

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

2019 SEP -6 P 1:15



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
OFFICE OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
140 MAIN STREET  
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01752**

**Traffic Commission Minutes**

The Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission was held on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 10:00 am in Memorial Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall. Members present: Chairman - Police Chief David Giorgi, DPW Commissioner John Ghiloni, Fire Chief Kevin Breen and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: Sgt. Zac Attaway and Officer Andy Larose of the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey, City Councilor Christian Dumais, City Councilor David Doucette and local residents David Naigles, Eunice Atwood, Leonard Solo and Bill Lane. Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

**1- Minutes**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

**2 - New Business**

**2a) Request for Pedestrian Crossing signs on Church Street.**

This request was made due to the large number of children ranging from Elementary School through High School getting on and off the school bus at the intersection of Warren Ave. and Church St. Photos were submitted with the request which show the intersection from both the northbound and southbound directions. The request is for a crosswalk sign with an arrow and “crosswalk ahead” signs.

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that he will have Engineering take a look at this intersection and provide feedback at the next meeting.

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

**Agenda items b through d were all submitted in an email from City Councilor Ducette to Chief Giorgi.**

**2b) Request to limit the use of air brakes for large vehicles.**

Councilor Doucette is proposing that the use of air brakes be prohibited from 11pm – 7am (based on city sound ordinance) and residential zones. He would like to see signs to this effect posted on major city entrances (i.e. Rte. 20, Rte. 85, Forest St., Cedar Hill etc.) The noise made by these brakes is very loud and “unsettling” and can be heard throughout neighborhoods during quiet nights.

Officer Larose explained how a “Jake Brake” works and why it makes the loud sound. He described it as “like downshifting but with less wear and tear on the vehicle”. It is another way of slowing the truck while also saving the brakes. Fire Chief Breen said that there are other alternatives to this type of braking. The Fire Department did not select jake brakes for the new fire truck. He said that he has seen “sign packages” for areas where jake brakes are not allowed.

Chief Giorgi said that he tried to do some research on this own and found that other Cities, North Hampton for example, include a restriction for these types of brakes in their City Code. The restriction states specific streets and times of day that these brakes are excluded. The Chief has also received complaints about this issue and has talked to Officer Larose regarding the difficulty of enforcement.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that this same issue came before the Traffic Commission a few years ago. If the restriction were to become part of a City Ordinance it would have to go before the City Council. The group went on to discuss the fact that it’s actually a two-part issue. Do we want a restriction by street and specific location or a time period for the entire City?

Councilor Doucette said that it tends to be a “repeat pattern”. He would think that if signs were posted restricting usage and they were ignored, someone could wait in the area and find a “repeat offender”.

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

**2c) Request for speed tables on Farm Road.**

Councilor Doucette said that the traffic on Farm Road is “getting out of hand”. The radar signs here do tend to slow traffic but the amount of traffic is terrible and it includes a lot of heavy truck traffic. He has seen speed tables used in Wayland and Framingham to slow traffic and feels they are a deterrent for large trucks taking this route. He said that most of the traffic complaints are involving trucks. He knows that the City doesn’t like to use speed tables but he is asking for reconsideration.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that he is not necessarily against speed tables, however, if they were ever to consider them, very specific criteria would need to be established for use. If they were installed here, the City would receive many more requests from other areas for the same thing.

Chief Giorgi said he knows of another city that uses portable tables that can be removed in the winter for plowing. Officer Larose said that he has been looking into this issue and noted that local deliveries are allowed here but there already is an exclusion for bigger trucks. He said that signage in the area definitely needs to be improved. It's currently not clear so trucks go this way and then are unable to turn around. Councilor Doucette also said that when Route 85 was under construction for so long, Farm Road was used as an alternate route.

A resident in attendance suggested that rumble strips may be a better alternative to speed bumps as they cause you to slow down but won't affect the plows. Officer Larose said that speed tables, rumble strips and speed bumps all degrade the road.

All determined that more research is necessary.

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

**2d) Request for parking signs or lines on Decenzo Blvd.**

Councilor Doucette said that there is an issue with cars parking so close to side street entrances that they create blind spots for vehicles trying to exit onto Decenzo. He said that Settler's Lane is the worst situation. He has spoken to the driver of one specific vehicle and advised that he needed to find a better parking spot. The driver did move, however, is now just blocking another area. He would like to see the area near the intersections marked off and signed with "no parking here to corner" or "no parking between signs".

Commissioner Ghiloni advised that there is a City Ordinance that states there is no parking allowed within 20 feet of an intersection. The City doesn't paint this area or install signs as the situation exists at all intersections. It is really more of an enforcement issue.

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

*Chief Giorgi took a moment to introduce Sgt. Attaway as the new supervisor in the Traffic Services Unit. The prior supervisor, Sgt. Campbell, has been promoted to Lt. and has moved to the midnight shift.*

**2e) Request for a Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street.**

This request was submitted by Councilor Clancy. He noted that a truck exclusion was requested here several years ago but was denied by the State. He was asking if the request could be resubmitted.

Commissioner Ghiloni said that Engineering would have to look into the request. The Assistant City Engineer is currently on vacation. The State is currently working on a new design for this area but it will be several years out.

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

### **3-Old Business**

#### **3a) Parking Issues on John Street around the playground area.**

**Update:** Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the “slow playground” signs were installed this week. They are now waiting to see what happens with the St. Mary’s Credit Union project before doing anything else.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE until the St. Mary’s Plan is finalized.

#### **3b) Crosswalk Concerns on Stevens Street near Lodi Road.**

**Update:** Commissioner Ghiloni was not sure if the new crosswalk signs have been installed yet (2 advance warning signs and 1 arrow sign). He will check and advise at the next meeting.

#### **3c) Hosmer Street Crosswalk / Traffic Complaints / Jaworek School**

**Update:** Commissioner Ghiloni advised that the new crosswalk has not yet been installed but it will be all set before the start of school.

**Chief Giorgi asked to suspend the rules to bring up an item not on the agenda.**

### **New Agenda Item – Concerns with the Crowley Drive Project (Senior Independent Living Multi-Family Community)**

Local resident, Leonard Solo, expressed continued concerns in this area, especially with regard to the intersection of Crowley Drive and Fitchburg. Several other local residents were also in attendance for this issue. Mr. Solo said this intersection is “an accident waiting to happen” and that the majority of those living at Regency at Assabet Ridge would agree. He forwarded a very detailed email outlining his concerns. He talked about how busy the area is now and how traffic will increase even more when the two empty properties are up and running. It is also right near the entrance to Boston Scientific and the entrance to the Rail Trail, there is also a crosswalk for the Rail Trail.

He specifically mentioned that when you exit Crowley Drive and want to make a left, your view of traffic is blocked because the street curves before it gets to this intersection. He said it is incredibly dangerous to pull out, especially during rush hour. There is a 25-mph speed limit sign here but he noted that “it is a rarity that cars obey the speed limit”. He also said that he and many others have witnessed cars not stopping when the yellow lights are flashing for the crosswalk. He is asking if there are any ways of “lessening the danger?” For example, with larger speed limit signs, reducing the speed limit to 20mph,



a flashing light on Fitchburg Street as it comes up the hill from Pleasant St. toward the connector and a greater police presence in the area.

He is also asking for posted speed limit signs (15 or 20mph) on Crowley with one side designated as no parking. He understands that Fitchburg is a State owned road and at the moment doesn't meet the warrants for traffic lights but something needs to be done before there is a serious accident.

It was also asked if a sign could be placed at Crowley stating that it is not a through way? Commissioner Ghiloni said Crowley is actually a private way. It is their road and he would assume they could do whatever they wanted. The City did install No Parking signs on one side of Crowley as a favor to the residents, due to congestion in the area during events. Crowley drive is maintained and plowed by residents.

It was discussed that when the developer first made his proposal the area was going to be a shopping center so the roadway was just an entrance to the shopping center. Now there are more facilities there, however, the road remained a private way. It's a little confusing because the City actually owns the land. Whatever is proposed would still need a safety review. Commissioner Ghiloni said that the City can ask the State to take a look at it again. He will talk to Engineering next week.

Councilor Doucette asked if it would be helpful for the State to hear complaints from more of the residents. Commissioner Ghiloni said he would talk to Tim Collins, Asst. City Engineer, when he gets back from vacation. He did suggest though that it would probably be helpful if more residents were to make complaints through SeeClickFix so they can be forwarded to the DOT. The State has final control over what will happen here but the City will try to help. The City can also cut back any trees or brush that are causing problems. He will have the Forestry Dept. take a look at the area.

More enforcement is definitely needed during high traffic time or when school gets out. Kids are trying to cross the street with their bikes, crosswalk lights are flashing but with the trees and bushes site distance is obstructed, people don't slow down. One resident said that when he slows down in the area, cars behind him are literally right up on his bumper and speed passed him when he makes his turn. Another said that he does a lot of cycling and even he is scared to cross here. He said one time he pressed the button for the pedestrian crossing in Hudson and 4 cars went through when he had the walk sign. Another resident, who works at Raytheon, knows that Fitchburg Street is also used by employees as a cut through to Rte. 495. He said, "They all go home this way."

All agreed that the real solution would be a traffic light but at a minimum, enforcement during high traffic times in the am and pm would be helpful. Chief Giorgi advised that he would refer the issue to the Traffic Unit. Councilor Robey asked if the area continues to be developed and eventually meets the warrants for a traffic light, who would be responsible for installing the lights? Commissioner Ghiloni advised that it should be a part of the special permit that the developer is responsible for the traffic lights. Fire Chief Breen said that he is a member of Site Plan and this concern has been raised before but it costs about \$250,000 to signalize an intersection.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING for further review, to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement and to the FORESTRY DEPARTMENT for tree and brush clean up.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 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, July 31, 2019, including meeting agenda.

- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

- Email from Jason Devane to Chief Giorgi, dated 7/17/19, re: Church Street signs (along with 2 photos).

- Email from City Councilor David Doucette to Chief Giorgi, dated 7/17/19, re: 3 items for 7/31 Traffic Commission Meeting (limit use of air brakes on large vehicles, speed tables on Farm Rd., parking signs or lines on Dicenzo Blvd.

- Email from City Councilor Ed Clancy to Chief Giorgi, dated 7/9/19, re: Truck Exclusion on Stevens St.

**Additional Handouts:**

- Email from City Councilor Katie Robey to Chief Giorgi, dated 7/26/19, re: Crowley Drive Project.