

The Westfield Traffic Commission

September 30, 2020

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 via remote participation and broadcast on Channel 15.

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

Approval and Release of Minutes dated June 24, 2020: Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to approve and release the minutes dated June 24, 2020. Commissioner Clark seconded this motion.

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bailey Dr. update – Planning Board – (private way) – request for ruling from Law Dept: Commissioner McCabe said that he received a ruling from the Law Department. The Law Department is of the opinion that a private way is outside of the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission. The residents are able to do as they chose so long as it does not impact emergency services to that area. Commissioner Billips made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion.

Roll Call:
Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Notre Dame Street crosswalk concerns request to table until 3rd quarter commission meeting:

Commissioner McCabe said that although the Police Department is in receipt of the accident investigation report, he does not know if it has been shared yet with the family. He is requesting this item be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Billips made a motion to table this item for the next meeting. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion.

Roll Call:
Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes

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Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Holyoke Road truck traffic speed study – work with companies engineering – leveling structures – noise ordinance: Commissioner McCabe said that there has been significant pressure to work with the community and City Councilor Onyski on this. They have found there is only one company, North East Paving that uses this road at night. Commissioner McCabe has spoken with the foreman of this company and the foreman has notified all the dispatches to notify the drivers to use the truck route and the underpass on East Mountain Road. The difficulty comes when they need to use larger trucks. Commissioner Gadbois said the foreman from North East Paving has been wonderful to work with along with some members of MADOT. When he spoke with MADOT regarding the underpass on East Mountain Road he was informed that to reengineer a vertical curve and excavate and adjust the structure would be a very costly endeavor. He also observed traffic on Holyoke Road and did a sound reading with his phone. He found the ambient noise, such as leaves and crickets, came in at 52 decibels and auto traffic was 65-70 decibels. A loud motorcycle and a jeep went by which came in at about 80 decibels. He would like the truck drivers to be educated to lay off the jake breaks on Holyoke Road and an enforceable noise ordinance on this road. Commissioner McCabe said that while the ordinance for noise decibels is 45 the ambient noise alone is over that at 52 decibels. There was a ball park price given of approximately \$200,000.00 to start the structural changes needed for the underpass at East Mountain Road and Springdale Road. However, the Traffic Commission does not have the means to fund this project or raise funds. Commissioner Clark said he has spoken with some of the truck drivers in that area and if the bridge can only be raised by a couple of inches it isn't worth doing, because it will not benefit them. Commissioner McCabe feels it is important that the commission speak honestly about where the difficulties are. Commissioner McCabe has spoken with Lane Construction as well. Lane Construction owns a large amount of land in this area. Commissioner McCabe said that Lane Construction has inquired about putting in an access road that will go straight to the Mass Turnpike. Commission McCabe then contacted MA DOT to see if they would consider this. MA DOT said they will not because Lane Construction is a private company and it is a private way. Commissioner McCabe said the commission has put in a great deal of work to try and improve this area and that he is not sure what else can be done. This area does not meet the criteria for a truck exclusion. Commissioner Billips said he has looked at this area himself, numerous times. He does not see another way for the trucks to get out of that area besides Holyoke Road. The truck traffic has a right to be on that road. Commissioner Cressotti said the Engineering department is still looking into the structures to try to improve them. They will report further as they receive more information. Commissioner Billips made a motion to leave this item before the Traffic Commission to discuss at a later meeting. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Billips – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Orange Street truck exclusion – Matthews - Kane: Commissioner McCabe said that he was notified by a resident that since the trestle had been removed trucks are now using Orange Street. The Police Department did a study and found 7 total trucks traveled this street within a week. The City of Westfield DPW is located off of Orange Street and it is Commissioner McCabe's guess that the trucks that used Orange Street during this study belonged to the DPW. He is requested that a yellow advisory no truck sign be posted on Orange Street. Commissioner Clark made a motion to have DPW post a no truck yellow hazard sign on the southbound right

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hand turn only lane on the corner of Elm Street and Orange Street where the right turn lane sign currently is. Commissioner Gadbois seconded this motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Western Ave – MADOT sign change request – Cressotti: Commissioner Cressotti said they are looking to amend the previously approved traffic control agreement to include a left lane must turn left sign at the Woodward Center at both entrances. All in favor.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to move item L to item A. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Broadway signage for left turns – McCabe: Commissioner McCabe said currently vehicles are not allowed to turn left onto Broadway from Western Ave. There is a sign on the right side of Western Ave which says no left turn, but the focus of the driver is to the left. This sign is easily overlooked. Especially when turning right from Lloyd's Hill onto Western Ave. He is looking to have another sign added on the other side of the road. If the sign is added, he would feel more comfortable instructing enforcement in that area. Commissioner Cressotti said that MADOT is in favor of adding this sign and will be adding it. There is no vote needed as there is no ordinance change.

Opinion from City of Westfield Law Department regarding private ways - McCabe:

7 Susan Drive – No parking – Holt – Lisee: Councilor Onyski has been working with the residents of Susan Drive regarding safety concerns. This started as a public safety issue for the children. Casey Berube has cleaned up some of the signage in this area and added a yellow warning children at play sign to warn traffic to

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slow down. At that point, they then discussed prohibiting parking in this area to allow a better sight for traffic. Upon review it was discovered that the parked cars were not the issue, the issue was shrubbery at 7 Susan Drive which was blocking the view of traffic. The Building Department has spoken with the resident and the resident will be removing the bushes. There have also been some complaints from the residents regarding speeding. The Police Department had attempted to do a speed study, but one of the tubes for the machine was moved. It is unclear who did this, so therefore, the study was incomplete. The Police Department will instead be doing a different type of speed study in this area. Commissioner McCabe requested the Traffic Commission allow the Traffic Department take this over. The Traffic Commission agreed.

Susan Drive traffic - Berube: This topic was already discussed above.

Camelot Lane – speed bump (private way) McCabe: Commissioner McCabe said that since this is a private way, the commission does not have any jurisdiction over this topic. He is requested this item be removed from the agenda. Commissioner Billips made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Billips – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Breighly Way – Stop sign (private way) McCabe: Commissioner McCabe said that since this is a private way, the commission does not have any jurisdiction over this topic. He is requested this item be removed from the agenda. Commissioner Billips made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Billips – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

Consideration of a cross walk on the Northside of the Horton Bridge – Burns: The residents of Glen Mill Condominiums would like to see a crosswalk installed that would allow them to be able to walk from the condominiums into Stanley Park. Commissioner Billips said that the original idea of where the crosswalk would be put does not work. He asked if there was any alternative. Commissioner McCabe said there isn't one that he knows of. Commissioner Clark said he is concerned with the line of site in this area. Commissioner Cressotti said there is not a sidewalk in this area. Commissioner Gadbois said he is concerned that this would create the impression that this is a safe place to cross. He said with no sidewalk or line of site for oncoming traffic it is not safe. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to give this a negative recommendation and not move this forward to City Council. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Billips – Yes

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Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

Revisit Ridge Crest Dr. crosswalk connecting south side to Northside at Ridge Crest Cir. –

Bean/Beltrandi: Commissioner McCabe said he received phone calls about the request to put in a crosswalk across Ridgecrest Drive at Ridgecrest Circle at the east side of Ridgecrest Circle. At the time, he was unaware about the land taking that would need to be done in order to connect the north side with the south side of the road. When he went to look at where the proposed crosswalk would be installed he noticed that it would be located approximately 90% up a hill. This means when you are coming from the opposite direction the crosswalk would be almost right in front of the oncoming traffic. He feels this may be a dangerous location. Commissioner Cressotti said the numbers were run on the location and distance of the proposed crosswalk and it does meet the parameters. It is in line with all the regulations. He feels if there is concern, then there should be signs installed giving advanced notice of the crosswalk ahead. Commissioner Clark said he also thinks the signs would be a good idea. Commissioner McCabe said the commission did previously decide to add signs and speed limit signs. He doesn't think the speed limit signs are as necessary as the crosswalk signs are. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to place an advanced crosswalk ahead warning sign as well as a crosswalk sign at the crosswalk on Ridgecrest Drive. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

Installation of two stop signs on Sgt. Tom Dion Way – HEKA – Mark Dupuis: Commissioner McCabe presented the commission with a map of this area. Mark Dupuis from HEKA, which is a new business set to open up in Westfield, reached out to Commissioner McCabe. He wanted to install 2 stop signs on Sgt. Tom Dion Way to mitigate the traffic that is flowing from north to south and into the intersection, which will be large trucks, which can cause line of sight issues for his customers going into HEKA. This area does not currently meet the criteria for adding stop signs which Mr. Dupuis has been informed of. However, if he were to speak to his neighbors at 360 Recycling, he can ask if they would be willing to put a yield sign on their property which is private property. This could help the potential future traffic problem. It would be entirely up to 360 Recycling if they are willing to do this. Mr. Dupuis said he would speak with them. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to table this item to see if there is an issue once this business opens. If at that time there are any issues the Police Department can use an emergency order to temporarily find a solution and then the commission can revisit this issue. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

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Add signage at Union Ave. and Pochassic St – Morganelli: Commissioner McCabe said that City Councilor Morganelli is requesting that the commission look at this intersection to figure out if it needs more signage or a traffic flow change. The issue is that when traffic is coming north bound over the bridge there is one lane which is a left turn only lane. However, it is not marked until the vehicle is under the underpass. The proposal was originally to allow these vehicles to go straight. Commissioner McCabe does not feel this is a good solution. He would like to see either more signage or arrows painted on the road to give on-coming traffic advanced notice. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to add a left hand turn only ahead sign at Kane & Wojkiewicz Park and painted arrows on the roadway to give a greater notice about the turn only lane ahead. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

Broad St at rotary add emphasis on stop sign – Figy/Matthews-Kane: Commissioner McCabe said he was asked to look into how many accidents had happened at this location. There weren't any. There is also a stop sign already at this location. Commissioner Billips said he does not know what the issue is at this location. Commissioner Cressotti said he thinks this may be a pedestrian issue. The crosswalk is raised at this location and cars have to come to a stop and then pull up a little over the crosswalk to see oncoming traffic. The crosswalk being raised is an enhancement for pedestrians. Commissioner Clark said there is a visibility issue. When a vehicle is stopped they have to pull up slowly over the crosswalk. Commissioner Cressotti said this may unnerve a pedestrian, but the vehicles are allowed to do so. Commissioner Clark made a motion to remove this item with no action taken. Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Technical issue – Not present to vote
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

Lit crosswalk at Southampton Rd. School – Figy: Commissioner McCabe said he has spoken to Chief Valliere. Both he and Chief Valliere would like to see more signage before the crosswalk on Southampton Road at the school. Commissioner Cressotti said this is a state highway. The request would have to go to the state. To his knowledge, the state is already looking into this. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to defer this to himself to follow up with MA DOT. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Billips – Technical issue – Not present to vote
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes

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Next Meeting – December 16, 2020

At 7:30 PM Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gadbois seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Billips – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

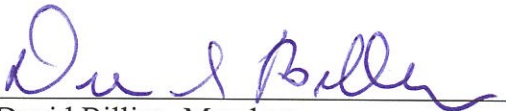
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes



Michael McCabe, Chairman



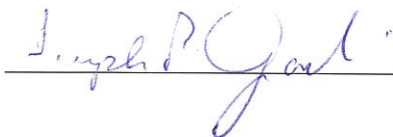
Mark Cressotti, Member



David Billips, Member



Richard Clark, Member



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Joseph Gadbois, Member

J/G

12-16-20

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