

The Westfield Traffic Commission

March 20, 2019

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, in Room 315A at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

Roll Call: Comm. Camerota – Present – Comm. Billips – Present - Comm. Cressotti – Present - Comm. Boldini – Present – Comm. Clark – Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 19, 2018:

Commissioner Boldini made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 19, 2018. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.



OPEN PARTICIPATION

Amy Beluzo of 372 Montgomery Road addressed the commission regarding truck traffic on Montgomery Road. Amy said she is new to this location. Her home is located near where Russellville Rd meets Montgomery Rd. She said there is a lot of tractor trailer traffic at this location. She feels this is creating a safety issue. She also does not feel these roads were designed to handle that type of traffic. She feels if Cabot Road were to become an industrial road the truck traffic will heavily increase. Chief Camerota said as long as there is not a truck exclusion, truck drivers can go on any road they choose. He said he will look into it.

Paul Miller addressed the commission regarding the upcoming construction of Cowles Bridge on routes 10 & 202. He has concerns over this project. He feels that when construction begins it will increase traffic on City View Blvd. He understands this is a state project and understands there's not much that can be done. He is hoping, at a minimum, that the city can at least put up signage addressing engine breaks. Anything the City can do to assist the traffic would be greatly appreciated by the residents of that area.

OLD BUSINESS:

Handicap Parking Spaces (2) – Richard Gaylord – One on Academy – One on Broad: This is a request from Richard Gaylord. His business has several handicap clients and they need more parking spaces to accommodate them. He is requesting a handicap parking space on Academy St and one on Broad St. There are 3 handicap parking spaces behind the business but it is not enough. Most of their clients are handicap. Commissioner Cressotti and Commissioner Boldini both do not support this. Commissioner Boldini said that there is no access point from the proposed locations. Commissioner Camerota said Margaret Nicolette from the Handicap Disabilities Board came before the commission and said that they are not worried about the access points. Commissioner Boldini said that he understands they are not concerned however the design of a handicap space calls for special curbing and access points. He asked if there is a ramp to get up the sidewalk. The commission believes there is. Commissioner Camerota said he is willing to table this until June if the commission wants to get more information. The commission agreed to table it.

Clock Tower – Left Turn on Red after Stop: Commissioner Cressotti said that the commonwealth built the intersection and the City of Westfield is under a contract with them. The City will have to put a formal request into the state detailing what changes are being requested. Commissioner Camerota said he is only looking to have a sign put up that tells a motorist at the first stop that they can take a left on red. Commissioner Cressotti said he was under the assumption that the commission wanted the sequence of the light changed. He said he has no problem with putting up another sign at the first light. Commissioner Cressotti made and seconded a motion to add a left turn on red sign at the first traffic signal at the clock tower. All in favor.

4 Way Stop – City View/Hillside/Sunnyside – Councilor Burns: City Councilor Burns said this was discussed at the last meeting. He said he went and spoke to some of the residents in this area. One of the residents present this evening said she is in favor of the 4 way stop. She said the traffic has increased tremendously, including traffic trailer traffic. She also said the view is obstructed from Sunnyside due to the angle of the stop. Another resident who also lives at the intersection agreed that the traffic and speed has become a concern. She has had tire marks on her lawn and stated getting out of her driveway is difficult.

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She also said that a motorist has to pull out to see once they are at the stop sign and that is creating accidents. Commissioner Camerota asked if they feel the 4 way stop, more signage or reducing the speed will help. He noted that a stop sign cannot be used to control speed. The residents are in favor of a 4 way stop. City Councilor LeFebvre addressed the commission. He lives approximately 3 miles from this intersection. He presented the commission with pictures of the intersection. He said a 4 way stop sign would help. His son was in an accident a few years ago at this intersection. If there was a stop sign on Hillside Rd it would give those motorists a chance to see the traffic coming from Sunnyside Rd. He has been an engineer for many years and has done many root cause investigations. He feels the root cause here is the sight obstruction. Commissioner Camerota said that he looked at 9 accidents over the course of the last 5 years. Most of those accidents were caused by the motorist not coming to a complete stop. He doesn't know how more stop signs will stop this problem. City Councilor LeFebvre said the 4 way stop sign will help prevent accidents. Commissioner Cressotti said he is not in favor of 4 way stops. However if there is an accident history that shows it is needed, he would not be against adding it. Commissioner Clark said that he drives through this intersection numerous times throughout the week and he does not feel there is any visual impairment at the stop signs. He does not see how adding another stop sign is going to help. Commissioner Boldini said from what he is hearing there is a bigger issue of speeding on Hillside Rd. He said that the commission has talked about this before and he thought they agreed to put up a sign that warned of an intersection ahead. Resident Cindy Miller stated that she has witnessed terrible accidents at this intersection numerous times. She believes most of the accidents are caused because people are not stopping at the stop sign on Sunnyside Rd. She believes the trees are obstructing the view. Commissioner Cressotti said that there should not be any visual obstructions up to 25 feet back from the intersection. The DPW can send someone up there to look at it and take care of it if needed. Captain Valliere said that when he was in charge of the traffic department, they put up blinking lights and additional signage to warn motorists of the upcoming intersection. He went back up there today and he believes most of the accidents are being caused by south bound traffic coming down Sunnyside Rd with traffic going west bound on Hillside Rd. There is a telephone pole that is also creating an obstruction. He believes moving the stop sign back about 5 feet would help. There is vegetation that needs to be cleaned up. Commissioner Camerota said he will have a speed study done. He also said they will move the stop sign back and put brighter signs up with lights. They will review this again and see if there has been any impact at the next meeting. Commissioner Camerota said that if there is a need, the commission can even call for a special meeting to address this again.

At 6:38 pm Commissioner Boldini left the meeting.

Speed Limit Russellville Road – Thickly Settled 30 MPH – Speed Advisory Signs: Commissioner Camerota said that Russellville Road is now thickly settled. The traffic department is recommending that the speed limit now be reduced to 30 mph and that yellow advisory signs are posted. This will be for the whole road. Commissioner Clark made a motion to post Russellville Road at 30 mph. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in favor.

Yield to Pedestrian Signs at Noble & Main and Washington & Franklin: Commissioner Camerota said that the commission previously voted to add these signs, but the signs have not been put up yet. Commissioner Billips said he will take care of this.

Update on Papermill Rd: Commissioner Camerota that the L&O voted 2 to 1 in favor of sending the 24 hour truck exclusion to the state. It will go before City Council tomorrow night.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Children at Play Sign on Joseph Avenue by Grandview: Commissioner Billips said he will have a sign put up.

Sycamore St – Change 15 Minute Parking to 2 Hour Parking: Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to change the parking on Sycamore St from 15 minutes to 2 hours. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

Next Meeting – June 19, 2019

6:45 PM Commissioner Billips made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. All in favor.


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John Camerota, Commission Chairman


Mark Cressotti, Member


David Billips, Member


Brian Boldini, Member


Richard Clark, Member

6/19/19

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON