

RECEIVED

The Westfield Traffic Commission

April 29, 2020

JAN 7 2021

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 via remote participation and broadcast on Channel 15.

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

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

**Approval of the Minutes Dated December 18, 2019:**

Commissioner Boldini made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 18, 2019. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

**OPEN PARTICIPATION**

Due to the emergency order by Governor Baker’s office regarding Covid-19, the public participation portion of the meeting will not be held.

Commissioner Boldini made a motion to move items #1 and #2 from new business ahead of old business. Commission Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

**Accept new member from the Westfield Police Department-Captain Michael McCabe:** Commissioner Boldini noted that the Chief of Police can assign a designee on his behalf to attend the traffic commission meetings. He has chosen Captain Michael McCabe to be his designee for both tonight’s meeting and all future meetings. This item does not need to be voted on. The commission welcomed Captain McCabe to the commission.

**Vote on new Traffic Commission Chairman:** Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to appoint Michael McCabe as Chairman of the Westfield Traffic Commission. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Truck traffic Notre Dame St. & Crown St. - Traffic/Councilor Babinski:** Commissioner Billips said this topic has come up numerous times. Commissioner McCabe said he was able to find out that at the City Council meeting dated May 21, 1987, a truck exclusion was discussed, however a truck exclusion was never created. They discussed changing the traffic pattern for truck traffic and Lane Construction was notified to have their drivers use the new pattern. MA DOT did a study at that time. Sergeant Mejias will continue to look into this and see what the results of that study was. Commissioner Clark said that he no longer sees an issue with truck traffic on this road since the construction has been complete on surrounding roads. Commissioner Boldini said the sign that was up years ago was never approved by MA DOT. Commissioner Cressotti said he thinks putting up signs directing trucks to the correct route would be helpful. Commissioner Billips said that the DPW will put up yellow advisory signs.

**Bailey Dr. Update – Councilor Babinski/Commissioner Billups:** Commissioner Billips said the residents were concerned about the traffic. The concern by the commission was that putting up a gate might create a problem for emergency personnel. Commissioner Billips spoke to the fire department and they do not have a problem with the gate going up. Commissioner Cressotti said this item has previously been recommended to go before the planning board. Commissioner Boldini made a motion that the traffic commission petition the

# The Westfield Traffic Commission

April 29, 2020

planning board for their opinion on closing Bailey Drive as it approaches Servistar Industrial Way. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor. Commissioner McCabe said he will make sure that this item gets brought to the planning board and report their recommendation to the traffic commission.

**Traffic Complaint Russellville Rd & Deer Path Ln – Councilor Babinski/Mr. Natario:** Commissioner McCabe said that there had been a complaint of speeding on Russellville Rd and Deer Path Lane. He has spoken to Councilor Babinski about a solution. He did notice after he created the agenda that this item should have been removed from the agenda after the last meeting. He added it to this agenda in error. This item will be removed without further action. All in favor.

**Crosswalk – Old Pochassic & N. Elm St. – Councilor Babinski/Commissioner Billups:** The merchants in the area had wanted another crosswalk at this intersection. The commission felt this would be dangerous. Commissioner Billups said the DPW owns property behind these businesses. He spoke to the law department and they agreed that the DPW can surplus this property to off street parking. He will work with the law department to be sure this is taken care of. Commissioner Boldini made a motion that the commission is not in favor of adding a crosswalk on the south side of the Old Pochassic/North Elm St intersection. Commissioner Billups seconded that motion. All in favor.

**Crosswalk – Noble Street near Senior Center – Councilor Figy:** There was only one resident who had requested this crosswalk. There have been no recent complaints for this crosswalk. The commission decided to remove this item from the agenda with no further action. All in favor

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Southwick Road - Cowles Bridge Traffic Control Agreement – Engineering:** Commissioner Cressotti said that he needs a favorable recommendation for the 2 Cowles Bridge Traffic Control Agreements to be brought before the city council. The city council would be giving the Mayor the power to sign, on behalf of the city, to authorize these agreements. One of the agreements is the traffic control agreement and the second agreement is for the payment and maintenance of the lighting. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion that the traffic commission favorably recommend the 2 Cowles Bridge Traffic Control Agreements to city council for action. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.

**Notre Dame Street Crosswalk Concerns – Dearellano Family:** The Dearellano family sent a letter to the commission. Commissioner Boldini said an accident had happened with a pedestrian on Notre Dame Street. Commissioner McCabe said he does not feel speed was an issue in this accident. Commissioner Cressotti said his reselection from Chief Camerota was also that this accident was due to driver error and not speed or road configuration. Commissioner Clark said he has seen officers there doing enforcement and he does not feel speed played any part in this accident either. Commissioner McCabe said a while back the police department purchased, with a grant and funds donated by Mestek, the flashing solar signs that are now at the crosswalk. The commission does not feel a speed bump is necessary at this location. They do not feel any improvements are needed at this location. Commissioner Billups feels this item should be referred to the law department, in the event that there is any future litigation on the part of the city. Commissioner Boldini made a motion to take no action on this item and refer the letter to the law department. Commissioner Billups seconded this motion. All in favor.

**Family Lane Potholes/Truck Traffic – Shauna Leva:** Commissioner Billups said the potholes have been repaired. The residents felt the trucks were damaging the roads and drivers were littering the roads. Commissioner Boldini said unless there was a truck exclusion there is no way to keep trucks off this road. Commissioner McCabe suggested that the commission remove this from the agenda with no action taken. Commissioner Boldini said he doesn't feel no action has been taken. He said this came up at a previous meeting and the complaint was that the road was in bad condition. The potholes have since been fixed. The

# The Westfield Traffic Commission

April 29, 2020

action has been taken to repair the road and there is no further action necessary. Commissioner Clark said he agrees with this. The issue has been resolved.

**Northwest Road Truck Traffic/Speed Complaint – Councilor Burns:** Commissioner Billips said he has spoken to Councilor Burns about this issue. Excess traffic is no longer an issue on this road. Councilor Burns asked if 30 MPH speed limit signs can be put up. Commissioner McCabe said he is not sure if the entire length of the road is 30 MPH. Commissioner Billips said he can put up the signs if 30 MPH is in fact the speed limit. Commissioner McCabe said in order to enforce this, it would have to be adopted by the city council if it is not already. Councilor Burns also wants trucks to not be allowed to use their brake suppression devices on this road near the quarry. Commissioner McCabe made a motion to refer this item to the police department. Commissioner Clark seconded this motion. All in favor. The police department will look into the speed limit on that road and the truck traffic.

**Holyoke Road Truck Traffic Speed Study – Councilor Onyski:** Commissioner McCabe said there was a speed study done, however the equipment failed. He would like to do another one. Commissioner Billips said this topic has come up at numerous meetings. Commissioner Clark made a motion to refer this item to the police department for a speed study. Commissioner Billips seconded this motion. All in favor.

**Papermill & Joseph Stop Sign Violations – Councilor Onyski:** Commissioner McCabe said Councilor Onyski wants stop sign enforcement done at this location. The police department does do enforcement here, but they would be happy to continue to do more. Commissioner Clark made a motion to refer this item to the police department. Commissioner Billips seconded this motion. All in favor.

**Speed Complaint – Florence Street – Councilor Onyski:** Commissioner McCabe said that there is a resident complaining that children are playing on this road and motorists are using this road as a cut through and speeding. He believes an advisory sign would be a better suggestion. Commissioner Clark made a motion to install 2 children at play signs on each end of Florence Street. All in favor.

**East Mountain Road Underpass at Route 20 – Councilor Onyski:** Commissioner McCabe said there has always been a problem at this underpass. He is looking for the commission to adopt signage saying do not block box or to stop motorists at the first sign before the underpass. Commissioner Clark said he does not feel adding a stop sign is a good idea because a right turn on red is allowed at the traffic light. Commissioner Cressotti said this area was looked at by the pioneer valley design commission to extend the traffic signal across the railroad tracks. There will be costs involved in this. There has been a recommendation for this, however he does not think Councilor Onyski was in favor of this. Commissioner McCabe said he would like to see an ordinance created for a do not block the box sign added at this location. This would then be enforceable. The first car in line would still be able to see the traffic signal ahead. Commissioner Billips asked if the engineering department should look into this further for a more long term solution. Commissioner McCabe said it is his understanding that Commissioner Cressotti is already looking into it with the pioneer valley design commission. Commissioner Cressotti said this commission could make a trail recommendation to add a sign. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to add two signs (one ahead of the underpass and one at the underpass) at the East Mountain Road underpass that reads do not block the underpass for a trial period from now until the next meeting. Commissioner Billips seconded that motion. All in favor.

Commissioner Cressotti said that the rules allow for an item that was not known at the time of the agenda to be discussed during the meeting. It has been brought to his attention that the Pioneer Valley Railroad is seeking a grant to replace the railroad bridge on East Mountain Road. They are requesting the city be enlisted in a low clearance ahead system to warn trucks of the bridge. They are meeting on this next week. The grant will have to be submitted before the next meeting. He wants the commission to be aware of this. Commissioner McCabe asked if the commission already addressed this. Commissioner Cressotti said they have, but it has now been revised. They were previously looking to do more and have more city participation.

# The Westfield Traffic Commission

April 29, 2020

Commissioner Boldini notified the commission that in January he sent the Mayor a letter requesting that he not be re-appointed as a traffic commissioner. He wanted the commission to be aware of this.

Next Meeting – June 17, 2020

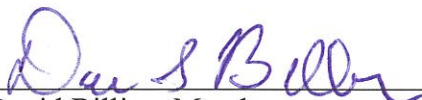
7:20 PM Commissioner Boldini made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cressotti seconded the motion. All in favor.




Michael McCabe, Chairman



Mark Cressotti, Member



David Billips, Member



Brian Boldini, Member



Richard Clark, Member

6-24-20

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