

The Westfield Traffic Commission Regular Meeting

June 20, 2018

RECEIVED

The Westfield Traffic Commission regular meeting was held on **Wednesday, June 20, 2018, in Room 315A** at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED MARCH 21, 2018: Commissioner Boldini made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2018. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in favor.

OPEN PARTICIPATION

Kate Phelon of 150 Hillside Road addressed the Commission. Kate is the Executive Director of the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce. She has formed a new group consisting of local business owners from the downtown area. They had their first meeting back in April. One issue that was brought up during this meeting was the speed limit on Elm Street. They are also concerned with the time allotted for parking. They do not feel it is business friendly. They would like 2 hour parking along the whole downtown area. Some areas are currently already 2 hours, however, there are other areas that are only 1 hour parking. They would like both issues to be looked at. Commissioner Boldini said the 1 hour parking was implemented to discourage employees from parking on the street. Kate said that they are not looking for the Commission to vote on any issues tonight, they would just like the Commission to be aware of their concerns. They are having another meeting soon. Commissioner Camerota said he would like to attend.

Jim Leahy of Papermill Road addressed the Commission. He would like an update on Papermill Road and the truck exclusion. Commissioner Cressotti said that the state asked for the maps to be adjusted. That was done and sent back in by the next day. The state then said everything looks good. Commissioner Camerota said they just wanted 2 alternate routes that were added to be removed. They are now just waiting on a decision.

OLD BUSINESS:

Crosswalk – Pearl St at Pleasant St – Councilor Surprise: Commissioner Camerota asked the Commission if anyone has looked at the proposed crosswalk location from Pearl Street across Pleasant Street. Commissioner Cressotti said there are a lot of areas that don't have crosswalks. Commissioner Camerota said the only other crosswalk is at the intersection. He wants to get more information on this. He would like this tabled. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to table this topic until the September meeting. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.

Parking Spot Elimination Request – Elm St & Bartlett St at Crosswalk – Officer Sienkiewicz: Commissioner Camerota said he is aware that parking is very important downtown. There has been one incident at this crosswalk, but he is not sure if it is related to the location of the parking space. Commissioner Boldini said he has looked at this and it is a tight parking space. It used to be wide open before the parking space was added. There is a left turning lane onto Bartlett Street now. Commissioner Cressotti said he does not see an overbearing need to eliminate the parking space. He does understand and appreciate the caution of the request. Commissioner Boldini said he does think removing this parking space would create more visibility of the crosswalk. He suggested adding a crosswalk sign. He said he would like to monitor this issue and revisit it at a later date.

Root Road – Speed Limit: Commissioner Camerota asked if anyone was present this evening to discuss speeding issues on Root Road. No one is present. He requested this issue be tabled. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to table the discussion regarding speeding on Root Road. Commissioner Billips seconded that motion. All in favor.

Request for Second Pedestrian Crossing Sign – North Elm St Crosswalk by WEPCO: Commissioner Camerota said he feels this sign is necessary. Commissioner Billips said that the DPW will add a second sign.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Crosswalk & Signage – Munger Hill Road at Harvest Moon Lane – Councilor Morganelli: Three Girl Scouts members of Troup 12988 64630 addressed the Commission. They are participating in the Bronze Award Project. The Bronze Award Project is a project designed to help the community in some way. They would like to put in a crosswalk at Munger Hill Rd and Harvest Moon Lane. They presented the Commission with diagrams of the proposed crosswalk. They stated that the sidewalks are already slanted for the crosswalk. One of the girls said that she was once crossing at that intersection to get to the nearby bike trail and she was almost hit by a vehicle. They plan on earning enough funds to purchase the paint for the crosswalk and a solar sign. Commissioner Cressotti asked if the crosswalk would be on Munger Hill Rd or Harvest Moon Ln. They said it would be on Munger Hill Rd. The girls also noted that there is a nearby school and having a crosswalk there would assist children walking to school. Having a sign would warn motorists that pedestrians were crossing. Commissioner Boldini asked if there have been any collisions or problems at this intersection in the past. The girls stated that the only one they have heard of is when one of them almost got hit. They have noticed people speeding including when they were there doing this project. They were out there for approximately 10 minutes and observed 20 cars travel by. This was at 4:30 pm. Commissioner Camerota asked why this location sticks out to them. They said because of the bike trail. Many people use this intersection to cross for the bike trail.

Commissioner Camerota asked if they have spoken to any residents of this community to see if they have any concerns. The girls said that the only concern they were told is that this would start a trend of crosswalks being added. The girls further stated they are only looking to have this one crosswalk added and don't feel it will create a bigger issue. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to add a crosswalk on Munger Hill Rd at Harvest Moon Ln. Commissioner Billips seconded that motion. All in favor.

Truck Traffic & Speed – Michael Dr/Woodson – Councilor Babinski: Ken Lupien of 36 Michael Dr said his main concern is the commercial activity taking place on these roads. It's being used as a throughway. It is a residential neighborhood. This is also creating a speeding issue. There are children and dogs in the neighborhood. They are looking for more signage in this area. They would like speed limit signs and a sign that reads "not a throughway". He feels this is a safety issue. Commissioner Camerota said that they have done studies. He hasn't had a chance to review the results yet. They are going to also do visual studies as well and will have more information at the next meeting.

Notification – Road Safety Audit – Springdale Rd – 6/21/18 65 Springfield Rd 2nd Fl – 9am – 12 noon: Commissioner Camerota notified the commission that there is a road safety audit meeting with the DOT schedule for June 21, 2018.

Notification – Road Safety Audit – Turnpike/Arch Rd – 6/26/18 City Hall Rm 315 – 10am – 2pm: Commissioner Camerota notified the Commission that there is a road safety audit meeting with the DOT scheduled for June 26, 2018. Commissioner Cressotti said there was also a road safety audit meeting held earlier today with the DOT regarding Southampton Road. They are looking to re-pave Southampton Rd.

Westwood Northern Most Entrance – North Elm St: Commissioner Camerota said he received a call from John Bowen. He is a member of the Planning Board. He said that people are using the northern most entrance to exit the Westwood Building. This is a one way, entrance only lane. There haven't been any accidents due to this as of yet. The Commission would like to see a sign put up that says do not enter. If there was a sign in place, then the Police would be able to enforce it. Commissioner Camerota said he would speak with the owners of the Westwood Restaurant to see if they can put up a sign.

Sandy Hill Rd – Speed Study: Residents of Sandy Hill Road have stated concerns that vehicles are traveling fast on this road. The Police Department did a study of this area and did not notice any speeding vehicles. There were no residents present to discuss this. Commissioner Camerota requested this be tabled.

Smith Ave – 17-115 Delete Westerly Side Parking – Prohibited at All Times: Westfield Technical Academy is requesting that parking be allowed on the Westerly side of Smith Ave. Commissioner Boldini noted that the reason parking isn't allowed on this section of Smith Ave, was originally also at the request of the school. When they would take parking privileges away from a student, the student would park on the road. They no longer feel that this is going to be a problem. Commissioner Cressotti

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made a motion to allow parking on the westerly side of Smith Ave from the main entrance of the Westfield Technical Academy to King Street Ext. Commissioner Billips seconded that motion.

Root Rd – No Parking \$50.00 Fine – No Dumping \$500.00 Fine: Commissioner Camerota said this request is a result of the Earth Day Clean up that took place. They pickup up 50 gallon jugs of urine, toilet paper, food scraps and other trash. This is from truck drivers parking on the side of the road and also people who are fishing in this area. The plan is to make this area a no parking zone and to increase the fine for parking to \$50.00 and dumping to \$500.00. The regional director of C&S Wholesale has sent Commissioner Camerota a letter stating he is having the same issues with the truck drivers. He would like this issue addressed as well. Commissioner Boldini made a motion to post no parking signs, increase the no parking fine to \$50.00 and dumping fine to \$500.00 on Root Road. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in Favor.

Servistar – No Parking \$50.00 Fine – No Dumping \$500.00 Fine: Commissioner Boldini made a motion to post no parking signs, increase the no parking fine to \$50.00 and dumping fine to \$500.00 on Servistar Industrial Way. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in Favor.

North Rd – No Parking \$50.00 Fine – No Dumping \$500.00 Fine: Commissioner Boldini made a motion to post no parking signs, increase the no parking fine to \$50.00 and dumping fine to \$500.00 on North Road. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in Favor.

Medeiros Way – No Parking \$50.00 Fine – No Dumping \$500.00 Fine: Commissioner Boldini made a motion to post no parking signs, increase the no parking fine to \$50.00 and dumping fine to \$500.00 on Medeiros Way. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in Favor.

Fire Department – Repair Station – Western Ave – Commissioner Boldini: Commissioner Boldini said that he has noticed that after the repair station closes for the day, people are parking there. They are parking there and walking to Stanley Park. There are adults and children walking from the repair station and crossing Western Ave. They are destroying the property by parking on the grass. This is also opening up a liability to the City. He wrote a letter to the Fire Chief, Mary Regan, about this problem. She agrees that something needs to be done. She is going to have no parking signs put up.

Define Area of Business District – 25 MPH Speed Limit: Commissioner Camerota asked Commissioner Cressotti to provide him with some maps. He would like them to show from the Westwood Building to Silver Street and also Mechanic Street and Washington Street. After the Commission has had a chance to review this more, they can discuss it at a later meeting.

Next Meeting – September 19, 2018

6:43 PM Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Billips seconded the motion. All in favor.


John A. Camerota, Commission Chairman


Mark Cressotti, Member


Brian Boldini, Member


David Billips, Member