

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 3rd Floor City Hall – Memorial Hall

Agenda Items to be addressed:

1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- a) Review draft from 2/28/24

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) AMSA school zone on Forest Street
- b) No parking signs on Bond Street
- c) Speed signs on Lincoln Street.

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Crescent Street Parking Issues
- b) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues
- c) Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.
- d) Concerns regarding icy road conditions – 38 West Street
- e) Speen concerns/traffic safety issue at 775 Pleasant Street

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 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.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, 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 a 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 Connors 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.

Karen Lambert

From: Mayor Christian Dumais
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:20 AM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: RE: AMSA

Thank you!

J. Christian Dumais
Mayor
City of Marlborough
140 Main Street

U: (508) 460-3770

From: David Giorgi
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Mayor Christian Dumais
Cc: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: RE: AMSA

Mark Vital
Ashley Miller

Good Morning Mr. Mayor,

I can add this request to the agenda for the February Traffic Commission meeting on Wednesday February 29th at 10:00am. I will also forward this to the Engineering Department so that they may take a look at it beforehand.

Thank you,
D. Giorgi

From: Mayor Christian Dumais
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:38 PM
To: David Giorgi ; Mark Vital
Subject: AMSA

Hello Chief,

I have met with Councilor Vital and he brought up a question about AMSA.

Is that part of Forest Street not indicated as a school zone?
If not, can this be explored by the traffic commission?

Councilor Vital is included on this email.

Thank you,
-C

J. Christian Dumais
Mayor

Karen Lambert

From: Ashley Miller
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:19 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: AMSA School Zone
Attachments: AMSA Letter - School Zone - 2011.pdf; Traffic Commission Minutes (Pages) - October 25, 2011.pdf; AMSA Scool Zone.pdf

Hi Chief,

At the City Clerk's office I was able to find a letter from AMSA requesting Forest Street be designated as a school zone and saying they would open to assuming the cost of the illuminated signs. I have also included pages from the October 25, 2011 minutes where the school zone language (amended from the meeting the month before) was voted on and approved.

Thank you,

Ashley Miller, EIT
Assistant Civil Engineer
Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
P: 508.624.6910

From: Mark Vital
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:16 PM
To: David Giorgi ; Mayor Christian Dumais
Cc: Thomas DiPersio Ashley Miller
Subject: Re: AMSA

Thank you, Chief. See you then.

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From: David Giorgi
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:57:16 AM
To: Mayor Christian Dumais ; Mark Vital
Cc: Thomas DiPersio Ashley Miller
Subject: RE: AMSA

My apologies, the meeting is on Wednesday February 28th at 10:00am.

David

From: David Giorgi
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Mayor Christian Dumais ; Mark Vital

Cc: Thomas DiPersio ; Ashley Miller
Subject: RE: AMSA

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Councilor Vital is included on this email.

Thank you,
-C

J. Christian Dumais
Mayor
City of Marlborough
140 Main Street
O: (508) 460-3770



Mark F. Leonard
Chief of Police
355 Bolton Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

February 16, 2011

Dear Chief Leonard,

Please be advised that I respectfully request the Traffic Committee's consideration that Forest Street at the Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School (AMSA) be a designated school zone. Further, AMSA would like to work with the City of Marlborough to determine what is deemed allowable by ordinance or statute for two illuminated "slow/school is open" signs on Forest Street.

The school traffic at AMSA is significant each day both morning and afternoon, coupled with routine commercial and ordinary passenger vehicles. Safety I am sure you will agree is paramount. The Police Department has been very responsive with random radar patrols to address speeding. On behalf of all concerned, we are very grateful.

In regard to this request, AMSA would certainly be open to assuming the cost to purchase said illuminated signs. I look forward to presenting this request before the Parking Committee. Please advise AMSA when we may appear before the committee.

Thank you in advance,

~~Ann Richards~~
Director of Operations
Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School
(508) 597-2416
A.Richards@amsacs.org

again that many drivers on this road are from out of town and out of state. Many truly do not know the speed in the area.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Tom Cullen to look into quotes so that a formal request for capital funding can be made.

Return to: 2 - New Business – Pam Wilderman now in attendance.

2b. Communication from Pam Wilderman, re: Truck traffic on Florence Street.

Pam explained that she has received complaints about large tractor trailer trucks sneaking through this area. She had received complaints in the past regarding trucks making deliveries to Walgreens, however, that issue has been resolved. Chief Leonard asked if we determined who owns these trucks. Pam said that the resident did not say. Chief Leonard asked if we could get the name of the trucking company. If it is a repeat offender we can contact the company and have them speak to the driver. This would solve the problem. We will need some help from residents in order to resolve this issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Pam Wilderman to obtain more information from residents. If the Traffic Commission knows the name on the truck, they can deal with this issue on a specific basis.

Return to 2a – Belmont Street Parking (Pam Wilderman missed earlier discussion and wanted to comment.)

Pam Wilderman said that some of the issues here will be going away as 22 Belmont is in the process of being sold. This is a single family home that had an illegal apartment in the basement. A short sale is currently underway. Chief Leonard explained to Pam the plan of restricting parking to the North side of Belmont Street. Pam commented that there are 2 or 3 properties on the South side that are allowed to have separate dwellings on their property. The City has it zoned as multi-house not multi-family. All agreed that there will be less of a problem in the winter.

Return to: 3 – Old Business

3e. Communication from Ann Richards, AMSA Charter School, re: School zone on Forest Street

Chief Leonard revised the wording on the amended regulation as per the specifications provided by Tim Collins.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to approve the amended regulation for the school zone.

3g. Communication from Councilor Clancy, re: Clinton St. speed issues.

Tom Cullen presented a series of four photographs taken as traveling northerly on Clinton Street along with a detailed map showing the "Proposed Alignment of Signage along Clinton Street". He explained that they would like to remove the existing



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

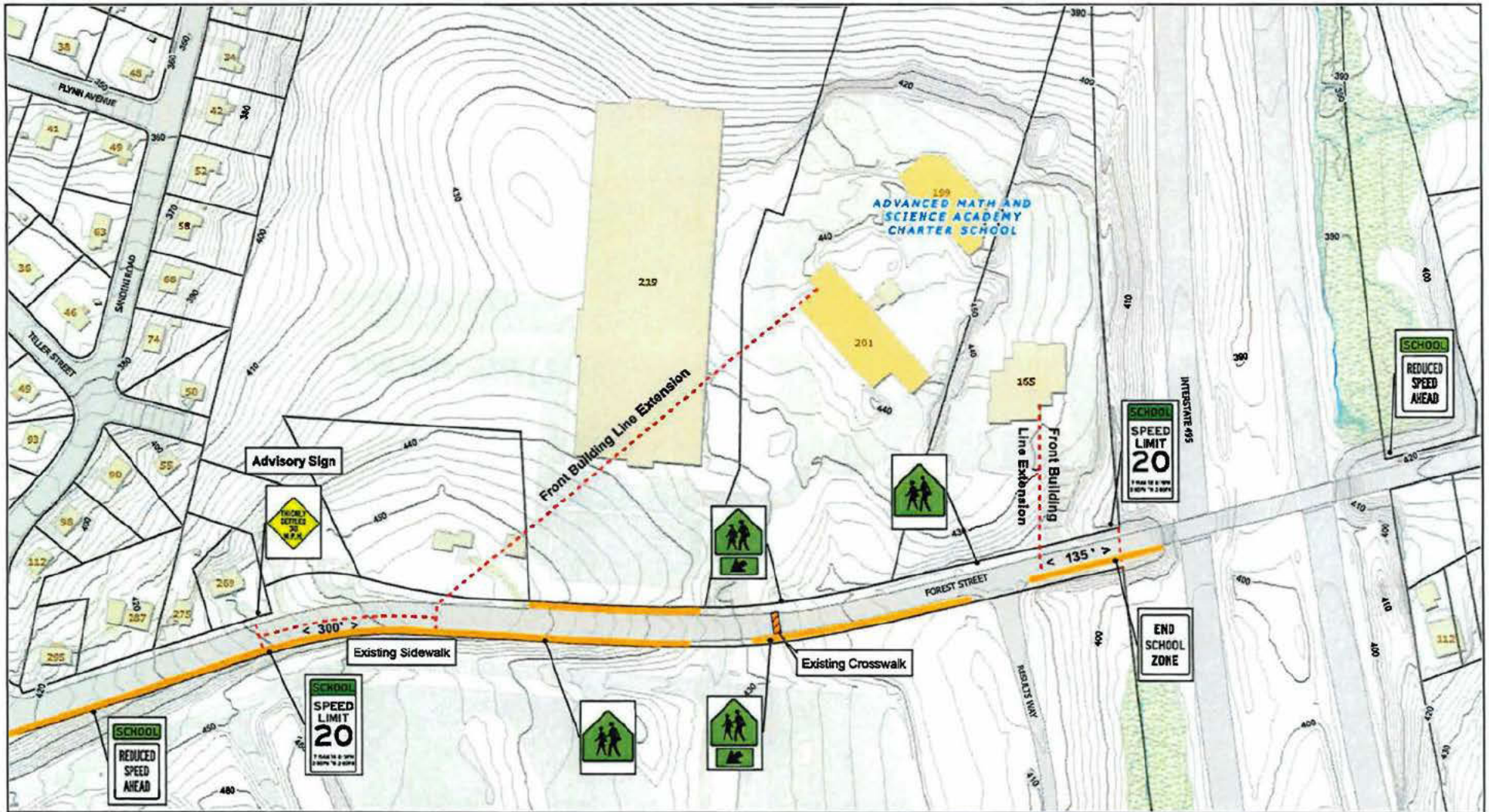
A regulation to amend the Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission of the City of Marlborough, as amended, thereof entitled VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, Article VII, Section 58.1, Schedule XIV A: "SCHOOL ZONES".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARLBOROUGH AS FOLLOWS:

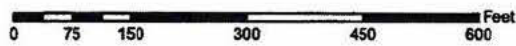
s. 58.1 of the Rules and Regulations of the Traffic Commission is hereby amended by ADDING to said schedule the following:

A Safe School Zone Speed Limit restriction of 20MPH between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30P.M. at the following locations:

<u>STREET</u>	<u>DIRECTION</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>
Forest Street	Both	Beginning at the western edge of the highway layout of Interstate 495 and Forest St., and continuing westerly for a distance of 1,460 feet.



Proposed AMSA School Zone



1 inch = 150 feet



Karen Lambert

From: Andrew Larose
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:27 AM
To: Ashley Miller; Thomas DiPersio
Cc: David Giorgi
Subject: Bond Street no parking

Good morning again,

Officer Connors advised me that a resident came in questioning if the no parking signs on Bond Street were required.

Ashley checked and could not locate a no parking regulation. I just went and there are several no parking signs on both sides of the street. Could we add this to the next meeting to discuss whether the signs are needed or can be removed?

Thank you,
Officer Andrew LaRose
Traffic Services Division
Marlborough Police
355 Bolton Street
Marlborough, Ma. 01752
508-485-1212

Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Leadership Council and Liaison

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Karen Lambert

From: Trey Fuccillo
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 10:32 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: City Council
Subject: Re: Constituent Inquiry - Lincoln Street Speed Signs

Good morning, Chief Giorgi,

I am following-up, upon the request about the possibility of implementing Section 17C of Chapter 90 on the portion of Lincoln Street in question. From my understanding, this request must first be reviewed by Engineering to ensure Lincoln Street conforms to the M.G.L. definition of a "thickly settled area"? If it does, how should we move forward with this matter?

As passed by the Public Safety Committee in 2017, the process is a case-by-case basis.

Thank you for your assistance with this!

Take care,
Trey

Albert Trey Fuccillo
Ward Six City Councilor | City of Marlborough
Cell: (774) 249-6640

From: Trey Fuccillo
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 10:16 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: City Council ; Karen Lambert
Subject: Re: Constituent Inquiry - Lincoln Street Speed Signs

Good morning, Chief Giorgi,

I really appreciate you taking the time to send me this information. This will be helpful going forward with any resident concerns I receive from the Lincoln Street area. I will relay that her inquiries have been taken up with the proper departments.

Thank you for sending along the change to C.90 S.17C. It has been nice getting more acquainted with the City Code and I appreciate your willingness to find and send this information.

If I can ever be of help in this situation, please do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy the rest of your weekend!

Take care,
Trey

Albert Trey Fuccillo

Ward Six City Councilor | City of Marlborough
Cell: (774) 249-6640

From: David Giorgi
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:36 AM
To: Trey Fuccillo
Cc: City Council ; Karen Lambert
Subject: RE: Constituent Inquiry - Lincoln Street Speed Signs

Good Morning Councilor Fuccillo,

My apologies for my late response. I hope that you're transitioning to your new position on the Council and, from my own experience, I know that you have several veteran Councilors who are very knowledgeable and can help you, while Ms. Boule can answer most questions off the top of her head!

You did inherit a bit of a hornet's nest with respect to the requests from Lincoln St. I have personally spoken with her residence and our Traffic officers/supervisor have spoken with her as well. We have put our electronic speed signs near her residence on several occasions and we have shared the data reports with her and Councilor Navin. As you may know, over the last few years, Donna B. has made several requests including: placing speed bumps on Lincoln St. between East Main St. and Bolton St., making Lincoln St. a one-way street, making Lincoln St. for Residents Only, has asked that the electronic speeds be placed permanently near her residence, and recently has requested that crosswalks be installed on Lincoln St. between East Main St. and Bolton St. The Traffic Commission has discussed these requests and have not taken action to implement these changes based upon the data received from the speed signs, as well as engineering decision made through the DPW.

With respect to lowering the speed limit, we have discussed adding more "30 MPH Thickly Settled" signs in that area, but I'm not sure that adding more signage will have the effect she is looking for. As a note, several years ago, the City did accept a change to C.90 S.17C which allow the City to reduce speed limits to 25mph on designated streets on a case-by-case basis. I have attached a copy of the orders for your review.

The Traffic Commission also discussed her request for crosswalks on Lincoln St. and this was referred to the Engineering Dept. I do not believe that specific locations were requested, but as a traffic calming measures, I don't think that installing crosswalks would be effective.

I hope this information helps and feel free to call me or stop by and we can discuss these or any other issues.

Have a nice weekend.

David

From: Trey Fuccillo
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:59 PM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: City Council ; Karen Lambert
Subject: RE: Constituent Inquiry - Lincoln Street Speed Signs

Good evening, Chief Giorgi,

I know we had the pleasure of chatting briefly on Inauguration Day, but I wanted to take a moment to reintroduce myself. My name is Albert "Trey" Fuccillo, the new Ward Six Councilor. During the transition into

office, Councilor Navin informed me of some constituent concerns on Lincoln Street regarding speeding. Since taking office, Lincoln Street resident, _____ has reached out to me on multiple occasions to discuss in detail the status of Lincoln Street. I understand you have also been in conversation with her and I am hoping to learn more from your perspective about the present situation.

From my understanding, a speed study was done some time ago. From those results, _____ there was a temporary "flashing speed sign" placed on Lincoln Street. She was wondering if another temporary sign could be placed there in the future. Is this kind of request feasible?

_____ also wanted to follow up in regards to a possible conversation about implementing crosswalks on the road. I was unclear where she was referencing as there are already several crosswalks at the set of lights between Bolton and Lincoln and at East Main, Stevens and Lincoln.

Lastly, I understand that speed limit reductions are beyond the control of municipalities and reserved to MassDOT. From your understanding, would it be appropriate to lower the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on Lincoln Street, and if so, how would we initiate this kind of process?

I apologize if these requests are at all redundant. _____ I have been in conversation over the last two weeks and she was very hopeful for some kind of clarification on these matters. Thank you for taking the time and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Take care,
Trey

Albert Trey Fuccillo
Ward Six City Councilor | City of Marlborough
Cell: (774) 249-6640