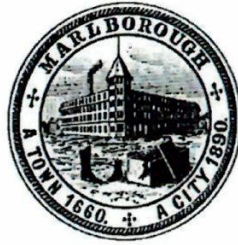


RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
February 28, 2024
2024 APR -2 PM 3:40



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION
140 MAIN STREET
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on February 28, 2024, at 10:00 am. (The meeting was also recorded and is available to view online at the City of Marlborough's website (www.marlbrough-ma.gov). Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Interim DPW Commissioner Ted Scott and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant Civil Engineer Ashley Miller, City Councilor Kathleen Robey and local residents Ron Merritt, Timothy O'Leary and Glaucid Rangel.

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD - Public Safety Administrative Assistant.

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of January 17, 2024.

VOTE TO APPROVE. All in Favor - Accept and Place on File.

2 - New Business

2a) Concerns regarding icy road conditions -- 28 West Street.

City Councilor Robert Preciado received an email from a resident regarding his concerns with the dangerous condition of this section of West Street. He explained that the runoff from the cemetery, as well as poor drainage, causes the road to ice over and become dangerous to drive on. The road is also very steep, and he is concerned about a car crashing into someone's home as they come down the hill. He has also had basement flooding issues caused by the runoff. He has reached out to the DPW and received no

response. The resident, Mr. Ron Merritt, was also in attendance for the discussion. He explained that he is coming to the Traffic Commission for help. Over the last 4 to 5 years, he has had severe flooding in his basement. The culverts do not appear to be working properly. He has also reached out to the IC Cemetery and received no response. The water is coming from private property, but the City maintains the road in the winter, i.e., plows, sands and salts. He is asking how the water can be diverted so that it gets in the manhole covers. He passed around 8 large photos of the area which show the terrible condition of the roadway and culverts.

Interim DPW Commissioner Ted Scott advised that the DPW has been out here before. They know that Mr. Merritt's house is on the slope, and he understands the concerns. They can try to reslope the road away from his property. It is on the project list for the spring to try to mitigate the problem from the City owned part of the road, but the cemetery needs to get involved as well.

Mr. Scott said they like to have the road open so they can push the snow and ice through. Chief Giorgi brought up a photo of the area as well. Mr. Merritt said that the only solution he can see is to lower the catch basin. The road is starting to disintegrate and has massive potholes and is not maintained properly. The entire hill is the IC's property.

Mr. Scott advised that he needs to get in touch with the church and try to figure something out. It's a private road that the City has been taking care of. They should be able to maintain and do their part as well. It would be better to keep the water going across the road then having it flow straight down the hill. Mr. Merritt said he has to wet/dry vac his basement all the time and he has to remove gallons and gallons of water. The catch basins are too high and the water just flows around them and jumps onto his grass and driveway. He said it's a river that flows down the hill and that he never had this issue 4 years ago. Sending the water across the road to the grass on the other side would definitely be better. The neighbors below him are an older couple who also have water problems. The winter is even worse and he has had to replace his mailbox twice. The ice on the road is terrible. They all need to work together to be good neighbors. Chief Giorgi agrees that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to work with the DPW and IC Church to try to figure out what can be done.

2b) Speed concerns/traffic safety issue at 775 Pleasant Street

The Police Department received an email from the homeowner, Ana Paula Hentz, regarding this issue. Her husband, Glaucid Rangel, and their neighbor from across the street, Timothy O'Leary, were in attendance. Chief Giorgi pulled up a photo of the area for reference. Mr. Rangel explained that he is a new homeowner and moved in about 7 months ago. He and his wife did not realize how dangerous it is to get out of their driveway. It is a blind driveway that is also very steep. His wife said in her email, "when we drive out of our driveway, we cannot see cars that are coming from the left side of the road, it is a curve and the cars come flying down the road, the dangerous part is that the cars have no idea that there is a driveway there either". She also explained a few other specific incidents where she was almost hit pulling out and that a friend's car was totaled when parked in front of their house. Mr. Rangel tried to deal with the situation himself and asked his neighbor if he could put a mirror in front of his house so they could see

oncoming traffic when pulling out. The mirror helps about 60 to 70% of the time, but not always. Factors like the color of oncoming cars and the glare make it very hard to see. He tells people not to park in his driveway. There is a small old sign that says "Hidden Driveway", but it can't be seen. He doesn't think a new sign will help. Speeding is a definite issue at 35 mph or sometimes 45+ mph. He feels that a speed bump would be the best solution but a sign with the speed limit would help, or a blind driveway sign with lights.

His neighbor, Timothy O'Leary, has lived there for 25 years. He also explained that it is really tough with the bend in the road. If the ground were level, you would be able to see oncoming traffic, but the property rises. The driveway at 775 Pleasant Street is about 175 feet from the next driveway but from one mailbox to the next you can't see the other driveway. It's like a pyramid and you can't see. He works out of his house and hears people blowing horns and yelling because they are surprised to see someone pulling out of the driveway. The family at 775 has a young child with special needs and it is super dangerous. His suggestion, which he has seen on West Hill Road, would be to push back the area in front of the house by 5 feet with a retaining wall so you can see.

Ms. Hentz also submitted a video from the week before that showed their friends trying to exit the driveway when they almost got hit. The Chief pulled up the video. It appears that it's really no one's fault. Mr. O'Leary also had photos on his phone that he also showed to the group. He also said that this area is between 2 high schools and that kids from the track team frequently run by on the opposite side in front of #775. Mr. Scott said it looks like excessive speed is the problem. If cars were traveling the proper speed, they should have time to react.

There is also a row of trees and vegetation in front of the white house next door that is part of the problem as it blocks the view of the driveway. Mr. O'Leary has seen multiple accidents here over the years.

Chief Giorgi advised that in the short term, the Police Department can try to get the electronic speed sign out here to collect accurate data. He agrees that it is a blind corner. Mr. DiPersio advised that Engineering can take a look at sight distances also so that we can have all the data. Mr. Rangel said he would like to see someone come sit in his driveway for a few minutes to see how dangerous it is. Chief Giorgi said that the video is pretty telling, you wait for 15 to 20 seconds, and then you still question do I go or not go?

Speed bumps were discussed but ambulances, buses and public safety equipment travel on this road all the time. Speed bumps could make it even more dangerous as someone traveling too fast can lose control.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to put the speed signs out and to do some enforcement and monitoring. Also REFER to ENGINEERING to collect sight distance information and look into options for further discussion at the next meeting.

3-Old Business

3a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns

Update: Mr. DiPersio advised that the City has a consultant they use for issues with traffic signals and South Street is on the radar for reconstruction. He will get the consultant involved as it will help to have more data for the project. Engineering will be doing an analysis and will report back. REMOVE from the AGENDA for now.

3b) Crescent Street Parking Issues

Update: At the October meeting, it was agreed that this item would be TABLED until roadway construction is complete before making any changes. TABLED until the Spring.

3d) Continued Discussion: Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.

Update: At the January meeting, it was agreed that this item would be TABLED until the Spring. Mr. Scott noted that a speed limit sign was requested as well. Mr. DiPersio advised that he does have sight distance information now that he can provide if needed.

3e) Request for Crosswalk Sign at the corner of Devens St. and Washington St.

Update: The Traffic Commission never really figured out exactly what the complainant was looking for. Chief Giorgi advised that Officer Conners has called the bus company as he has a good relationship with them. They have not made any complaints about this area.

3f) Discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

Update: Tom DiPersio advised that he just wanted initial feedback at the last meeting. This can be REMOVED from the agenda at this time.

3c) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues

Update: Part 1 - Chief Giorgi had a copy of the email Assistant City Solicitor Jeremy McManus forwarded to Steve Kerrigan. The Chief has also talked to him about it, and it's his opinion that enforcement issues should remain with the Traffic Commission and be handled by the Police Department. Steve Kerrigan reviewed that Code Enforcement wanted to be involved as well, but this would require a City Ordinance that would have to be approved by City Council in order to allow others to write tickets. Chief Giorgi agreed that it would be easiest to keep it all within the Police Department.

Update: Part 2 – The second part of this issue was the proper definition of a commercial vehicle that could be used for enforcement. Chief Giorgi advised that he would like to simplify the description so it would be easy for everyone to understand. He will work with Officer Larose to put some ideas together for the next meeting. Ted Scott said that they have a very loose interpretation at the transfer station. They look at things like 1) commercial signage 2) utility body 3) hangers for ladders etc. The Chief asked if they have anything specific in writing and he said no, it is open to interpretation, and you know it when you see it. Steve Kerrigan said that the definition should be followed

across the city so it does need to be a broader interpretation. Councilor Robey noted a specific definition for commercial vehicles in the traffic code, section 586.13. Mr. Scott said that there will definitely be commercial vehicles that fall under the designated weight limit. It basically comes down to what the commercial vehicle is doing that a regular vehicle is not, i.e., bigger, things hanging off etc. Chief Giorgi and Officer Larose will work on this.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Public Safety Administrative Assistant
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Meeting Posting for the Traffic Commission Meeting on February 28, 2024, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, January 17, 2024.
- Copy of email string and inquiry from Ward 3 Councilor Preciado, forwarded by Karen Boule to Chief Giorgi on 1/20/24 re: Icy road conditions – 38 West St.
- Copy of emails from Ana Paula to Karen Lambert, dated 2/13/24 to 2/19/24, re: Traffic Commission agenda item: Speed concerns?traffic safety issue at 775 Pleasant Street.
- Email chain between City Clerk Steve Kerrigan and City Solicitor Jeremy McManus, dated 1/16/24, re: Traffic Commission Question – Enforcement of City Ordinance vs. Traffic Regulation.

Additional Handouts or Displayed on Screen at Meeting

- 8 large photographs of 28 West Street area showing roadway conditions.