summer, when my driveway is full and most visits happen to take advantage of the lake, presents significant difficulties for them.”

She is specifically requesting that the no summer parking sign on the pole at the far end of her property be moved to the pole at the beginning of her property. This would allow for parking directly in front of her home which is the case for the rest of the street.

Chief Giorgi drove down to the area this morning to speak to the residents and see the location himself. Tim Collins passed out a GIS diagram of Cullinane Drive with the area in question marked in orange. Mr. Collins wanted to be sure that the resident realizes that if the no parking sign were moved to the beginning of her property, the property in front of her house becomes public parking. It would not be specifically marked as parking for her home. Someone else can still use the boat launch and park in front of her house. The regulation would need to be created in addition to moving the sign.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to CHIEF GIORGI to repeal the existing no parking regulation and create new language for the revised no parking area, for a vote at the next meeting.

2e) Request regarding speed bumps on private ways.

This request was forwarded by Priscila Ryder. The initial request came from Sue Fahey, who manages the condos off Dicenzo Blvd. They were asking if any approvals were necessary from the City or if the Traffic Commission would have any concerns. Tim Collins said that they should have gone before Site Plan Review. If speed bumps are put in after the fact they can be problematic for drainage. He also said that they can cause damage to vehicles, they are noisy, they tend to bring down property values, they are not good for the environment and they can delay emergency vehicles. He finds that speed bumps are just a deterrent and that there are better options available.

Councilor Doucette said that “speed dips” were installed at one time, however, they didn’t talk to the City first and they were filled in. He also asked about rumble strips. He said that the condo association didn’t know what to ask. What can be done within the

association? Councilor Robey said that for the most part, it is probably the residents who are doing the speeding as it is mainly residents and family or friends or delivery drivers that are going through there. Councilor Doucette said it could also be younger drivers “with a heavy foot”. What are the options?

Commissioner Ghiloni said that there are pros and cons to everything. They tried rumble strips at one time on Farm Road and after three months the neighbors hated them. Maybe they wouldn't be so bad on Violetwood Circle because the speed limit here is supposed to be only 10-15 mph. The speed dips were probably filled in because they did not come before Site Plan first. The Police Department can't ticket here because it's private property. Tim Collins said that they could put up speed limit signs here but they aren't enforceable on private property. They could put them up in the hopes that drivers would adhere to them. It was also suggested that someone could take down plate #'s if they saw a car speeding through and management could send a letter out and advise them. It is definitely difficult to regulate when the area is private property.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to SITE PLAN and to ENGINEERING to review options.

2f) Revised Regulations for No Stopping, Standing or Parking on Brook Street.

Chief Giorgi had prepared the revised regulations for a vote:

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to DELETE the existing No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime regulation on Brook Street. All in Favor.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation for No Stopping Standing or Stopping on the entire length of Brook Street, on the West side. All in Favor.

Chief Giorgi will send an electronic copy of the regulation to Lisa Thomas for advertisement.

3-Old Business

3a) Traffic Commission rules and regulations update.

Lisa Thomas wanted to make sure that the Traffic Commission is now on track with what has been advertised since the Traffic Code section was updated with General Code. She said that when you look at the e-code online any subsequent regulations will be added under the new laws section off to the left. They will remain here until the code is recodified at a later date. She noted that the first “post codification date” was 9/8/17.

Lisa Thomas also made a point of thanking Tim Collins for all his hard work in updating the Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission.

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

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that this issue is still pending and needs to stay on the agenda.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3c) Intersection of Ash Street & Hudson Street – Failure to stop at Stop Sign

Tim Collins advised that the Advance Warning signs have now been moved closer to the stop intersection and the stop sign at the driveway opening to the hospital has also been repaired, as discussed at the last meeting. The Advance Warning signs also now clearly show a red symbol with “stop ahead”. Hopefully this will fix some of the problem.

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

3d) Unattended trailers parking in public way.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that the boat on Sandini Road over by Richer School is still in the roadway. It has been there since June. It was reviewed that Tim Collins had drafted wording for a new regulation that would help to deal with this issue. Pam Wilderman also felt his would be helpful as she also deals with this type of issue. Chief Giorgi was going to work with the legal department on this, however, he has not yet had the opportunity.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly to REFER to CHIEF GIORGI to discuss the language with the Legal Department.

3f) Traffic Regulations at the 1st LT Charles W. Whitman School.

Tim Collins amended the wording for the regulations to make it cleaner. He had a large diagram of the school parking lot which was separated into four areas – South Lot, North Lot, East Lot and the Loop Road. He went through the wording for each section and showed where it applied on the diagram. The specific sections are:

1. Prohibited Right Turns
2. One-Way Streets
3. Stop Intersections
4. Do-Not Enter Streets
5. No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime
6. Parking Prohibited Certain Hours
7. Crosswalk Locations

Councilor Doucette pointed out an area near the bus parking that he thought was confusing. Commissioner Ghiloni wanted to go out and look at the lot onsite again rather than try to visualize in on the diagram. He would like to hold off on finalizing the wording until the next meeting so he can take another look.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review the specific area of concern and advise at the next meeting.

3g) Request for Stop Sign at Stow Road and Beaman Lane (Additional Information/Clarification).

Commissioner Ghiloni had to leave to go to another meeting. He asked if we could keep this item on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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 11:00 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, October 24, 2017. (Including City of Marlborough Meeting Posting).
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Tuesday, September 26, 2017.
- Email from Councilor to Chief Giorgi, dated 9/29/17, re: Stop Sign on Brigham.
- Email from Tim Collins to Chief Giorgi, dated 10/19/17, re: Gikas Lane & Hudson Street (along with diagram and wording for the regulation).
- Email chain from Krista Holmi to Engineering and Chief Giorgi, dated 9/27/17, re: Concern of Resident – Farm Rd. Intersection at Pheasant Hill and Phelps (including photos).
- Email from Deborah Novicki to Chief Giorgi, dated 10/3/17, re: Relief from seasonal “no parking” in front of 147 Cullinane (including photos).
- Email from Pricilla Ryder to Tom DiPersio and Chief Giorgi, dated 10/18/17, re: Speed Bumps on private ways?
- Wording for revised regulation on Brook Street, re: No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime.

Additional Handouts:

- GIS Diagram of Cullinane Drive with No Parking – June 15th to September 15th, area indicated in orange.
- Proposed wording for regulations at the 1LT Charles Whitcomb School Parking Lot – multiple schedules.