

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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2022 AUG 27 PM 12:00

Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2022

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 6-29-22

Note: 7-27-22 Meeting Cancelled

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Sight distance issues at the intersection of Elm St. and Boundary St.
- b) Speed concerns on Church Street.
- c) Request for 15-minute parking at Sugar Heaven – update to prior agenda item.
- d) Traffic concerns at intersection of Maple St. & Shawmut Ave.
- e) Request for "Slow Down" sign at 81 Hosmer Street (Kiddie Time Educational Child Care).
- f) Traffic Pattern Concern at Rte. 20, Boston Post Road E & entrance to Raytheon.
- g) Intersection concerns, West Main St. & Winthrop/Orchard Street.

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Issues with the turn movement at intersection of Boston Post Road West & Ames Street.
- b) Request for permanent speed limit signs & other signage on Lincoln St.
- c) Request to revise start time noted on the permanent "No Beach Parking" signs around Memorial Beach from June 15th to May 15th.
- d) Stop sign concern on Bigelow Street (Tabled until August meeting at the request of City Engineer Tom DiPersio).
- e) Speed management on Kings Grant Road.
- f) Traffic concerns in the State/Chandler Street neighborhood.

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, June 29, 2022, 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, Ashley Miller from the Engineering Department, Sgt. Ronnie Ney and Officer Andy Larose (Remote) from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Sean Navin and local resident Judith Benesh.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, May 25, 2022:

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

2 - New Business

2a) Stop sign concern on Bigelow Street.

Chief Giorgi received an email from Councilor Brown in which she included an email from a constituent regarding concerns about the stop sign at the bottom of the hill at the intersection of Bigelow Street and Evelina Drive. She travels through this intersection

daily and has almost been hit “by countless drivers that are unprepared to stop at this stop sign because it is at the bottom of a hill and around a curve”. She went on to say that the situation continues to get worse with the increased traffic on Bigelow from out-of-town guests driving to the hockey rink from Route 20. She has requested a ‘stop sign ahead’ sign in the past and she said, “it was deemed unnecessary”.

The history of the Bigelow Street stop signs was reviewed for the benefit of Commissioner Divoll. There were initially multiple stop signs on Bigelow Street, one at each of the intersecting side streets. They were installed years ago as a mitigation effort to slow the speed of traffic traveling to the mall. The majority of the stop signs were later deemed to not meet the warrants established by the MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls and Devices) for the use of stop signs and were removed. The Traffic Commission agreed to keep two of the stop signs, even though they did not meet the warrants, in the event that potential future crosswalks could make the area busier with pedestrians.

All agreed that it is a busy area with the mall and NESB. Engineering checked the sight distance on Bigelow and found that you can see the stop sign from 200 – 250 feet. Steve Kerrigan asked about the sightline from the end of Evelina looking at traffic coming down the hill. Engineering will look at this.

Commissioner Divoll advised that he thinks the Traffic Commission should look at the area as a whole and determine what is warranted now and does it meet the MUTCD requirements. Maybe this stop sign should not be there at all. A current engineering study, with traffic counts, should be done to get an accurate picture. They can also look at clearing some of the growth and vegetation in the area. Ashley Miller advised that she spoke to the sign department and it’s also an old sign that may not be reflective enough.

Tom DiPersio said he thinks it might actually be safer without the stop signs here. People are pulling out of Evelina thinking that cars coming down the hill on Bigelow are stopping when sometimes they are not.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for further review.

2b) Request to revise start time noted on permanent “No Beach Parking” signs around Memorial Beach from June 15th to May 15th.

The June 15th date was initially chosen for the permanent signs around the beach to coincide with the date the beach officially opens. Due to the hot weather in May the last two years, the beach was very busy prior to the official opening. Temporary signs were put up this year with the May 15th date when the hot weather was forecasted. All agreed that it does make sense to change the start date to May 15th due to Memorial Day Weekend and the continued hot weather. The temporary signs were placed over the permanent signs for the month. The temporary signs have now been taken down and the permanent signs will be revised for the opening of the beach next summer. The regulation will also need to be revised to reflect the new timeframe.

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

2c) Speed management concerns on Kings Grant Road.

Chief Giorgi reviewed an email from a resident of Kings Grant on this issue. The resident notes that it is "a heavily populated street that is used as a cut through, and there is absolutely no signage". There are many residents on the street with young children, including himself, and he is concerned for their safety.

Chief Giorgi said he would assume that this would be considered a thickly settled 30 mph area and that the resident is probably looking for some type of signage to this effect. Councilor Navin said that once you come down Old Charter, there is a flat area which generates a good amount of speed. Sgt. Ney advised that he had the speed sign out there yesterday. He will continue to gather data and bring the report back for the next meeting. Step 1 is to have accurate information.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT (Sgt. Ney) for updated speed information.

2d) Traffic concerns in the State/Chandler Street neighborhood.

Chief Giorgi received an email from Councilor Navin on behalf of several constituents. He has received a few complaints regarding the No Left Turn signs, some would like to see more enforcement while others see it as a nuisance. Speeding is also a major concern. He mentioned the narrow streets and that even if someone is not driving way over the speed limit, they seem to be going very fast. Also, there are many children in the area. He knows that speed bumps and one-way streets have been suggested in the past, all have merit, but every solution also has a negative impact on others.

Judith Benesh, resident of State Street, was also in attendance. She has lived here for over 45 years. Over the past few years, she has seen speed increase so bad that you can't even walk out your front door without someone speeding past. It's not specific times but all the time. She knows that the Police Department has put the speed signs out and that sometimes people actually speed up when they see the sign so they can see how fast they can go. She is asking for help and would appreciate it if the Traffic Commission would consider speed bumps. She specifically mentioned rubber ones that can be taken up in the winter. She knows that other towns have them and doesn't understand why we can't. She also mentioned all the children in the area. People cut through to beat the traffic lights and GPS and other phone apps. direct cars this way.

Officer Larose advised that he had the speed signs out on Chandler and State Street from 5/26 through 6/3. He pulled up the summary page. The majority of cars were traveling under 30 mph. The 85th percentile was doing 26.8. The maximum speed caught was 53mph. The blue graph shows the vehicles that slow down when they see the sign.

Ms. Benesh says the problem is that the speed signs are not there 24/7 and that people do slow down when they see them. They need relief when the signs are not there. Chief Giorgi agreed that it does come down to enforcement, but we only have 5 of these signs to use throughout the whole city. Ms. Benesh again asked if the city could please consider speed bumps. Chief Giorgi said that this is an engineering questions and has

been discussed many times. Fire Chief Breen added that if we are going to consider speed bumps it would have to be on both State Street and Chandler Street as cars would just go to the other street if speed bumps were only on one. We don't want to just push cars from one street to another. Officer Larose found that there is twice as much traffic per day on State Street then Chandler.

Sgt. Ney asked if there was anything that could be done with the light at East Main and Bolton St. He saw it backed up to Allen Court on a recent Saturday. This backup also sends people to State St. and Chandler St. He said he does everything he can do avoid this area. Maybe looking at the cycle for the lights can also help. Mr. DiPersio said he thought this was done before.

Officer Larose said that the other issue with speed bumps is a "quality of life" issue. He mentioned a rumble strip in another area. People ask for these things and then complain that it's too loud. Chief Giorgi also mentioned the other side, where the majority of people are going the speed limit. Sometimes it is the perception of speed. If you're outside you can think someone is going 50 mph when they may only be going 33 mph. Councilor Navin said that when he was out putting up flyers for the meeting in the middle of the afternoon, it really did seem like cars were going fast. All agreed that enforcement would help. Ms. Benesh said that officers can feel free to park in her driveway. Officer Larose mentioned that any time he has stopped a car on Chandler, it has been a resident.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and to ENGINEERING for further internal discussion on speed bumps.

3-Old Business

3a) Issues with the turn movement at intersection of Boston Post Road West & Ames Street

Update: Ashley received an email back from Lori Shattuck of MADOT. They have completed their analysis. Based on existing traffic volume, "it appears that the intersection would have acceptable operations with the single right turn lane on Ames Street." She went on to state in her email, however, that current traffic volumes collected in March 2022 are down considerably from the 2016 volumes that were included as part of the traffic study for the Apex Center. If the volume rebounds, Ames Street would experience lengthy delays and queues with only a single right turn lane. Ms. Shattuck plans to discuss the results internally. If they made the changes now, they wouldn't have the resources to change it back later.

Tom DiPersio asked how this issue initially placed on the agenda. It was added by Commissioner Divoll. He reviewed the fact that there is not a demand for 2 turn lanes now and had given two options to change it: 1) hash out the far right turn lane or 2) hash out the middle lane. The Traffic Commission was in favor of Option 2. It was also noted that the light would have to be changed as there are two turn arrows. The issue was with rush hour back up for businesses. It was not a residential concern.

Ashley Miller will give the DOT a couple weeks to discuss it internally and will continue to follow up.

3b) Request for permanent speed limit sign & other signage on Lincoln St.

Update: Sgt. Ney submitted another email regarding a request for speed limit signs on Lincoln St. between East Main and Bolton Street and additional signs for the Commercial Vehicle Exclusion from Lincoln St. on Bolton St., in both the north and southbound directions. Ashley Miller advised that she looked back and found that everyone was in agreement with additional speed signs, but no further action was taken. The yellow "Thickly Settled" speed signs should have been installed. She will take care of this.

Sgt. Ney also asked if the Commercial Vehicle Exclusion signs could be moved to give more warning to drivers. With the current placement, drivers are already in the committed lane before they see the sign. Engineering will look at this.

Ashley also noted that there are two "no turn on red" signs that were part of the Lincoln Street project that are not regulated or installed, one at Lincoln and Mechanic (WB) and one at Lincoln and Broad Street (WB).

Chief Giorgi had prepared the amended regulation for the two new signs with an emergency preamble, so that they can be installed right away and presented it for a vote. All in favor.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 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 Wednesday, June 29, 2022, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Monday, May 25, 2022
- Email City Council to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/15/22, re: Stop Sign Concerns on Bigelow (original email from Amy Bronkema to Councilor Brown on 6/14/22).
- Email from Councilor Oram to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/2/22, re: Beach Parking.
- Email from Joshua Buckland to the Police Department, dated 6/21/22, re: Speed Management on Kings Grant Rd.
- Email from Councilor Navin to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/10/22, re: Traffic Concerns in the State/Chandler St. area.
- Email from Lori Shattuck to Ashley Miller, dated 6/17/22, re: Ames Street/Rte. 20 "No Right on Red", including lengthy email chain between DOT and Engineering.
- Email from Sgt. Ney to the Traffic Commission, dated 6/21/22, re: Lincoln Street.

-Email from Ashley Miller to Chief Giorgi, dated 6/23/22, re: Lincoln Street.

Additional Handouts

-Amended Regulation to add Lincoln Street at Mechanic Street (westbound) and Lincoln Street at Broad Street (westbound) to the schedule of prohibited right turns on red.

-Speed Summary for Chandler and State Street.

Karen Lambert

From: Pamela Wilderman
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2022 3:36 PM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Elm and Boundary

Chief.... Could the traffic commission at their next meeting take up the issue of site distances for the northeast side of the intersection of Elm and Boundary? If the commission could review and give a recommendation I can follow up with enforcement.

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Karen Lambert

From: Rob Veneziano
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 6:02 PM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Traffic Commission Meeting agenda request

]

>
 > Hi Chief Giorgi,
 >
 > I am longtime resident (20 years) of Church Street and it's been a
 > longtime concern of mine and my neighbors as the car speed on this street has been getting worse since I have lived
 > here. And now with the street being repaved, it's even worse.
 >
 > As you may know, Church Street is a popular cut through for folks who want to get from 85 to 20 and avoid
 > downtown.
 >
 > To add, the accidents on this street, including recently a police car / officer, are getting worse too.
 >
 > I'd love to get on the next monthly meeting's agenda to discuss placing a stop sign at the intersection of Church and
 > Greenwood and/or any other options to cut the speed down on this street.
 >
 > Can you assist with this getting me and my neighbors some time at the next meeting?
 >
 > Thanks for your time and consideration and look forward to hearing back.
 >
 > Best,
 >
 > Rob Veneziano
 > 233 Church Street
 >
 >
 >

Karen Lambert

From: City Council
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:08 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Patricia Bernard; Karen Boule
Subject: From Stephanie Ferrrcchia: Maple/Shawmut intersection

Chief—This was an issue awhile back and has resurfaced. Can you add to next TC agenda. I'll speak with Stephanie and see if she wants to attend the meeting.

KB

From: Stefanie Ferrecchia
Date: August 11, 2022 at 9:59:07 AM EDT
To: City Council
Subject: Maple/Shawmut intersection

The intersection at the bottom of Shawmut Ave is becoming congested with parked cars again. The employees at VMA are parking right up to the corner. It is very difficult to see if it is safe to pull out of Shawmut to cross Maple Street. Is it possible to install a "no parking here to corner sign" on Shawmut to remind drivers not to park so close to the intersection?

Thank you

Stefanie Ferrecchia
Broker, CBR, LMC, CNE
Dora Naves & Associates, Inc
The Real Estate Specialists
508 624-4858 office
508 864-6321 cell

Karen Lambert

From: Thomas DiPersio
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Meredith Harris
Cc: David Giorgi; Karen Lambert
Subject: RE: Slow Down - Sign Request

Hi Meredith,

These types of issues typically get directed to the Traffic Commission. I have copied Chief Giorgi and Karen Lambert on this email to see if they are able to add this to their next agenda. If so Priyanka could attend the meeting to discuss the concerns.

-Tom

From: Meredith Harris
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Thomas DiPersio
Subject: FW: Slow Down - Sign Request

Hi Tom – see below.... Is this something DPW would take a look at? Or PD?

Meredith Harris
Executive Director
 91 Main Street, Suite 204
 Marlborough, MA 01752
 Tel: 508 229 2010

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From: Kiddie Time
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:56 PM
To: Meredith Harris
Subject: Slow Down - Sign Request

Hi Meredith,

Hope you are doing well!

I wanted to ask your guidance on getting a "slow down" sign in front of our building entrance. Our driveway exits on Hosmer street and a lot of the time people are driving way too fast for our families and teachers to get in/out safely. Last week a car with two of our teachers and a teacher's child got hit badly by another car as they slowed down to get into the driveway, thankfully everybody was okay, but unfortunately our teacher's car was badly damaged. Do you know who I should reach out to request a slow down sign? Please let me know your thoughts.

--
 Best Wishes,

Priyanka

Priyanka Joshi

Business Manager

Kiddie Time Educational Child Care

email: kiddietimecorp@gmail.com

ph: 508-573-1745

Web: www.kiddietime.us

Address: 81 Hosmer St. Marlborough, MA 01752

Karen Lambert

From: Kenneth Macewen
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Kevin Breen; David Giorgi
Cc: NEAG
Subject: Traffic Pattern Concern

Chiefs,

A concern was brought to my attention from several citizens that I was hoping you and the traffic committee could assist with.

At Rt. 20, Boston Post Road East and the entrance to Raytheon there is a traffic light. With the traffic coming into the city heading westbound on Rt. 20, there are two lanes at this point. The right lane is marked for traveling straight while the left lane is marked for left turns only into Raytheon.

What is happening at this location is that the left turn lane is being used by traffic to speed up and travel straight through this intersection as after the intersection two lane travel begins. The issue with this is that traffic travelling east bound and who are attempting to turn left at this intersection into the access road to the businesses on the North side of Rt. 20 are being put in danger of these vehicles who are not properly following the traffic pattern and using the Westbound Left Turn Lane as an opportunity to speed pass other west bound traffic. There has been numerous accidents over the years at this location caused by this situation. There is also a blind spot for anyone pulling out of these businesses onto Rt. 20 west bound.

A suggestion brought forth was to install a left turn light and better signage in both directions or other such intervention to reduce the hazards for clients and staff of the businesses located at this site.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if I can assist in any way.

Kenneth W. MacEwen
Battalion Chief
City of Marlborough
Fire Department
215 Maple Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Karen Lambert

From: Christian Dumais
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:17 PM
To: David Giorgi; City Council
Subject: Intersection concerns

Hello Chief,

I hope you are doing well. I am sure that this needs to go in front of the traffic commission and would be happy to appear at the next meeting.

I know there was a tragic accident on west Main Street and Winthrop / Orchard street intersection, was there any follow up as to safety pedestrian concerns?

I have a constituent that has brought it to my attention the back log of traffic from south street which causes some concerns crossing both lanes. I was wondering what further action can be done for the cross walk?

With the funeral home, ward park, and the construction of the new library is it possible to have blinking lights like granger boulevard when pedestrians need / want to cross?

Any questions please let me know.

Thank you!!

--

Christian Dumais
Ward 3 City Councilor
Marlborough

Cell: 781-983-7901

Karen Lambert

From: City Council
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:20 AM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: Teona Brown; Patricia Bernard; Karen Boule
Subject: More From Councilor Brown re 31 Lincoln Street

From: Teona Brown
Date: August 22, 2022 at 7:50:25 AM EDT
To: City Council
Cc: Donna B.
Subject: Fwd: 31 Lincoln Street

Good Morning Karen,

This is the email, which goes with the other one I recently shared, from 31 Lincoln Street.

Thank you for assisting in getting these concerns to the appropriate people.

Best,
 Teona

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From: Donna B.
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 7:59:57 AM
To: Teona Brown
Subject: Re: 31 Lincoln Street

Good morning. Just would like to let you know, that some people from police department worked with us and we hoped, that the guys really going to help us to resolve the huge speed issue we have on Lincoln street. Unfortunately, we are disappointed, nothing much happened and even getting ignored, when we trying to reach out again. The best what they thought can do, just to put warning speed sign 30mph, in the middle of the city, where the houses so close to the road. Now, the drivers even go faster, because no limit, only warning. We didn't see anywhere the sign like this, where thickly settled area, it is 25 mph, in every city. When Mr. David Georgie came to take a look, we asked, if the speed is 25mph on Lincoln street, because GPS shows 25, he confirmed, that it is, for some reason, later it became 30mph. When we asked, is any possibility to put electronic speed signs from both sides of the road, he responded, if we have money, so we can put it. That was very strange to hear from the Chief of police.. Later on we've been contacted by Sgt. Ronald Ney by email. The guy was polite, tried to help and we appreciate his work and help, but in the end we got almost nothing, he even not responded to my last emails as well. So, the issue remains, even got worse. The only thing would help, electronic speed signs, because we saw it, when it was on the pole to monitor the speed. We still hope, you could help us with this issue, because so many people walk on the sidewalks, including kids, probably because gas prices became so high, it is extremely unsafe.

Thank you.
Donna

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2022, at 2:15 PM, Teona Brown

wrote:

Good Afternoon,

My name is Teona Brown, and I am the Ward 4 Councilor in Marlborough. I received the email you sent to Rep. Gregoire and wanted to reach out to let you know I will also look into the concerns you brought to her attention. I am new to my role and learning more and more each day about which departments handle which issues, and I appreciate your understanding as I navigate this learning process. This is my direct email, and my phone number is 774-245-2365, if you would like to communicate anything in addition to what you sent to Rep. Gregoire.

I am a parent of an 8 year old and also an early childhood educator, working with children ages infant through 5 years old, so safety matters, especially concerning children are very important to me.

Best Regards,
Teona Brown