



CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Main Street
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

Phone: (978) 632-5600
Fax: (978) 630-9045



Richard A. Braks
Chief of Police
Email: RBraks@gardner-ma.gov

James F. Trifiro Jr.
Deputy Chief of Police
Email: JTrifiro@gardner-ma.gov

May 21st, 2021

MEMORANDUM

From: James Trifiro, Deputy Chief of Police

To: Craig Cormier – Public Safety Chairman
Chris Coughlin – City Engineer
Dane Arnold – Director of Public Works
Trevor Beauregard – Director of Community Development and Planning
Joshua Cormier – Civil Enforcement Director

Subject: Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes from May 14th, 2021

1. Members in attendance:
 1. James Trifiro
 2. Chris Coughlin
 3. Dane Arnold
 4. Trevor Beauregard
2. Traffic Commission Meeting called to order at 9:02AM.
3. Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes for January 8th, 2021:
 - a. On January 19th, 2021 the minutes for the January 8th, 2021 meeting were distributed to all members of the commission.
 - b. On April 16th, 2021 these meeting minutes were again re-distributed to the above listed members in attendance for today's meeting for final review.
4. At 9:05AM a motion to accept the Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes for January 8th, 2021 was made by Dane Arnold, seconded by Chris Coughlin, a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Summer Street Parking Complaint:
 - i. City Code Amendment/Letter to City Council dated January 27th, 2021 was submitted to the City Clerk's Office to prohibit parking on the east side of the roadway beginning at the southerly line of Olney Street, southerly to Chelsea Street. This letter had been returned from the City Clerk's Office to the Gardner Highway Department for a submission process change and is pending open action for re-submission.

- b. Roadside Parking – Main Street at the Paramount Café:
 - i. During the previous Traffic Commission Meeting Dane Arnold related to the members of the Traffic Commission that when downtown renovations/upgrades were conducted, a crosswalk bump out was inserted in the area and an inquiry was made on the setup of roadside parking spaces in the immediate vicinity. Dane Arnold and Deputy Chief Trifiro surveyed the area and the parking spaces near the crosswalk bump out appeared to have been setup in order, properly marked and Dane Arnold related that no adjustments needed to be made for the area. Dane Arnold also related that after the current ongoing downtown paving project is complete this area is scheduled for fresh pavement marking(s) as traffic control device(s).
- c. Handicapped Parking Spot – Connors Street @ Chair City Pharmacy:
 - i. Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold conducted a survey of the area and although the area was posted as already having a designated Handicapped Parking Spot, a check of City Code revealed that this appeared to have been posted in error. Dane Arnold related that several years ago Handicapped Parking Spots were reevaluated in the downtown district in which some of the spots were removed. Dane Arnold further related that he didn't recommend placing Handicapped Parking Spots in the roadway when there are other potential safer areas to designate this type of parking. A motion at the previous meeting had been made by Trevor Beauregard to designate a Handicapped Parking Spot in the Connors Street Lot, which had been seconded by Chris Coughlin. The posted Handicapped Parking Spot roadside on Connors Street is currently selected for removal with parking reassignment(s) in the Connors Street Lot.
- d. Pleasant @ Willow Street – Request for Speed Bumps:
 - i. A complaint had been received regarding traffic traveling from Willow Street west to Pleasant Street due to a lack of a Stop Sign at the intersection. Currently this area is posted as a three way stop and a request was made to have a speed bump placed in the roadway assumingly to control the speed of traffic. Dane Arnold did not recommend (highly) placing any obstacle in any travel lane in a public roadway. Dane Arnold related that any obstacle would impact snow plowing in area, effect the response of emergency motor vehicles and that nowhere in the city has there ever been speed bumps established in a public roadway as a traffic control device. This intersection had been surveyed the by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold in which it appeared to have been well marked with 3 Stop Signs at the intersection in plain view, and there was no reported increase of safety concerns (e.g. motor/pedestrian accidents). With no further comments and/or concerns regarding this request from the members of the Traffic Commission it was determined no action would be taken on this request.

6. At 9:25AM a motion to accept Old Business was made by Dane Arnold, seconded by Trevor Beauregard a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.

7. New Business:

- a. Elm Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Improvements:

- i. Attending meeting members from the Traffic Commission were supplied a letter and diagram in conjunction with MASSDOT and World Tech Engineering regarding pavement rehabilitation/sidewalk reconstruction/inclusion of bicycle lanes and etc. along a designated section(s) of Elm Street. Dane Arnold related that this was part of a “Safe Routes” to school program obtained through a grant acquired by the school department which would make the overall area more pedestrian friendly. Project start date has yet to be determined at this time.
- b. Traffic Concerns – Pleasant Street Bridge:
 - i. The Pleasant Street Bridge which had been closed for approximately 7 years is/was scheduled to open on the evening of May 14th, 2021. MASSDOT is currently in the final phase of posting traffic control devices and etc. within the area. Upon completion Gardner Highway will follow up with additional support/compliance measures with city codes adding as needed supplementary traffic control devices, advisory signs, pavement markings, extra lighting, no parking signs and etc.
 - ii. Previous to this date Deputy Chief Trifiro had a meeting with the MASSDOT project engineer and was informed it was left up to the local level government to lower the area speed limit if desired as by state statute the area was considered to be a 30MPH zone. Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 90 Section 17C allows Traffic Commissions to lower (with justification to the state) speed on public roadways from 30MPH to 25MPH if the law is adopted by the City Council. Deputy Chief Trifiro had been in contact with the city solicitor and was informed this adoption does not currently exist on city code and he would speak with the Mayor’s Office in order to take action.
 - iii. This conversation was supplied to the members of the Traffic Commission and in addition to working with the city solicitor a motion was made by Trevor Beauregard to write a letter to the City Council recommending they accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 90 Section 17C. This motion was seconded by Chris Coughlin, a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
 - iv. Also included in a meeting with MASSDOT, Deputy Chief Trifiro was informed that in the redesign of the area site plan, a Stop Sign was to be eliminated at the corner of Greenwood Street and Greenwood Place (southbound), and posted at the corner of Greenwood and Pleasant Street’s (southbound). In order to ensure uniformity within city code a motion was made by Dane Arnold to submit a letter to City Council to recommending they accept this change in city code with the repeal of the Stop Sign at the corner of Greenwood Street and Greenwood Place (southbound) and posted at the corner of Greenwood and Pleasant Street’s (southbound). This motion was seconded by Chris Coughlin, a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
 - v. Deputy Chief Trifiro informed the members of the Traffic Commission that extra police patrol presence would frequent the area as available to engage traffic enforcement compliance measures.

- c. West Street – Crosswalk Signs/Roadway “No Parking Extension”:

 - i. A survey of the area had been conducted by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold. It was determined this area was in need of fresh pavement markings on crosswalk designations as well as additional crosswalk and no parking notification signs. It was also discussed with the members of the Traffic Commission that city code also prohibits parking within 20 feet of an intersection, which would also include those public roadway sections across from any intersection. In addition, as a result of this survey it was determined that no parking hash marks would be painted on the roadway within the areas surveyed.

- d. Central @ Maple Street’s – Request for Pedestrian Traffic Control Devices:

 - i. Concerns had been voiced to the Traffic Commission on one more than occasion regarding motor vehicles traveling at high rates of speed and not yielding to pedestrians in the designated crosswalk. This area had previously been on a Gardner Highway work order to set up traffic control devices notifying motor vehicles in the area of the crosswalk designation. As of this meeting a Pedestrian Crosswalk notification sign has been set up in the area and the work order is considered closed.

- e. Handicapped Parking Areas – City Designated Parking Lots:

 - i. Deputy Chief Trifiro supplied the members of the Traffic Commission the Handicapped Parking Regulations as well as the Code of Massachusetts Regulations regarding Parking and Passenger Loading Zones. A survey of all the City’s Designated Parking Lots has been conducted by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold and are currently a target to ensure the required minimum number of accessible spaces exist in each lot. In addition, Dane Arnold reported he intends to update/fresh paint on all handicapped designated parking spots as well as permanent placards posted in front of each area.

- f. Roadway Safety Sites – Guardrails:

 - i. Chris Coughlin reports he has a running list of public roadway sites in the city which are either a target for repair, update or slated for new installation. The topic of guardrails will be considered an on-going project and addressed as funding and manpower allows.

- g. At 9:35AM a motion to accept New Business was made by Dane Arnold, seconded by Craig Cormier a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.

8. Intersection Concerns/Updates:

- a. None reported during time span from the previous Traffic Commission Meeting held in January 2021.
 - i. Uptown Rotary Project: tentative construction date – December 2022
 - ii. Route 140 Pedestrian Foot Bridge: tentative construction date – TBD 2026

9. Target Areas of Concern/Updates:

- a. East Broadway (South Gardner Center): Complaints of numerous speeding tractor trailer units/dump trucks have been received. Deputy Chief Trifiro has solicited the support of the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Team to assist in handling these complaints/concerns.
- b. Pearl Street: Construction Area notification signs posted in the vicinity of the new school project.

- c. Lovewell Street
- d. Central Street
 - i. General speeding complaints have been received for all of the above listed roadways. Multiple surveys have been conducted of the area by both Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold and the roadway appears to be clearly marked with ample MPH as applicable signs notifying motor vehicles traveling in the area of the proper speed limit. These roadways will remain a continuous target for police patrols as operations permit, along with varying stationary radar placement in an attempt to constantly notify traffic of their current speed.

10. Roadway Concerns/Updates:

- a. Roadway Concerns:
 - i. None reported during time span from the previous Traffic Commission Meeting held in January 2021 up until this date.
- b. Projected (tentative) City Projects:
 - i. Water main/paving projects/designated areas:
 - 1. Main Street
 - 2. Central Street
 - 3. Pleasant Street
 - 4. City Hall Avenue
 - 5. Nichols Street
 - 6. Parker Street
 - 7. Connors Street
 - 8. Pearl Street
 - 9. Elm Street
 - 10. Green Street
 - 11. Woodland Avenue
 - 12. Robillard Street
 - 13. Wickman Drive

11. Conclusion:

- a. At 9:50AM Dane Arnold made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Coughlin a roll call was conducted and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
- b. Next Traffic Committee Meeting Schedule: TBD