

# CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall – Memorial Hall

Agenda Items to be addressed:

**1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- a) Review draft from 1/17/24

**2) NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Concerns regarding icy road conditions – 38 West Street
- b) Spenn concerns/traffic safety issue at 775 Pleasant Street

**3) OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns
- b) Crescent Street Parking Issues
- c) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues
- d) Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.
- e) Request for Crosswalk Sign at the Corner of Devens St. and Washington St.
- f) Discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

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 on January 17, 2024, at 10:00 am. (The meeting was also recorded and is available to view online at the City of Marlborough's website ([www.marlborough-ma.gov](http://www.marlborough-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, Officer Andrew Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, and local resident Dave Cormier.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:12 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions. He thanked everyone for their understanding as the last meeting was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances.

**1- Minutes**

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of November 29, 2023.

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

**2 - New Business**

**2a) Continued Discussion: Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.**

Tom DiPersio and Ashley Miller, from the Engineering Department, have done some analysis and discussed this with Interim DPW Commissioner Tedd Scott. Due to differing opinions with area residents, it was agreed to table this issue until the Spring. It was determined that the winter was not the best time to do any further study or change any traffic patterns.

Mr. Cormier asked if there will be any discussion about alternatives. He would like to know what else can be done to mitigate taking the stop signs down. All agreed that waiting until the Spring to make any changes provides the opportunity to do it properly. The notices about the removal of the stop signs will be taken down for now and all stop signs will remain.

Another area of concern was that there were no speed limited signs, just one "Thickly Settled" sign. Mr. Scott advised that he would respond to this issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE this agenda item until the spring for further review and discussion. Mr. Cormier advised that he would spread the word to his neighbors.

**2b) Request for Crosswalk Sign at the corner of Devens St. and Washington St.**

This agenda item came from Slava (unknown last name), in an email to Councilor Dumais. Chief Giorgi reviewed the email. Slava is requesting a crosswalk sign at this intersection, in front of the school on Washington Street. He included a photo with an example of the type of sign he is referring to. He said that there is a bus stop right in front of his house and that cars do not pay any attention to the stop sign on the bus and kids do cross the street here. He is asking why there is one of these signs at the opposite end of Washington Street but not in front of the school. He also mentions the need for a speed limit sign.

Chief Giorgi said that there is no crosswalk where Slava is asking to see a sign. Is he actually requesting a crosswalk? Ashley Miller said she does not know if there is drop off for the kids at this school. It was discussed that a crosswalk will not solve the problem of cars driving around the bus. Chief Giorgi said that the bus company has not been calling the Police Department with any problems. It's unclear which school the bus issue concerns. If students are going to the school on Washington Street, they should be walking to the end of the street and crossing at the school.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. The Police Department can also reach out to Slava and the bus company for clarification.

**2c) Discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.**

City Engineer Tom DiPersio submitted this agenda item. Making this area one-way would allow the city to make better use of the whole area and the new plaza behind City Hall. The road would be made narrower and improve walkability in the area. There is not a lot of traffic that travels west to east, Florence Street to Court Street. He provided a

diagram of the consultant's recommendation for the area and is just looking for input at this point.

Officer Larose said that his concern would be that cars would pull into the area and then have nowhere to turn around. There would have to be signage at Florence Street indicating "Not a Through Street" and make the "Do Not Enter" very clearly marked. He asked what they are doing to widen the area. Mr. DiPersio advised that there would be no change to the area along the Post Office property. The plaza behind City Hall will be totally redone. Technically, the road behind City Hall would be a no parking zone. The need for handicapped parking was brought up.

Steve Kerrigan's concern was with the parking deck. In the winter, it's an ongoing battle as people come to City Hall and have nowhere to park. Mr. DiPersio advised that the spaces in front of the parking garage will stay. The Lost Shoe currently takes up a couple of those parking spaces with tables. It was discussed that maybe they can put tables in the plaza area instead. Ted Scott said that they need to get permission from City Hall for each event that they have. Mr. DiPersio said that they will have room for tables on their own side with the new design.

Chief Giorgi advised that he has no objection to Weed Street being made one-way in this area. Mr. DiPersio said that there would need to be a formal vote at some point. He would also like to have some input from the Fire Chief.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to KEEP this item on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

### **3-Old Business**

#### **3a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns**

**Update:** At the meeting in October, this issue was referred to Engineering to look at the timing of the lights. Engineering has no further update. This item will REMAIN on the Agenda.

#### **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) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues**

**Update:** Steve Kerrigan advised that he has spoken to Jeremy McManus, in the Legal Department, as to whether this would be better handled through a Traffic Regulation or a City Ordinance. Mr. Kerrigan said that he received an email from him that basically said it could be handled either way. He would have to do more research. This item will REMAIN on the Agenda as more work is needed.

Chief Giorgi asked if anyone had any further issues they would like to discuss? None noted.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 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 January 17, 2024, including meeting agenda.

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, November 29, 2024.

-Email from Elyse Heise to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/5/23, Re: URGENT – Delay Removal of NORTHERN Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton and Auburn Street.

-Email from Councilor Dumais to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/14/23, re: Crosswalk Corner of Devens St. and Washington St. – original email from Slava, dated 11/11/23, including (including photo).

-Email from Tom DiPersio to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/22/23, re: Traffic Commission Item (discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

**Additional Handouts or Displayed on Screen at Meeting**

-Diagram of proposed work on Weed Street

**Karen Lambert**

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**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 2:06 PM  
**To:** David Giorgi  
**Subject:** Re: Constituent Inquiry From Councilor Preciado: Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

Thank you.  
 KB

On Jan 20, 2024, at 9:15 AM, David Giorgi wrote:

Good Morning,

I can touch base with the DPW and Engineering, and if needed, we can bring it to the Traffic Commission to discuss closing the road during a storm.

Thank you,  
 David

**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:17 PM  
**To:** David Giorgi  
**Cc:** Karen Boule  
**Subject:** FW: Constituent Inquiry From Councilor Preciado: Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

Chief:  
 See email string below and inquiry from Ward 3 Councilor Preciado.  
 Is the suggestion of closing the road something the Traffic Commission could consider.  
 If so, would you advise and add to a future agenda.  
 Thanks.  
 KB

**From:** Robert Preciado  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:41 AM  
**To:** Pamela Wilderman >; City Council  
 ; Theodore Scott ; Thomas DiPersio

**Cc:** Karen Boule  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Inquiry From Councilor Preciado: Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

Could the road be closed off during storms or during the winter parking ban? The resident expressed more concern over the possibility of a vehicle losing control down the hill than the water damage it is causing their property. I am not confident that the drainage situation will be remedied quickly, but if the road is made inaccessible it could have a greater effect immediately. Currently, it does not seem as though that road needs to be used except as a cut through.

Robert Preciado

Ward 3 City Councilor  
Marlborough, MA

**From:** Pamela Wilderman >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:09 PM  
**To:** City Council Theodore Scott  
 Thomas DiPersio  
**Cc:** Robert Preciado Karen Boule  
**Subject:** RE: Constituent Inquiry From Councilor Preciado: Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

This office could certainly cite the church for this issue as we've cited others creating the same problem. If this is simply run-off from the hill I'm not sure really that anything can be done but I will defer to the engineers. I do know that there are a couple of water spigots on site and am wondering if those have failed.

Pamela A. Wilderman  
 Chief Code Enforcement Officer  
 City of Marlborough  
 140 Main Street  
 Marlborough, MA 01752  
 508 460-3776 X30201

**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:02 PM  
**To:** Theodore Scott ; Thomas DiPersio  
 ; Pamela Wilderman  
**Cc:** Robert Preciado Karen Boule  
**Subject:** Constituent Inquiry From Councilor Preciado: Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

To All:  
 Can the church be cited for any violation as a result of the complaint filed by West Street resident with Councilor Preciado.  
 Thank you.

*Karen A. Boule, Secretary*  
 Marlborough City Council  
 City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Marlborough, MA 01752  
 508-460-3711

**From:** Robert Preciado  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 2:56 PM  
**To:** Karen Boule  
**Subject:** Icy road conditions - 38 West St.

Good afternoon Karen,

I had a resident email me yesterday expressing concern over the dangerous conditions of a particular section of West st. that cuts through The Immaculate Conception Cemetery. The resident at 38 West st mentioned the runoff from the cemetery as well as poor drainage has caused the road to ice over and become dangerous to drive on. Even the city's sander trucks have gotten stuck on this hill. The street is at a fairly steep incline, so this adds to the problem they are facing. They are worried about the potential of a car crashing into someone's home as they come down the hill. In addition to this concern, they have mentioned that they have had basement flooding issues caused by the runoff. They mention they have reached out to the DPW about the situation with no response. I personally visited the street and the drainage situation is very poor. I have attached pictures of the site taken by me. You will see they had personally attempted to direct the flow into the drains using sandbags. Since the IC cemetery is private I am not sure which departments would be in charge of this.

Robert Preciado  
Ward 3 City Councilor  
Marlborough, MA



**Karen Lambert**

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**From:** Ana Paula  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 1:18 PM  
**To:** Karen Lambert  
**Subject:** Re: Request to be put on the Agenda  
**Attachments:** Video.mov

Hi Karen:)

Thank you so much for getting back to us. My husband and I will attend the meeting and possibly one of our neighbors will come along if that's ok .

I will attached to this email a video from last Sunday when our friends were exiting our driveway , the reason I have this video is because they live in Maine , and we hadn't seen them in a While, so was taking pictures and recording it as they were leaving , so I have the exact moment when they almost got hit .

Thank you Again :)

Ana Paula Hentz  


Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 14, 2024, at 2:38 PM, Karen Lambert wrote:

Hi Ana –

Just letting you know that I did speak with Chief Giorgi, and we will be adding this to the Traffic Commission Agenda for the meeting on 2/28/24. You are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of City Hall in Memorial Hall at 10:00 am. If you are unable to attend, the meeting will also be recorded and posted to the City Marlborough's website.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Regards,

Karen L. Lambert  
Public Safety Administrative Assistant  
**Marlborough Police Department**  
Phone: 508-485-1212  
Fax: 508-624-6949

**From:** Karen Lambert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:20 PM

**To:** Ana Hentz  
**Cc:** David Giorgi  
**Subject:** RE: Request to be put on the Agenda

Good Afternoon Ana –

Thank you for reaching out. I just wanted to let you know that I did receive this email and am forwarding it to Chief Giorgi. I do understand your concerns. The next Traffic Commission Meeting is on Wednesday 2/28/24 at 10:00 am on the third floor of City Hall. We receive many requests for speed bumps and the City has not agreed to them for many reasons, however, perhaps the Traffic Commission could come up with other suggestions that would be helpful.

Regards,

Karen L. Lambert  
 Public Safety Administrative Assistant  
 Marlborough Police Department  
 Phone: 508-485-1212  
 Fax: 508-624-6949

**From:** Ana Hentz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** Karen Lambert  
**Subject:** Request to be put on the Agenda

Good Afternoon Mrs. Karen,

My name is Ana Paula Hentz and we live on 775 Pleasant st.in Marlborough, we would like to put in a request to be part of the agenda for the Traffic Commission meeting.

Reason for this request is that we have a blind spot driveway, we moved to this address on June 24/2023 we had no idea how dangerous our driveway is, when we drive out of our driveway we cannot see cars that are coming from the left side of the road, its a curve and the cars come flying down the road, the dangerous part is the cars have no idea that there is a driveway there either, there is a old sign attached to a tree that says " Hidden Driveway" but no one can see that sign , first, its too small and outdated ( il think it was put there by the previous owners) second its covered by branches from the trees.

Before we moved a driver had crashed the house's mail box right at the curve . On July last year we had friends over for a barbecue, they parked in front of our house on the legal limits for parking and a car that was coming very fast on Pleasant st. Hit their car and total the car. we put a mirror on the other side of the street but even with the mirror its very hard to see the cars flying down the road .

There were two incidents when i was leaving the house in the morning taking the kids to school where i almost got hit by a car, once i couldn't see the car because the sun was glaring into the mirror, so i waited looked carefully and the minute i took off a car appeared from nowhere and almost hit me. The other incident was this past Sunday when we had friends leaving the house, they almost got hit by a car also, than we decided to take action and see what can be done about this dangerous driveway before something happens. Our 7 year old son is autistic and at our old house he ran away twice, we did all measures to prevent this from happening again, but if this bolting would happen at our house now it could be a tragedy if he would run into the road.

we would like to put in a request for a speed bump to prevent any further accidents, also for the safety of our family, our children and for the safety of the drivers from pleasant st.  
 Thank You Very Much Mrs. Karen.

**Karen Lambert**

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**From:** Jeremy McManus  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 11:51 AM  
**To:** David Giorgi  
**Subject:** FW: Traffic Commission Question

Jeremy P. McManus  
 Assistant City Solicitor  
 City of Marlborough  
 City Hall, 4th Floor  
 140 Main Street  
 Marlborough, MA 01752  
 T: (508) 460-3771  
 F: (508) 460-3698

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**From:** Jeremy McManus  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 2:40 PM  
**To:** Steven Kerrigan  
**Cc:** Wilson Chu ; Jason Grossfield  
**Subject:** RE: Traffic Commission Question

Hi Steve,

In response to this question below, I offer the following to the Traffic Commission:

The Traffic Commission was created by a special act of the state legislature, Chapter 55 of the Acts of 1989 ("Chapter 55"). According to Chapter 55, Section 2, "The commission shall have exclusive authority, except as otherwise herein provided, to adopt, amend, alter and repeal rules and regulations...relative to pedestrian traffic and to vehicular street traffic in the city..." (emphasis added). In my opinion, this grant of exclusive authority means that all such traffic rules and regulations must originate with the Traffic Commission. Currently, Section 586-3 of the Traffic Commission Rules and Regulations of the City of Marlborough ("Traffic Rules and Regulations") provides that "[i]t shall be the duty of the Police Department of the City to enforce the provisions" of the Traffic Rules and Regulations. Additional information about the specific proposal to regulate commercial vehicles in certain City neighborhoods, including which individuals would be designated for enforcement power beyond the Police Department, would need to be known prior to opining on whether the proposal must be adopted as a traffic rule/regulation.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Best,  
Jeremy

Jeremy P. McManus  
Assistant City Solicitor  
City of Marlborough  
City Hall, 4th Floor  
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**From:** Steven Kerrigan  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** Jason Grossfield ; Jeremy McManus  
**Cc:** Wilson Chu  
**Subject:** Traffic Commission Question

Good Afternoon Legal Team,

A question came up at the Traffic Commission yesterday regarding enforcement of an Ordinance over a Traffic Regulation. This is not a high priority, but I said I would check about who can write tickets. We are discussing if we should move forward with an Ordinance or a Traffic Regulation regarding the parking of commercial vehicles in some city neighborhoods. The question came up that if we do a Traffic Regulation would it only be the Police who could enforce it or can we designate other individual? I know if we go the Ordinance route there can be others as it is in the Code currently for certain sections/provisions.

Can you let me know what the difference would be, and if you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,  
Steve

**STEVEN W. KERRIGAN**  
**CITY CLERK**  
**COMMISSIONER TO QUALIFY**  
**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**

**MARLBOROUGH CITY HALL**  
**140 MAIN STREET**  
**MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752**