

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: June 26, 2019

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 3rd Floor City Hall – Memorial Hall

Agenda Items to be addressed:

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1) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- a) Review draft from 5-29-19

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Crosswalk Concerns on Stevens Street near Lodi Road.
- b) Hosmer Street Crosswalk / Traffic Complaints / Jaworek School
- c) Beaman Lane Complaints

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Traffic Concerns on Lincoln Street, especially at intersection of East Main St. & Stevens St.
- b) Parking Issues on John Street around the playground area.

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, May 25, 2019 at 10:00 am in City Council Committee Room, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, City Councilor Christian Dumais, City Councilor Katie Robey, City Councilor Peter Juare, and Sgt. Dan Campbell and Officer Andy Larose of the MPD Traffic Services Unit. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business

2a) Traffic Concerns on Lincoln Street, especially at intersection of East Main St. & Stevens St.

Chief Giorgi received an email from a local resident on this issue. They have lived in the area since 2017 and have seen a dramatic increase in speeding and traffic over the past two years. They said, “it has become a totally bad situation, total disaster” and explained how difficult it is to get out of their driveway, especially during the am and pm rush hour. They also complained about the noise from the street at all hours and the truck traffic. They are asking if it would be possible to lower the speed limit, add additional signage and/or limit traffic for certain hours, like at night?

Sgt. Campbell advised that he has also spoken to the resident, as has the Mayor's Office. This is really more of an enforcement issue. Officer Larose put one of the electronic speed signs out yesterday to gather accurate data. Brian, from the DPW, will move the speed limit sign up higher on the pole so it is more visible and doesn't get hit. The PD can also monitor the traffic and make sure that trucks are following the proper truck route.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to the POLICE DEPARTMENT – Traffic Services Unit to continue with the study.

2b) Parking Issues on John Street around the playground area.

Councilor Juairé sent an email to the Chief on this issue. He has received complaints from a few residents. Parking is currently allowed on both sides of the street which makes it difficult to get through and dangerous for children crossing the street. It could also cause concerns for Fire Trucks coming up the street. He is looking for some type of relief down by the playground. He is suggesting No Parking on the opposite side of the street from where the 2 houses that St. Mary's is going to demolish to the corner of Maple Street. He has also asked Commissioner Ghiloni to install 2 signs that indicate a playground and children signs in the area.

All agreed that this is definitely "a situation". Tim Collins pulled up a photo of the area with the playground and the houses owned by St. Mary's Credit Union indicted. Mr. Collins also passed out a copy of a City Council Order from 1980 regarding the installation of "Slow Children – Playground Area" signs. He said that historically the Traffic Commission doesn't like to use "Slow – Children" signs because there are children everywhere, however, the MUTCD does have examples of Playground signs.

It was also discussed that there is talk that St. Mary's will be installing the sidewalk during their reconstruction project. If not, the sidewalk will be installed by the City. All agreed that it makes sense to restrict parking in front of the playground. This should not cause any issues with resident parking.

Mr. Collins said that John Street is close to 26 feet wide and that currently there are no parking restrictions in the area. Once the two houses across the street from the playground are taken down there will be no other homes near the playground. Residents are further up the street and they do park on both sides when they home. Councilor Juairé does not want to cause any inconvenience to the residents in the area because of the playground.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ENGINEERING to review for the next meeting.

3-Old Business

3a) Request for Parking Restriction on Howland Street.

Update: Tim Collins passed out a diagram of Howland Street with the number of parking spaces available on each side indicated. He found there are 27 spaced on the

East Side and 34 spaces on the West side. He also indicated that the pavement width is 24 feet, average vehicle width is 6.5 feet and the available travel width is 11 feet. Mr. Collins found that 178 parking spaces are needed for the number of residents in the area. On street parking is necessary here. He went by during the day and did not find an excessive number of cars on the street. He has not been there at night. It would make sense to choose No Parking on the East Side, however, this situation exists all over the City. If parking is restricted to one side here, other streets may then request the same. It would solve one issue but also take 27 spaces away from residents. It is common throughout the City to have to pull over to let another car pass. Fire Chief Breen has found that, for the most part, people try to alternate the cars when they park so others can get by. All agreed that it was better to leave parking the way it, i.e. on both sides, rather than lose 27 parking spots.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement.

3b) Request for Parking Ban Exception on Monument Ave.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REMOVE this item from the Agenda. The City is currently dealing with this issue.

Chief Giorgi asked if any of the City Councilors in attendance had any other issues they would like to discuss. No other issues at this time.

Officer Larose asked to refer back to the Lincoln Street issue again. He thought that some of the truck exclusion signs might be missing. Mr. Collins advised that he would check on this. Officer Larose also had an update on his phone from the electronic speed sign. So far, the 85th percentile is 28 mph.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 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, May 29, 2019, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, April 24, 2019.
- Email from Danute Butovskiene to the Police Dept., dated 5/17/19, re: Lincoln Street.
- Email from Councilor at Large Peter Juare to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/23/19, re: John Street.

Additional Handouts:

-Diagram of Howland Street with # of available parking spaces on East and West side indicated.

-Aerial photo of John Street in the area of St. Mary's Credit Union and Cpl. Christos Pappas Playground.

-Copy of City Council Order 20159, dated 3/24/80 regarding installation of "Slow Children – Playground Area" signs.

Karen Lambert

From: Aimee
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 7:54 AM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Stevens Street/crosswalk

Good Morning, Chief.

I was directed to you by some other residents of the city, to ask for your help with a situation on Stevens Street. This morning, I nearly witnessed a young boy get hit by a car in the crosswalk that crosses over Stevens at the bottom of Lodi Rd. It's not the first "near miss" that I've witnessed, but it was the first time, I've told my own child to close her eyes so she wouldn't see a child killed. I don't know how he didn't get hit, but someone was watching over him.

I'm sure you are aware that cars are going entirely too fast on Stevens. This crosswalk is nearly invisible and, if you're going too fast, you are definitely not going to see it or the children that are waiting to cross to or from their bus stop. Many mornings, you'll see a car stopped, letting them cross, but cars coming from the other direction, don't stop. Horns are blaring and kids need to jump back onto the sidewalk. This is a regular occurrence. I drive the street every morning and afternoon to get my own daughter at the high school and I cringe when I approach that area. Chief, is there anything that can be done to make drivers aware that there is a crosswalk ahead? Flashing lights? Orange cones in the road at the crosswalk? A raised crosswalk, perhaps, that will force drivers to slow down or risk losing the undercarriage of their car? Please, drive that area in the morning around 7AM and watch what those kids go through to get from point A to point B. Watch how many cars don't let them cross. Watch how many people speed through there. Please, look into it for the safety and well being of the kids.

Thank you for reading. Have a great day!

Aimee

Karen Lambert

From: David Giorgi
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 12:27 PM
To: Karen Lambert
Subject: Hosmer St. crosswalk/Jaworek School

Karen,

Please add this email to the agenda for the June 2019 Traffic Commission meeting.

In the fall of 2018, we moved a crossing guard to the Jaworek School and tried to implement a new traffic pattern for the internal parking lot of the school for bus and parent drop off/pick up, as well as employee parking, etc. While the internal parking situation has worked out well, there have been some concerns about how it has impacted the traffic flow on Hosmer St. and the parents who are trying to enter the school and exit the school. Last week, we had a parent come to the station who was very vocal about fixing the crosswalk situation and addressing some of the traffic complaints. Hopefully as a group we can work on improving the situation.

Thank you,
D. Giorgi

Chief David A. Giorgi
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Marlborough, MA 01752
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FBI NA #234

Karen Lambert

From: Daniel Campbell
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Karen Lambert
Subject: Beaman Lane Complaint

Karen,

A resident at 18 Beaman Lane, Eugenia Fugate, called today requesting additional signage on Beaman Lane. She was hoping for a Speed Limit Sign as well as a Caution – Children at Play Sign. Could you add this to the Traffic Commission Agenda for this coming Wednesday.

Thank you,

Sergeant Daniel Campbell
Support Services Division
Marlborough Police Department
Office: (508) 485-1212 ext. 36964