

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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Meeting Name: Traffic Commission _____

Date: May 2, 2023 _____

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 3-29-23

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request for speed limit signs on Hager Street
- b) Traffic light concern at the Simarano Drive/Forest Street intersection
- c) Review of unwarranted stop sign locations

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Request for a crosswalk on Elm Street/Broad Street Area
- b) TT parking issues on Northboro Road

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 Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 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, Fire Chief Kevin Breen, Commissioner of Public Works Sean Divoll and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant Civil Engineer Ashley Miller, Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit and Paul Chamberlain, Senior Intern with the Engineering Dept.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

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

2 - New Business

2a) Review of the Traffic Regulations Dashboard

Ashley Miller asked to add this agenda item and to discuss, at some point, regulations that were found to be outdated or written incorrectly in the existing regulations. She

included a link to the dashboard that was created by their Senior Intern, Paul Chamberlain. The dashboard is an electronic version of all regulations shown on interactive maps. This dashboard can be used during Traffic Commission meetings to easily refer to existing regulations instead of looking things up in the General Code. Lines on the maps are color coded to pertain to regulations and the maps include pictures of signage. If you click on one of the lines you can see the regulation and a link to the General Code. It is now easy to see where there are conflicting or duplicate regulations when they are viewed on a map. The public will also have access to this dashboard; however, Engineering hasn't decided exactly where it will be available, but it will be linked to several spots. It will be password protected when it is being edited.

Officer Larose pulled up the dashboard on the large screen for reference. You can clearly see things like stop signs, required turns, prohibited U-turns etc. If a sign is in the regulations, it will appear on the dashboard. Ashley explained that it will be another tool to assist the Traffic Commission. It also shows where regulations should not actually be in place. For example, at 240 Main Street there is a regulation in place where the actual building is now. The maps make it easy to see regulations that need to be repealed as you can now see any discrepancies between the graphic and the actual regulation. It took Mr. Chamberlain over 100 hours to create this dashboard. All traffic regulations are now shown geographically. Ashley advised that she would like to find a way to add notes for other City Codes.

Commissioner Divoll asked what would supersede if there was a discrepancy between the dashboard and the actual regulations. The regulations would, however, any wording or clarification can be added. You can also see an aerial photo view which is helpful. Tom DiPersio said that he would like to see this dashboard linked to the Traffic Commission Website and the DPW. All agreed that this will be a great tool.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

2b) TT parking issues on Northboro Road

Officer Larose sent an email to Chief Giorgi on this issue. The PD has been getting calls about "tractor trailer trucks being parked for days on end behind McDonalds". It's on Northboro Road where there is a cut-out area. There is a sign that says trailer truck parking only, but there is no time limit. In his email, he states that he has no issue with a truck parking there to grab lunch etc. but it shouldn't be used as someone's personal parking space. He would like to discuss a regulation to restrict the amount of time a vehicle can be parked here, for example, 1 hour or 2 hours.

Ashley Miller checked the regulations and confirmed that there aren't any parking restrictions here. All agreed that it wasn't meant to be used for long term parking. Chief Giorgi asked if we could just add a sign. Steve Kerrigan said that it would need to be regulated in order to be enforceable. There is no specific section of the Regulations for Tractor Trailer Parking. It was suggested that this location be added to the "Time Limit Parking" section.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to draft the wording for the regulation.

Commissioner Divoll asked to discuss an item not on the agenda.

Unwarranted Stop Signs – Commissioner Divoll has noticed several stop signs that do not appear to meet the required warrants. He mentioned two on Clinton Street, one at Auburn Street and one at Old Charter Road. He also noted one at Clover Hill Street and Beach Street. He would like to have Engineering review these locations also, like they did on Bigelow Street. Steve Kerrigan that this should be added as a new business item on the agenda for next month, but we can refer it to Engineering now to start to look into it.

3-Old Business

3a) Request for a crosswalk on Elm Street/Broad Street Area.

Update: Chief Giorgi advised that he reached out to Councilor Irish again but does not have any update at this time. TABLE for next meeting.

3c) Request to make Winter Avenue a one-way street.

Update: Tom DiPersio advised that he talked to the Legal Department and was told that the City has no authority to do this on a private way.

3b) Accident concerns in the area of Winter Street/Winter Street Ext./Lincoln St.

Update: The initial request was for no left turn out of Winter Street onto Lincoln Street. Officer Larose noted that we don't want to encourage people to take a left onto Rte 20. Also, there is no left turn onto Rte. 20 allowed during rush hour. It was also agreed that it is difficult to take a right out of Winter Ave. Officer Larose also noted that the accidents usually occurred coming down the hill on Lincoln Street. Steve Kerrigan asked if we could restrict the turn at the end of Winter Ave. Tom DiPersio said that he thinks we probably could because the sign would be on Lincoln Street, which is a public way. Officer Larose pulled up a photo for reference. It was noted that the sight distance is limited but if you can't turn right you would have to go left or straight across to Winter Street, which could be even more dangerous. Chief Giorgi said that we could also leave it as is. He reiterated that 6 of the accidents were due to winter weather conditions. Commissioner Divoll also noted that the DPW puts cones up across Lincoln Street and Broad Street when they are plowing. They allow local traffic only so they can clear the snow.

Engineering pointed out that they did change the sign on Elm Street a while ago to make it more apparent that trucks are not allowed on Winter Street. Chief Giorgi's opinion is to leave it alone as the statistics don't support adding any additional signage. All were in agreement.

Councilor Robey asked to discuss an item not on the agenda.

Municipal Parking lot on Bolton Street

Chief Giorgi received an email from Katie Robey about this issue after the meeting agenda was posted. He brought a copy of her email and passed it out to the group. She

was asking about the regulation for No Parking from 2:00 am to 5:00 am in this lot. It was discussed at the 3/21/21 meeting and it was unclear if the regulation was ever voted on and advertised.

Chief Giorgi looked into it and advised that Councilor Robey appears to be correct. He said that the minutes indicate that the issue was tabled because of a discussion about the electric charging station. He did find a draft copy of the regulation which he also passed out. Steve Kerrigan had gone to the lot and taken a picture of the sign that says, "No Parking 2:00 am to 5:00 am Tow Zone". The sign was installed but the regulation was never added or advertised. The intention of the Traffic Commission was clear at the time and the missing regulation appears to be an oversight. All agreed to approve the regulation, as amended, to add the overnight parking restriction to this lot. It will be advertised and added to the Code.

It was asked if someone could park in the charging station between 2:00 am and 5:00 am if they were charging their car. Yes, this would be acceptable if the vehicle was being charged but it would need to be removed for a snow emergency so the lot could be plowed. Tom DiPersio confirmed that use of the electric charging station does not supersede the winter parking ban.

Officer Larose also added that the charging station on Rawlins Avenue was hit the other day. He realized that this location also needs to be added to the schedule of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. All in favor of adding this location.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 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 the Traffic Commission Meeting on March 29, 2023, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, February 22, 2023.
- Email from Ashley Miller to Chief Giorgi, dated 3/15/23, re: TC Agenda Item – Traffic Regulations Dashboard.
- Email from Officer Larose to Chief Giorgi, dated 3/20/23, re: TT parking on Northboro Road.

Additional Handouts

-Email from Councilor Robey to the City Council, dated 3/23/23, re: Traffic Commission vote on Municipal Lots – including copy of minutes discussion, photo of no parking sign and Chief's response with draft copy of regulation.



Speed limit signage for Hager Street

1 message

Peter Welsh

To: policedept@marlborough-ma.gov

Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 6:42 PM

My wife and I recently moved to 47 Hager Street. While we were aware Hager is a popular cut-through street the rate of speed of some private and commercial vehicles is at times alarming on this poorly paved section of roadway. We were also surprised to find there were no speed limit signs of 25 MPH as there are on the Framingham section of the cut-through. I have learned that Marlborough can permit speed limit signage where necessary. For uniformity's sake, may I suggest 25 MPH?

Accordingly, I respectfully request this topic be added to the agenda of the next Traffic Committee meeting. I am available to answer questions if necessary.

Sincerely, Peter B. Welsh

Karen Lambert

From: Melanson, Matthew
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 9:30 AM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Traffic Light Concern Simarano Dr/Forest St Intersection

Hello,

My name's Matthew Melanson. I live in Nashua, NH, but I work for DuPont at 455 Forest St and commute to work Monday – Friday. I take the Simarano Dr exit on 495 and turn left onto Forest St. I have noticed an issue for probably a couple years now but haven't taken action until my coworker was retelling an accident that just occurred at that intersection. The traffic defaults to Forest St meaning that if the sensors on Ames/Simarano don't sense any cars, the traffic lights for Ames/Simarano immediately turn to yellow. It will do this even if there are no cars waiting on Forest St. To make matters worse, the yellow light isn't very long, and I believe that's a safety concern, especially for the cars coming down steep Simarano Drive. In my eight years of commuting to work, it's obvious there is much more traffic on Ames/Simarano than crossing on Forest St.

One issue I've noticed is that if there is a line of cars traveling North on Simarano, and a car in the middle of the pack turns left onto Campus Dr, it causes the cars behind it to use typical caution and slow down which creates just enough of a gap in cars to trigger the yellow light at the intersection. This either causes people to come to a hard stop or speed up to "make the yellow light", often in frustration. One other issue I've noticed is people turning left on red lights because they enter the intersection, waiting to turn, and the light turns red before they have the opportunity to turn.

An accident occurred this morning when a car turning left from Simarano onto Forest was hit head on by a car trying to make the quick yellow light coming from Ames St. I can't know for sure what peoples' thought processes are, but I'd imagine the person turning left probably thought the person coming straight from Ames would stop since the light had turned yellow. The person on Ames may not have seen the car sitting in the intersection since Ames is an incline, and may have been trying to rush to get through that quick-trigger yellow light.

I think the traffic light needs to default to green for Ames/Simarano and turn green for Forest St when it senses cars are sitting to turn left or go straight AND there are no cars on Ames/Simarano sensed for a few seconds. This would greatly enhance the flow of traffic, be safer for all drivers, and reduce unnecessary braking and wasted time.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,
Matthew

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