

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Virtual Meeting

2020 SEP 25 P 5:10

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, September 30, 2020.

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: 641 864 508#

1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- a) Review draft from 8-26-20

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request for a Speed Limit Sign on Church Street in the area of Hildreth Street

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Brigham Street Concerns.
- b) Signage on Lincoln Street regarding Truck Traffic.
- c) Request for Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street.
- d) Speed and Parking Issues on Church Street.
- e) Parking Issues in front of Pleasant Court Condos.
- f) Truck Traffic Concerns on South 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 as a **virtual meeting** on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10:00 am. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, Fire Chief Kevin Breen, Assistant Commissioner of Operations for the DPW Theodore Scott and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor David Doucette. Also present: local resident – Alice Wertheimer.

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

City Clerk Steve Kerrigan started recording the meeting at 10:05 am and Chief Giorgi began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

Alice Wertheimer asked if she could speak first on a clarification regarding the minutes from the last meeting and the Lakeside Ave. parking issue. She was questioning the signage. The minutes state that all signs have been installed, however, they were expecting to see more No Parking signs along the street. Tim Collins advised that he misspoke at the last meeting and there are actually five more signs being installed.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, 7-29-20.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business –

2a) Speed and Parking Issues on Church Street.

Councilor Doucette sent an email to Chief Giorgi on this issue as he has received complaints from residents. One complaint was regarding a combination of blind spots and curbside parking, specifically between Greenwood and Greendale. It can be difficult to pass a parked car when traffic is coming from the opposite direction. He asked if it would be possible to restrict parking to one side. He has also received complaints about speed and is asking if the mobile speed trailer can be placed here. He also asked about the possibility of another stop sign at a Church Street intersection to slow traffic. Delivery trucks seem to be the most common speed violators.

Mr. Collins reiterated that stop signs are not meant to slow traffic. They are used to provide gaps in traffic for traffic to flow. Chief Giorgi asked if Officer Larose has had the speed signs out here. Officer Larose said that he actually just had the signs out at Church St. @ Greenwood, NB from 8/4/20 to 8/10/20 and at Church St. @ Greenwood, SB from 8/11/20 to 8/15/20. He pulled up a copy of the speed study and reviewed the results. He found that NB, the average speed was 23.87 (speed limit is 25) and the 85th percentile was traveling at 27.95. The average volume per day was 481.1. Traveling SB, the average speed was 23.75 (speed limit is 25) and the 85th percentile was traveling at 28.16. The average volume per day was 934.8.

Councilor Doucette asked if there was a way to see the details of the upper 5% of drivers. He said that the upper 5% would help to understand how fast cars were traveling and how many were going this speed. All the numbers look good but it's this upper 5% that he is concerned about. Officer Larose pulled up another page with more detail that breaks down the info to speeds and volume per hour. The final two pages show a "Compliance and Risk Report". This gives information on the number of cars traveling per hour and how many were compliant with the speed limit and how many were at "low risk", "medium risk" (+10) and "high risk" (+15). A copy of the complete study is attached. Officer Larose will also forward a copy to Councilor Doucette.

Councilor Doucette asked if the sign could be placed on Greenwood. He had another complaint that people are bombing down Greenwood to the dead end. He asked if it could be placed near Midland so he could validate this claim.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Officer Larose to forward the speed study to Councilor Doucette and to move the speed sign to Greenwood when possible.

2b) Parking Issues in front of Pleasant Court Condos.

Chief Giorgi said that Officer Larose has been constantly dealing with parking issues in the area of 139-155 Pleasant Street (Pleasant Court Condos). Officer Larose mentioned one vehicle in particular that has been issued parking violations on a regular basis. He believes that the area in front of the condos was originally set up as a fire lane to allow for immediate access to the building. Access to this area is limited, especially on weekends, when cars are lined up here. Officer Larose is asking if this area can be made an official fire lane and tow zone or at least a No Parking with Tow Zone area. He brought up a picture of the area for reference. The Traffic Commission made the area

around the turn onto Elm Street a No Parking area. The opposite side is also No Parking. He said that if we make the area in front of the condo a No Parking and Tow Zone, cars will just move further down the street to park. It was discussed that it seems to make sense to create the same restriction on both sides of the street.

Chief Giorgi asked Tim Collins what would be the easier thing to do here, a Fire Lane or No Parking with Tow Zone? Mr. Collins advised that there is no regulation needed for a Fire Lane and the Fire Department can just create it. However, since it is already a No Parking area, we can just add a small sign to the existing No Parking sign that says Tow Zone. Steve Kerrigan asked if this increases the fine. Officer Larose advised that the PD is not going to run down and tow everything right away. We just want to resolve a standing issue and creating a Tow Zone would do this.

The main issue seems to involve residents and guests. Fire Chief Breen said that he would suspect that elevating the severity of the penalty would dissuade people from parking here.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to provide the wording for the regulation to create a Tow Zone on both sides of the street.

2c) Truck Traffic Concerns on South Street.

Chief Giorgi was forwarded a complaint (forwarded by the Mayor's office) from Tom Constantino, a resident of South Street, regarding this issue. He said that 50 trucks a day are speeding and breaking all the way down the hill and that his home shakes with some of the large vehicles. He has called Police numerous times, but he knows they can't be there every day and he is looking for a permanent solution and asking for signage. The Chief also received an email (copy attached) from Councilor Dumais, who was unable to attend the meeting, regarding this same issue and asking for any insight or resolution. He is also a resident of South Street and can understand the complaints about noise and shaking as many houses are very close to the road.

Tim Collins advised that South Street is maintained by the City. There are no specific regulations or restrictions on this street. It is not considered a "cut through" when there are many commercial businesses here. It is a wide road that is zoned for commercial business. It seems that this may be more of a noise and Jake Brake issue. Mr. Collins pulled up several diagrams outlining noise thresholds and decibels. One was from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and shows a range of decibel levels with 30 being a whisper and 119 being a Pneumatic Precision Drill. The NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limit is 85 decibels. Another diagram portraying "How loud is too loud?" showed a range of 0 for silence to 140 for a jackhammer. It also showed a maximum safe exposure limit is 85 decibels and that excessive exposure to levels above that can cause headaches, nausea, and hearing damage. A truck with a properly functioning muffler at 50 ft. has a decibel level of 80-83.

Mr. Collins said that the real problems seems to be trucks without the proper muffler. The question is how to best address this? Some communities have regulations about the use of Jake Brakes in residential areas, however, trucks can use these brakes for emergency situations or safety. Other communities have used signage to limit engine braking. If the muffler is working correctly there shouldn't be an issue. Chief Giorgi

agrees that signs to this effect could be helpful, however, others would then request the same thing on streets like West Main Street or Williams Street. The City hasn't done anything to limit the use of Jake Brakes in the City at this point.

Steve Kerrigan asked how we can see the number of trucks actually traveling on South Street and the number of trucks per hour. It was discussed that the Traffic Commission was trying to determine a specific criterion i.e. a threshold, to work with on Stevens Street such as a certain number of trucks per hour. Tim Collins said that he thinks we would find a lot of trucks if a count were completed. The lower part of South Street is an industrial area. Trucks can't be excluded if more than 8% of the traffic in a 24-hour period is trucks. He thinks a count would exceed this number and prove what we already know. This is a truck route and there is a need for truck traffic on South Street.

Ted Scott asked if there was a need to get more information from residents as to specific time frames that are an issue and what trucks specifically may be causing the problem. Maybe then we can approach the owners or businesses and see if the trucks are properly equipped.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to Officer Larose to talk to Mr. Constantino about this and try to get more information and go from there.

2d) Parking Issues on Mill Street.

The parking issues on Mill Street were discussed as an additional agenda item at the last meeting. Officer Larose advised that he did speak to Molly Brodeur from Al Brodeur's Auto Body about this and explained that the whole road will be made into a Tow Zone.

Chief Giorgi had prepared two regulations for a vote. One regulation was to REPEAL the existing regulation for "No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime" on Mill Street – Central. The second regulation was to ADD Mill Street -Central to the Schedule for "Tow Away Zones."

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE both regulations to create the Tow Away Zone on Mill Street – Central. All in Favor.

Karen Lambert will send the two regulations to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

3-Old Business

3b) Traffic Issues on Stevens Street (Including Chandler & State Traffic).

Chief Giorgi prepared the regulation to ADD Stevens Street NB at Chandler Street and State Street to the Schedule of "Prohibited Left Turns" during the hours of 4 to 7pm.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE this regulation. All in favor.

Karen Lambert will send the regulation to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

3d) Issues Concerning Right Turn from Pleasant Street onto Berlin Road.

Chief Giorgi prepared the regulation to ADD Pleasant Street SB at the intersection of Berlin Rd. (in front of #2 Berlin Road) to the Schedule of "Prohibited Right Turns" at all hours.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE this regulation. All in favor.

Karen Lambert will send the regulation to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

3f) River Street Concerns.

Chief Giorgi prepared the regulation to ADD River Street, entire length in both directions, to the Schedule of "No Stopping, Standing or Parking".

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE this regulation. All in favor.

Karen Lambert will send the regulation to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

It was decided to wait until 9/8/20 to put up the signs so the local business would have more time to arrange for an alternate set up.

3c) Parking and Sidewalk Issue on Crescent Street.

Update: Proper signage has been installed.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE from the agenda.

3e) Signage on Lincoln Street regarding Truck Traffic.

Tim Collins said that he did send an email to his contact at MA Highway. It was determined at the last meeting that State approval was needed to make any changes to signage. The intersection in question is outside of the State Highway limits but the proposed sign directing commercial vehicles to the left turn lane would be in the State Layout.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until Mr. Collins receives a reply from the State.

Update on Stevens Street regarding possible truck exclusion.

Mr. Collins also advised that he does now have truck counts on Stevens Street @ State Street. In the 24-hour period from 8/13/20 to 8/14/20, he found there were 5,535 vehicles, of which 312 were commercial vehicles. This equals 5.6% for truck volume. He reiterated that the last time we applied for a Truck Exclusion (in 2010) for the portion of Stevens Street between East Main and Union it was denied because the State did not like the suggested detour route. He provided a diagram of the detour route that was

denied and a new proposed 2020 detour route which now includes Union Street. This portion of Stevens Street is difficult for trucks to maneuver and larger vehicles cross over the yellow line.

He will be preparing and submitting a new request for a Truck Exclusion to the State along with the new truck counts and the new proposed detour route. He believes this will be a more substantial request than what was previously submitted.

There appears to be a specific company out of Hudson that may be causing some of the truck issues here, i.e. Perkins Construction. It was suggested that City Engineer Tom DiPersio reach out to them on specific issues as the City does a lot of work with Perkins.

Chief Giorgi suggested that we try both options. We may actually have the data to support the truck exclusion now.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to submit a new request to the State for a Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street and to Tom DiPersio to discuss specific truck issues with Perkins.

Councilor Navin logged into the meeting at this time and was looking for an update on the agenda item 3b) Traffic Issues on Stevens Street (Including Chandler & State Traffic).

He was advised that the proposed regulation in the agenda packet was voted on and approved would be forwarded to the City Clerk for advertisement. The signs will go up shortly.

3a) Brigham Street Concerns.

Update: The truck count has not been completed. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 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, August 26, 2020 including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

-Email from Councilor Doucette to Chief Giorgi, dated 8/3/20, re: Complaints regarding Church Street Traffic.

-Email from Officer Larose, dated 8/7/20, re: Pleasant Court Condos

-Email from Trish Bernard, dated 8/7/20, re: South Street's Truck Traffic (request came from Tom Constantino – resident of South Street).

-Amended Regulation to **add** a section of Mill Street - Central to the Schedule of "Tow Away Zones".

-Amended Regulation to **repeal** the existing schedule for "No Stopping, Standing or Parking Anytime" on a section on Mill Street – Central.

-Amended Regulation to Stevens Street at Chandler St. and Stevens St. @ State Street to the schedule of "Prohibited Left Turns".

-Amended Regulation to add Pleasant Street at Berlin Road to the Schedule of "Prohibited Right Turns".

-Amended Regulation to add River Street to the Schedule of "No Stopping, Standing or Parking".

Additional Handouts

-Diagram of Detour Route rejected by MassDOT for Stevens St. Truck Exclusion.

-Diagram of 2020 Proposed Detour Route for Stevens St. Truck Exclusion.

-WB-50 Truck Turning Plan for Stevens Street.

-WB-40 Truck Turning Plan for Stevens Street.

-Summary of Vehicle Count (Class Data Analysis) – Stevens St. @ State St.

-Diagram of Sound Pressure Levels – Human Perception – for Engine Brake Sound Levels on South Street.

-Diagram of Noise Levels by Decibels from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

-Diagram showing "How loud is too loud? In decibels.

-Extended Speed Summary Report for Church St. @ Greenwood, NB.

-Extended Speed Summary Report for Church St. @ Greenwood, SB.

-Email from Councilor Dumais to Chief Giorgi, dated 8/26/20, re: Traffic Commission Agenda Packet – August 26, 2020 (Truck Traffic on South Street).

-Email from Tim Collins to Joseph Crowley, dated 7/31/20, re: East Main Street, sign request/permission (along with corresponding diagrams and photos)

Karen Lambert

From: Samantha Perlman
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:14 PM
To: Andrew Larose; David Giorgi
Cc: Zachary Attaway
Subject: Re: Follow up: Interactive Training and Church Street Traffic

Thank you both for your attention to this matter and for sharing the link with me. I agree that the new paving has added to the speeding in this area and that having another electronic sign in the area would be quite useful. Is it possible to have a permanent speed limit sign visible for those cutting through Hildreth Street going east on Church Street?

All my best,

Councilor Perlman

Samantha Perlman
City Councilor At-Large
City of Marlborough
sperlman@marlborough-ma.gov
508-263-0042

From: Andrew Larose
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 3:43 PM
To: David Giorgi Samantha Perlman <atlarge_1@marlborough-ma.gov>
Cc: Zachary Attaway
Subject: Re: Follow up: Interactive Training and Church Street Traffic

Councilor Perlman,

I have sent you a Onedrive link to all the 2020 Church Street reports. The folders labeled Greenwood are obviously the data near that intersection. The other two folders that are just labeled Church St were near the Hildreth Street intersection. The reports are labeled whether the traffic data was collected north or southbound. Any issues with the link let me know.

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

Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Liaison

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Secretary of State considers e-mail to be a public record, and therefore subject to public access under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66 S 10.

This e-mail may contain **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY** and/or **LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE** information. This E-mail, including any attachments, is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC 2510-2521. This communication is confidential and may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any retention, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. Please reply to the sender that you have received the message in error and then delete all copies of it from your computer system. Any use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.

From: David Giorgi
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Samantha Perlman <atlarge_1@marlborough-ma.gov>
Cc: Zachary Attaway Andrew Larose
Subject: RE: Follow up: Interactive Training and Church Street Traffic

Good Afternoon Councilor Perlman,

I apologize for the delay in my response. I have copied Sgt. Attaway and Off. Larose of the Traffic Unit on this email and they will be able to provide with you with the latest speed report from our signs when they were last posted on Church St. near Essex St. and Hildreth St. The issue of speeding on Church St. has been a consistent area of concern for residents and now that it has been newly paved and side-walked, the impression is that the speed and volume of cars has increased. The speed sign data should be able to give you some insight into what the latest #s indicate. Please feel free to share the information with the resident and we can also increase our presence and enforcement in the area. Sgt. Attaway keeps a list of requested areas for the electronic signs and hopefully we can get one back in the area in the next few weeks.

Any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,
D. Giorgi

From: Samantha Perlman <atlarge_1@marlborough-ma.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 6:21 PM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Follow up: Interactive Training and Church Street Traffic

Dear Chief Giorgi,

I hope you are doing well. I am reaching out to respond back to your note to the Council as well as a question from a resident regarding the speeding on Church Street. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the interactive training this week but would be interested in participating in the future so please keep me in the loop as I appreciate the invitation to members of the Council.

Recently, a resident has been in touch regarding the speeding on Church Street, especially between the Hildreth Street intersection into the straightaway going towards Essex Street and beyond. I also visited the site last week and did notice how excessive the speeding is in this area. Is it possible to add a speed limit sign in the neighborhood and monitor the area? The resident proposed speed bumps given that some cars even raced in that stretch of Church Street in the past. As this is not a new issue, I was curious when the last speed study was in this area and your recommendations on how best for us to proceed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I hope you had a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Councilor Perlman

Samantha Perlman

City Councilor At-Large

City of Marlborough

sperlman@marlborough-ma.gov

508-263-0042