

March 17, 2021

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Wednesday March 17, 2021 via remote participation and broadcast on Channel 15.

Roll Call: Comm. McCabe – Present – Acting Comm. Berube – Present – Acting Comm. Cain – Present @ 5:41 pm - Comm. Cressotti – Present – Comm. Clark – Present – Comm. Gadbois – Present @ 5:39 pm

Approval and Release of Minutes dated December 16, 2020: Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to approve and release the minutes dated December 16, 2020. Commissioner Clark seconded this motion.

Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Acting Commissioner Berube - 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:

Notre Dame Street crosswalk update: Elicia Ducharme is present this evening. She is the daughter of Gail Dearellano, who was tragically struck in March of 2019. She and Commissioner McCabe have been communicating for some time now. Commissioner McCabe said the crosswalk on Notre Dame has been addressed by Mestek. Mestek has agreed to fund a new crosswalk signal. This signal will flash when activated by a pedestrian. The City of Westfield has agreed to do the installation. The DPW has subcontracted another company to do the work and they are waiting on the bid to come in. Elicia Ducharme said she appreciates this matter being on the agenda and taken seriously. She said even 2 years later, this is still a hard issue to deal with for her and her family. She said she is very grateful this is being taken care of.

Holyoke Road truck traffic overpass at East Mountain Rd: Commissioner Cressotti said the Pioneer Valley Railroad applied and received a grant to replace the bridge on the existing abutment. There's no change as far as the width or height, however the bridge has been hit periodically, so they are looking to take certain measures such as putting in beams that can handle getting struck and not impact the bridge. The City of Westfield has agreed to install and pay for the repair and maintenance of advanced warning signs. They are looking into having 3 solar powered signs. The construction will likely begin later in the summer.

Union Ave and Pochassic St signage - Morganelli: Commissioner McCabe said that Councilor Morganelli had requested this be on the agenda, however Councilor Figy is the ward councilor for that area and he is unaware of this issue. Councilor Figy is requesting this item be removed until he can obtain more information. Commissioner Cressotti said he just wanted to reiterate any changes to this area would require MA DOT approval.

Root Rd. at North Rd. - McCabe: Commissioner McCabe said that the residents are happy with the improvements that have been done in this area. There is only 1 more request which is to add more no parking signs on the west side of Root Rd. by the pond. Acting Commissioner Cain said the DPW will add more signs.

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Breighly Way stop sign: Commissioner McCabe said the residents in this area would like to see a stop sign added on Breighly Way. He said this would have to first be approved by the traffic commission and then be brought before the city council. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to add a stop sign on Breighly Way. Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion.

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

Knollwood Dr. and Vincent update - Mejias: Knollwood Dr. and Vincent Dr. have an obstructed view which was going to be worked on in conjunction with the traffic bureau and the building department. This building department sent a letter to the residents of Vincent Dr requesting they trim back the shrubbery. The shrubbery has been trimmed, but the line of sight is still an issue. Commissioner McCabe said he does not feel vehicles should even be traveling at a speed that would make the line of sight an issue in this area and he is requesting this item be removed from the agenda and referred to the building department. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to remove this item from the agenda and refer it to the building department. Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion.

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

Ely St. Slow Children sign reminder – DPW: Acting Commissioner Cain said the DPW will install this sign in front of 25 Ely St.

Crosswalk signage at Putnam Dr. and Kelsey Terrace – McCabe: The state has agreed to add a push button light at the cross walk at this location. It should be done at some point this spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Union St and Court St sidewalks and multi-purpose use - Cressotti: Commissioner Cressotti said the city has received a grant to install multi use sidewalks on Court St from Holcomb St to Holland Ave. They would like to enhance the crosswalks along the way. They are looking to utilize those areas. They are not looking to add any crosswalks, only to enhance the existing crosswalks. Commissioner Cressotti said the other area that will be addressed is Union St. Union St has a need for more crosswalks. There is currently one at Powder Mill Village. It is used by a lot of people. The sidewalks will be extended and current sidewalks will be enhanced. They are also looking into adding crosswalks around the Dartmouth St, Wilcox St, and Carpenter Ave areas. Carpenter Ave is right on a curve. There have been a number of accidents in this area, so this will need to be looked into. Commissioner Cressotti would like the commission to look into these areas and address it at a later meeting. Commissioner McCabe said he is not in favor of a crosswalk at Carpenter Ave due to speed and line of sight issues at this location. The commission asked Commissioner Cressotti to put a list together for them with the proposed crosswalk and sidewalk enhancements.

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Mill and West Silver St. construction conversation and planting trees – Bridget Matthews Kane:

Commissioner McCabe said that he was contacted by Bridget Matthews Kane and she was initially looking to add trees to the intersection of Mill St and West Silver St. She asked Commissioner McCabe if there was a location that would be better. Commissioner McCabe said that there are many accidents that happen at this intersection. He asked her to hold off until someone could take a look at the plans with her to make a determination. Commissioner McCabe also said that the 30 mph speed limit signs will be going up at 15 and 74 Mill St in the near future.

Western Ave. Phase II acceptance - Cressotti: Commissioner Cressotti said that the agreement involves turning lanes, intersection lane control, stop signs and traffic signals. Once the traffic commission approves this agreement, it will go before city council and then to the Mayor to put the project out to bid. Commissioner Gadbois made a motion to approve the Western Ave Phase II traffic control agreement. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion.

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti – Yes

Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Gadbois - Yes

Acting Commissioner Cain - Yes

Moseley St. stop sign, speed, truck route, and proper signage - Mejias: Commissioner McCabe said that a resident from Moseley St had complaints regarding speeding and truck usage of this street. The police department has assigned officers to this area for enforcement on numerous occasions. The residents have been happy with the enforcement from the police department. Sergeant Mejias would like to add a yellow advisory sign of a truck route prohibition at the light at Notre Dame where the turn would be made. Acting Commissioner Cain said the DPW will add the sign. Commissioner McCabe said that he would like to see this on the June agenda so that the commission can follow up on it.

Captain McCabe's replacement – Sergeant Mejias: Commissioner McCabe said this is his last meeting. He said it has been a pleasure to be a part of this commission. He said that Chief Valliere has indicated that Sergeant Mejias will be replacing Captain McCabe as a commissioner for the traffic commission. Sergeant Mejias has sat in on all of the meetings with Commissioner McCabe since he took over as commissioner. He is confident she will do an outstanding job.

Vote in a new chairman of the commission: Commissioner McCabe said he would like to see the commission vote tonight for a new chairperson so that the upcoming June 2021 meeting will already have a chair. He said the commission can always change the chair at a later time, but for now he wants to make sure they have a chairperson for the next meeting. Commissioner Cressotti thanked Commissioner McCabe for his time as chair of the commission. Commissioner Cressotti said he thinks Commissioner McCabe has done an outstanding job as chairman. Commissioner McCabe asked Commissioner Cressotti if he would be willing to chair the commission. Commissioner Cressotti said his retirement is not for about a year so he would be willing to chair the commission for a period of time. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to appoint himself as chairman of the traffic commission. Commissioner Gadbois seconded that motion.

Commissioner McCabe – Yes

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Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois - Yes
Acting Commissioner Cain - Yes

Next Meeting – June 16, 2021

At 6:36 PM Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cressotti seconded the motion.

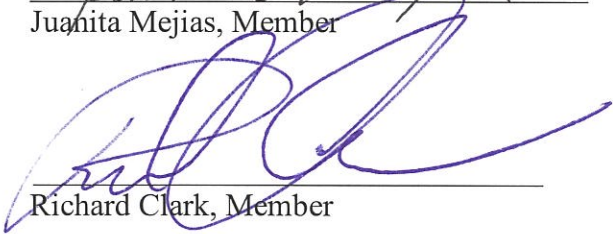
Commissioner McCabe – Yes
Commissioner Cressotti – Yes
Commissioner Clark – Yes
Commissioner Gadbois – Yes
Acting Commissioner Cain - Yes



Mark Cressotti, Chairman



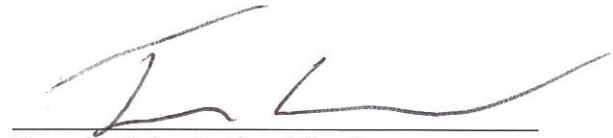
Juanita Mejias, Member



Richard Clark, Member



Joseph Gadbois, Member



Francis Cain, Acting Member

9/15/21
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