

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Virtual Meeting

2021 FEB 19 P 3:30

Agenda Items to be addressed:

In accordance with the March 12, 2020 Executive Order issued by Governor Baker modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Marlborough Traffic Commission will hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

NO IN PERSON PUBLIC ATTENDANCE WILL BE PERMITTED

The public may access the meeting by clicking the link on the meeting calendar page or by dialing 617-433-9462 and using conference ID: 234 425 293#

- 1) **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**
 - a) Review draft from 1-27-21

- 2) **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a) Crosswalk issue at the EEC
 - b) Issues with the turn movement at intersection of Boston Post Road West & Ames Street
 - c) Speeding throughout the community – specifically on Berlin Road

- 3) **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) Truck traffic volume/noise on Rte. 85 by the Navin Rink

THE LISTING OF TOPICS THAT THE CHAIR REASONABLY ANTICIPATES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING IS NOT INTENDED AS A GUARANTEE OF THE TOPICS THAT WILL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NOT ALL TOPICS LISTED MAY IN FACT BE DISCUSSED, AND OTHER TOPICS NOT LISTED MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.



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

DRAFT

Traffic Commission Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held as a **virtual meeting** on Wednesday, January 21, 2021 at 10:00 am. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen, Commissioner of Public Works Sean Divoll and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Ashley Miller – Engineering Department, Sgt. Zac Attaway and Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey, City Councilor Mike Ossing and local resident Michael Volk.

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:03 and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business –

2a) Truck traffic volume/noise on Rte. 85 by the Navin Rink

Michael Volt, a Hudson resident, spoke to Sgt. Attaway on this issue and also sent an email reviewing his concerns. He was in attendance for this meeting and Chief Giorgi asked if he would like to address the group. Mr. Volt said that he lives in Hudson behind Intel and can hear lots of noise coming from the area near Navin Rink (which is a full mile from his house) at all different times of the day. He specifically mentioned hearing it in the middle of the night and early in the morning. He looked up the Noise Ordinance for the City of Marlborough due to the fact that this is a residential area. He said that the noise is coming from Jake Brakes on trucks.

Chief Giorgi advised that we have had this issue come up before on the east side of the City and asked Tim Collins if he would explain further. Mr. Collins reviewed that Jake Brakes are used to slow a vehicle in a different way. They give the driver more control when going downhill and explained how this breaking mechanism works. He said that if the exhaust system has a properly installed muffler it is not a problem. He pulled up a diagram on the screen entitled "Sound Pressure Levels – Human Perception". It showed different decibel levels and where they fall on a scale and gave examples i.e. normal conversation = 60-70 decibels to a jet aircraft @ 50 ft. = 150 decibels and showed where a truck with a proper muffler, and one without, would fall on the scale. He said that if the decibels are too high it's because of a problem with the muffler and would be an issue with specific trucks. He said it is probably best to try to find out which trucks are making the noise.

Mr. Volt said that he does notice it more at night and early in the morning and said that he can hear it from his house with his headphones on listening to music. Chief Giorgi advised that we haven't had any other complaints. Mr. Volt said that he is sure the noise ordinance is being violated in a housing zone.

Officer Larose asked if the noise could possibly be coming off the connector rather than Bolton Street? He said they sit on Bolton Street all the time monitoring traffic and haven't really noticed anything. Mr. Volt said that he has not sat in front of Navin Rink, however, trucks have to be violating the noise ordinance or he wouldn't be hearing it from a mile away. Councilor Ossing said he lives less than a mile from this area and it's also on the other side of Rte. 495 and trucks cut through back roads also. It's hard to say specifically who is at fault. He said he either doesn't hear it or has become numb to it. Mr. Volt said that he is just reporting the problem. He does not have a solution.

Chief Giorgi said that he believes the first step would be to have the Traffic Unit monitor the situation and try to identify specific trucks that might be causing the problem and possibly try some type of sound monitoring device. If a problem is found, the second step would be to try to reach out to specific companies to address the issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the TRAFFIC UNIT to monitor. Sgt. Attaway can stay in touch with Mr. Volk over the next month or two and then see where to go from there.

3-Old Business

3a) Speed and Parking Issues on Church Street.

Tim Collins advised that this all set now. It was a matter of amending the regulations and they have all now been voted on and approved.

3b) Request for No Parking Sign – Paquin Drive.

Chief Giorgi advised that he had drafted the regulation for the no parking area around Memorial Beach, however, Steve Kerrigan and Tim Collins found an overlap issue and revised the wording again. Mr. Collins had a diagram which outlined the parking restrictions around the beach. The areas marked in pink on Hosmer Street are for no parking anytime. The areas marked in yellow on Paquin Drive, Stevens Street, Causeway Street, Miles Standish Drive and Simpson Road have a parking restriction from June 1st to September 15th for beach parking. The wording “for beach parking” was also added to the wording for the new regulation. This would allow parking for visitors etc. but not to unload your car and walk down to the beach. Chief Giorgi will revise the regulation based on the amended language provided by Tim Collins.

Steve Kerrigan asked about enforcement. What happens if someone is caught going to the beach? What happens when they appeal a ticket and say they did not do that? Chief Giorgi said that hopefully his officers would do their “due diligence” before giving out a ticket. Mr. Kerrigan just doesn’t want to see it turning into an enforcement issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the amended regulation for the parking restriction around the Memorial Beach based on the wording provided by Tim Collins. Chief Giorgi will prepare the amended regulation and Karen Lambert will forward it to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Records Clerk
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Meeting Posting for Traffic Commission Meeting on Wednesday 1/27/21, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, December 30, 2020.
- Email from Michael Volk to Sgt. Attaway, dated 1/21/21, re: Truck Air Breaking Noise from Rte. 85N traffic downhill past Navin Rink (including Zoning Map, Ch. 431-11 from ecode360.com and copy of “Engine Breaking Prohibited” sign.
- Copy of regulation to ADD specific section of Church Street to the Schedule for “No Stopping, Standing or Parking”.

-Copy of regulation to AMEND the wording for the Schedule of "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours" on Causeway Street and Hosmer Street. The text will be amended to include the text "For Beach Parking". Also, to ADD specific sections of Causeway Street, Paquin Street, Miles Standish Drive and Simpson Road to the Schedule.

Additional Handouts

- Email from Tim Collins to Chief Giorgi, dated 1/25/21, re: No Parking near Memorial Beach, including revised wording for the regulation and restricted parking graphic.
- Amended regulations for the No Parking Area around Memorial Beach.
- Jake Brake.pdf: What is a Jake Brake, & How Does it Work?
- Diagram of Sound Pressure Levels – Human Perception

Karen Lambert

From: Thomas DiPersio
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:47 AM
To: David Giorgi; Karen Lambert
Cc: Wendy Cunningham
Subject: FW: crosswalk issue at the ECC

Good morning Chief Giorgi,
Please include this email with the information for the ECC crosswalk discussion at the next Traffic Commission meeting.
Thank you

Thomas DiPersio, Jr., PE, PLS
City Engineer
Department of Public Works
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone:(508)624-6910x33200
tdipersio@marlborough-ma.gov



From: Wendy Cunningham
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: crosswalk issue at the ECC

Hi Mr. DiPersio,
My colleague, Monique Skarin reached out to you earlier today about our crosswalk problem. She mentioned that I should let you know my experience and I did read through your thoughts. I think the answer is "all of the above". I understand that in the past this crosswalk was not used very much and now that we have the new lot and staff are parking there, people who frequent this road may be surprised by the number of people now using it. However, it is still a crosswalk and drivers need to be aware of its presence so your suggestion of trying to solve this part of the problem is helpful.

The other two issues I have seen and experienced concerns people who do stop and the person behind them almost hits them because they are not prepared for this and people who blatantly do not stop. I have had a few times where many people drove right by me and today I actually had a woman accelerate and speed by me. I feel confident that she did see me, had plenty of time to stop but chose not to...did not WANT to as I could hear her actually step on her gas! So your idea of including the police is also warranted.

The winter time is problematic for our staff because of the snow. Today we lost even more parking spaces than we ever have before in our small lot because of the way it was plowed. It is not safe to park on the street due to the snow which forces more staff to park in that lot across the street. I complained to my colleagues the last 2 times I experienced problems with the crosswalk but today was the final straw. I felt that I needed to speak up beyond that because if someone gets hurt in the crosswalk and we do not let people know what has been happening, we can only blame

ourselves. But if we alert the proper people and something happens than that is a different story. I do not want to see anyone hurt as no amount of money could ever be worth a loss of life or severe injury that is life altering.

We appreciate your attention to this matter as it is starting to provoke some anxiety when thinking about having to park there!

Sincerely,

Wendy Cunningham, Teacher at the MECC

Karen Lambert

From: Thomas DiPersio
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:31 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Timothy Collins; Sean Divoll
Subject: FW: Crosswalk on 85 ECC staff

Chief Giorgi,

I am getting several emails such as the one below from staff at the ECC. I told them I would ask you to add their concerns as an agenda item on the next TC meeting.

We can discuss specifics in more detail but I wanted to see if you can get it on the agenda in the meantime.

Also, Tim has done some research into our school zones and crosswalks near school regulations, and has found several things that need to be corrected. So maybe that can be added as an item as well.

Thanks

Thomas DiPersio, Jr., PE, PLS
City Engineer
Department of Public Works
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone:(508)624-6910x33200
tdipersio@marlborough-ma.gov



From: Monique Skarin
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: Crosswalk on 85 ECC staff

Hi Tom

We are all curious to know what is happening with the crosswalk situation here at the ECC.

This problem of our safety crossing is still a big problem.

Several of us this morning watched as cars just passed by looking right at us as we were waiting to cross. This happened several times and continues to happen on a daily basis.

We have questions also.

Why isn't our school a school zone? Like all the other schools in town including IC. (I know they are closed now)

Can we try putting one of those cones with the sign sticking out of it in the middle of the crosswalk like I've seen on other crosswalks in town?

One staff put a complaint on the app this morning and the city's reply was to contact the police it's not a city issue? Can you explain that since you have been the one that came to observe our unsafe situation here?

We are all frustrated feeling like it's going to take someone getting hurt or killed to have this taken seriously.

We have no problem asking the police for assistance if that is the case. It's just confusing with different information.

Thank you for your time

Monique Skarin

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Karen Lambert

From: Timothy Collins
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:52 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Karen Lambert; Thomas DiPersio; Sean Divoll
Subject: FW: Traffic Commission Agenda Item for February 24, 2021 meeting
Attachments: e-mail string.pdf; r10-11c.pdf; photos.pub; r10-30.pdf

Chief, could the following item be put on to the Traffic Commission agenda for the February 24, 2021 meeting?

Back in July 20, 2016, at the request of the Marlborough Traffic Commission, I requested that MassDOT look into resolving a conflict where Boston Post Road – West, westbound traffic’s left turn movement for U-Turns at Ames Street was in conflict with right turns from Ames Street and requested that the “No Right on Red” restriction for Ames Street be eliminated (*attachment e-mail string.pdf*). The response we received back from MassDOT on August 18, 2016, stated that the conflict was due to a overlapped timing issue – green lights for both movements at the same time. The overlap was eliminated by MassDOT and that should eliminate the conflict. MassDOT also noted that they would be willing to consider replacing the “No Turn on Red” sign with a “No Turn on Red Except from Right Lane” sign (*attachment: r10-11c.pdf*), if there are any further complaints – Ames Street has two exclusive right turn lanes at Boston Post Road - West. This should have been mentioned in the Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes for the meeting held on August 31, 2016.

I have included a “Streetview” photo (*attachment photos.pub*) – showing both approaches; Ames Street northbound traffic and Boston Post Road -West westbound traffic and a graphic for MUTCD signage (*attachment R10-30.pdf*) “Right Turn on Red Must Yield to U-Turn), additional signage for conflict resolution – Right on Red movement from Ames Street while Boston Post Road – West traffic is reversing direction under green arrow.

Please let me know if you require any additional information regarding this request.

Timothy F. Collins
Marlborough D.P.W.
Assistant City Engineer
tcollins@marlborough-ma.gov
Office (508) 624-6910 Ext. 332003
Cell (774) 463-9023

From: Timothy Collins
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 11:36 AM
To: 'Frawley, Joseph (DOT)'
Cc: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: RE: Marlborough Traffic Issues

Joe,

The issue of U-Turns on Boston Post Road – West at Ames Street and the right turning movement off of Ames Street (heading east) has come before the Marlborough Traffic Commission once again.

The U-turn is needed to re-direct traffic from the Hotel & Trade Center wishing to travel in an easterly direction.

The exclusive right turn lanes (2) on Ames Street get a green arrow when the left turn lane for westbound traffic on Boston Post Road –West gets a green left arrow. Where both movements are allowed at the same time, vehicles on Boston Post Road – West, executing a U-Turn don't always know that they should yield to the right turning movement off Ames Street.

We were hoping to have this conflict resolved.

Would it be possible to have the No Right Turn on Red for Ames Street eliminated. The sight distance at this intersection is very good. There is an exclusive right turn lane (onto Ames Street from Boston Post Road – West, which allows a Right Turn on Red), which allows for a clear sight of the oncoming through traffic?

By allowing the right turn off Ames Street during a red light cycle, some (if not most/all) of the right turns could be executed so that when the green arrow for Boston Post Road – West left turn (and U-Turn) comes on the conflict is minimized (if not eliminated).

If this is not possible, could signage be erected which puts motorists wishing to make the U-Turn at Boston Post Road – West at Ames Street, on notice that U TURNS MUST YIELD TO TURNING TRAFFIC ?

Your comments would be very much appreciated. Thanks

Timothy F. Collins
Assistant City Engineer
Marlborough D.P.W.
(508) 624-6910 Ext. 33203

tcollins@marlborough-ma.gov

Timothy Collins

From: Frawley, Joseph (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 5:42 PM
To: Timothy Collins
Cc: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: RE: Marlborough Traffic Issues

Hi Tim,

Sorry for the delayed reply to your email regarding the intersection of Boston Post Road (Route 20) and Ames Street.

The District had removed the Ames Street NB right turn "overlap" with the Route 20 WB left/U-turn phase prior to the recent construction to provide pedestrian crossings at the intersection. The recent work inadvertently put the right turn overlap back in operation. The Contractor for that project removed the overlap at our direction earlier this week.

That should resolve the conflict you noted in your email. To allow more traffic on Ames Street NB to be able to turn right when their signal is red, we will consider replacing the "No Turn on Red" sign with a "No Turn on Red Except from Right Lane" sign.

If you receive complaints about the operation of the traffic signal now that the overlap has been removed, please let me know.

Thanks,
Joe

Joseph R. Frawley, P.E.
District 3 Traffic Operations Engineer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division
P: (508) 929-3916
F: (508) 799-9763

From: Timothy Collins
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R10-11c

No Turn On Red Except From Right Lane

Sign image from the Manual of Traffic Signs <<http://www.trafficsign.us/>>
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Ames Street - northbound

- two - Right Turn Only Lanes, with Right on Red restriction.
- one - left turn/straight movement



Boston Post Road - West - westbound

- two - Left Turn Only Lanes
- one - straight movement
- one - right turn/straight movement



R10-30

Right Turn On Red Must Yield To U Turn

Sign image from the Manual of Traffic Signs <<http://www.trafficsign.us/>>
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Karen Lambert

From: Mike Ossing
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 11:43 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Kevin Breen; Sean Divoll; Steven Kerrigan; Karen Boule; Karen Lambert; Mike Ossing; Timothy Collins
Subject: Speeding throughout the community, specifically Berlin Road speed limit increase with zero improvements?!

Chief Giorgi/Chief Breen/Commissioner Divoll/City Clerk Steve Kerrigan

I received the email below from a frustrated resident on Berlin Road (between Pleasant and Ethier Circle). Names have been edited in the email.

Can this be added to the February 24, 2021 Traffic Commission agenda and I will relay the residents' concerns?

Thanks

Mike

Mike, I am beyond upset and tired of fighting with neighbors and commuters speeding on city streets! I have no understanding of how the city made a decision to increase the speed limit on Berlin Road with zero improvements?! Fighting this morning with a young man, postal employee no less qualifying he was only going three miles an hour over the speed limit on a snowy morning as I'm clearing the front of my driveway! Do you think I would be wrong to extrapolate from that behavior that on a sunny day that he might be doing 10 miles an hour over or more and his comment was he saw no 25 mph signs he did note the 30 mph signs. I've talked to the mayor who said (name removed) Yes I understand and we had a pleasant discussion in front of City Hall about school buses that were some of the worst violators of our speed limits! Growing up in the community I recollect that city vehicles prior to any tracking devices would always be under the speed limit which is now the exception not the rule. I know I'm going back a few decades but we should be able to hold those accountable for speeding in taxpayer bought and maintained vehicles they should not be speeding (with exception for emergency lights flashing).! My mailbox was taken out by a driver the prior storm claiming she was going the speed limit Not driving to the conditions might explain why my mailbox is now held up with a piece of rope to a tree. 20 years ago when I moved here (name removed) daughters horse would deposit poop in front of my house and I would give anything for that to be the case today. I don't understand why the change but you can imagine the travel algorithms, have now as confirmed by several patrolmen that the volume on the street is exponentially higher in spite of the pandemic and the percentage of speeders is off the charts! I understand from conversations with patrolman that there is one police officer per shift that can write speeding tickets this is insane give them an incentive and they'll write tickets look at Bolton for example, It's known Don't drive through the community speeding you will be pulled over do they have a higher percentage of resources than we do?The answer is no they get paid to write tickets I don't like it but seems to work. I don't know any of this but I do question most of it. I've always felt you were one of the good guys and I don't like seeing a lot of what goes on out there it's everywhere today I'm sure you don't have a quick answer but I sent an email to the chief of police via the city website and never heard anything, did get a speed sign for a week and a half which during that brief period, Life was restored. When there's a flashing light telling them they're being inconsiderate through the neighborhood. The amount of dirt and decibels reflect the speeding and we know my ears and eyes haven't improved.

I'm sure you don't have a quick answer to any of my concerns, no one does! Hope you're well and hope all yours are safe and sound. Look forward to your take on any of my insanity.