

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
MARLBOROUGH

2020 OCT 29 A 9:36



**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 as a **virtual meeting** on Wednesday, September 30, 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: Assistant City Engineer Tim Collins, Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey and City Councilor Samantha Perlman. Also present: local resident – David Desrosiers

Minutes taken by Karen Lambert, MPD Records Clerk.

City Clerk Steve Kerrigan started recording the meeting at 10:01 am and Chief Giorgi began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

The minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED:

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

2 - New Business –

2a) Request for a Speed Limit Sign on Church Street in the area of Hildreth Street.

Chief Giorgi received an email from Councilor Perlman with regard to speeding concerns on Church Street, especially between the Hildreth Street intersection heading into the straightaway going toward Essex St. She was requesting a speed limit sign and speed monitoring in the area. She was in attendance virtually for this issue. She said that she

has personally witnessed the speeding here. One of her constituents, David Desrosiers, who was also in attendance, lives at the intersection of Warren Ave. and Church St. He had invited her to come to his property to see for herself. She agreed that the speed was excessive with the newly paved road. Church Street is used as a cut through street because Rte. 85 and Rte. 20 are so congested.

Mr. Desrosiers said people drive this way to avoid the traffic lights and can go as fast as they want without repercussions. He recently witnessed a car at the light at Church St. and Hildreth spinning its tires like it was the start of a drag race when the light turned green. He said the car was going 40-50 mph. There was another man out walking at the same time who yelled at the driver. He mentioned there was discussion at one time about putting another stop sign here, however, he doesn't think this makes sense. He is a fan of speed bumps. If you're driving at the correct speed they work, and plows can get over them. He also said that it's not just the speed, it's also really loud and people don't seem to care about mufflers anymore.

Chief Giorgi advised that a speed study was recently done on Church St. Officer Larose said that he had the speed sign out in several locations in both directions. He had sent this information to Councilor Perlman. He referred to a speed study from June that was near the Hildreth Street intersection. He found that the majority of cars were traveling at 25 mph or less with the southbound side traveling slightly faster but still with the majority under 25 mph. The Chief asked Mr. Desrosiers if there was a specific time of day that seemed to be more of a problem. Mr. Desrosiers said that it's actually always different. Some days can be at 4:30 pm for an hour and other days there is nothing. He mentioned a shop that was at the lower end of Warren Ave. where people would congregate around 5:30 pm. He said it was almost like a competition to see who could get there the fastest, however, this issue seems to have ended. Officer Larose said that Officer Connors actually went out and spoke to them. Mr. Desrosiers feels that the average numbers are fine, it's the others that are the problem.

Chief Giorgi said that this seems to be more of an enforcement issue for the Police Department. If he knew of specific time frames or areas that were more of a problem, he could send an officer out to monitor speed. He also referred back to the speed bump suggestion and explained that the City has not used these in other areas either. Engineering has addressed speed bumps in the past and has found that they often just create more problems, i.e. plowing issues, safety concerns, noise. It is not a measure the City would use to address the fewer number of drivers traveling above the speed limit. He suggested getting the speed signs out again closer to Mr. Desrosiers' residence, sooner rather than later.

Councilor Perlman also asked if another study could be done near Mr. Desrosiers' house as there is more traffic now than there was in June. She found it to be very loud when she went down to talk to him.

Tim Collins said that he would review the whole corridor and see if additional signs are needed. The speed limit on Church Street is 25 mph. He does agree that when you enter Church Street you can have no idea what the speed limit is. Speed limit signs would normally be posted near the entrance to the road in an area where someone would normally reach the speed limit. Chief Giorgi agreed that additional signs would certainly

help and be a big step in the right direction, along with getting the speed signs out again closer to Mr. Desrosiers' house.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to ENGINEERING to review the speed sign locations on Church Street and to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to get the speed signs out again in the area.

3-Old Business

3a) Brigham Street Concerns.

Update: Tim Collins advised that the truck count has been completed. It was done on 9/28/20 to 9/29/20 between Westboro Road and the westerly DeSimone Drive entrance. He did not want to do it near the commercial businesses. The counts showed 1,600 total vehicles with 59 being commercial vehicles. He had a complete summary report of the counts. Chief Giorgi asked that he forward the summary to him so that he could get back to Councilor Dumais.

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

3b) Signage on Lincoln Street regarding Truck Traffic.

Update: The first issue on truck traffic was the request to place a sign that would push traffic into the left lane to more clearly follow the established truck route. He has not yet heard back from his contact at MADOT.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE

3c) Request for Truck Exclusion on Stevens Street.

The second issue was the potential for a truck exclusion on Stevens Street. Tim Collins advised that he made an error in the calculation when he did the summary for the first traffic count. Initially the commercial vehicle count came up as 5.6% which meets the warrant for a truck exclusion. He realized that he had mistakenly included larger pick up trucks in the commercial vehicle count. When he corrected this, the commercial vehicle count came up as 3.74 %, which does not meet the warrant for a truck exclusion. He provided the revised summary (attached). He has not heard back from his contact at MADOT.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE.

3d) Speed and Parking Issues on Church Street.

Update: In addition to the speed issues that were discussed at the last meeting, there was also a request for restricting parking to one side of Church St. Mr. Collins advised that he has not yet addressed this issue. He will go back and check the number of parking spaces available on each side and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

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

3e) Parking Issues in front of Pleasant Court Condos

Mr. Collins provided the wording for the regulation to create a Tow Zone on both sides of Pleasant Street. He also included a diagram with the specific Tow Zone area highlighted and number of feet indicated. The concept was already approved at the last meeting. A formal vote can be taken based on the proposed language and the Chief will prepare the actual regulation and submit it to Steve Kerrigan for advertisement.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the regulation for a Tow-Away Zone on both sides of Pleasant Street in front of the condos as per the proposed wording from Engineering and to REFER to Chief Giorgi to prepare the actual regulation as approved.

3f) Truck Traffic Concerns on South Street

Update: Officer Larose advised that he did speak to Mr. Constantino as a follow up from the last meeting. He did note that Mr. Constantino's property is basically on the road and that any level of noise on the road would be loud.

Chief Giorgi asked if anyone had any additional items they wished to discuss.

- 1) **Tim Collins** advised that while he was looking at the Lincoln Street issue, he came across another regulation he missed. Lincoln Street has a Truck Exclusion the entire length. The current regulations refer to a portion of Lincoln Street. He provided a copy of the previous regulation and the actual Traffic Regulation Permit from the MA Highway Department (dated 4/24/03). The regulation needs to be rewritten to reflect what is actually in existence. Chief Giorgi advised that he would prepare the corrected regulation for the next meeting.
- 2) **Steve Kerrigan** advised that on E-Code that there was no speed limit noted for Stevens Street and Union Street under the Schedule for speed limits in Ch. 586-58. They have already been approved but need to be added to E-Code. Chief Giorgi asked if we needed to vote on this if the regulation already exists. Mr. Collins said that everyone just needs to agree that it is missing. Mr. Collins advised that he would check to see if the signage is up properly. All agreed that this should be done.

Chief Giorgi will prepare the regulations to add Stevens Street and Union Street to the Schedule for Speed Limits. Steve Kerrigan will make sure they are then added to E-Code as part of the recodification process after the election.

- 3) **Councilor Robey** said she sent an email to Officer Larose regarding cars she saw parked between the No Parking – Tow Zone signs on Lakeside Ave. Just yesterday she also saw a commercial vehicle parked there. She believes it may have been for the condo association's landscaping company.

It was discussed that there was supposed to be a small section to the left when leaving the condo driveway down to the beauty shop where parking was allowed. The Chief said that he also had a call from a resident about this. There is no parking allowed on the

entire length of the Rte. 20 side. Councilor Robey said she saw a No Parking sign in front of the truck. Mr. Collins advised that there should not be a No Parking sign there and that it would be taken down. This is what was causing the confusion as there is a small area on the condo side where parking is allowed.

- 4) **Councilor Robey** also noted that speeding is everywhere in the City, not just on Church Street. She asked for clarification as to what the speed limit is on Stevens Street and Union Street. Tim Collins explained that it changes from 20 to 25 to 30 on different portions due to changes in the roadway. The highest speed is actually in the vicinity of the school but drops to 20 mph when school is in session.

Chief Giorgi advised that we need to make sure that the proper signage is in place to show the changes in the speed limits.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 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, September 30, 2020 including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, August 26, 2020.
- Email chain between Councilor Perlman, Officer Larose and Chief Giorgi, dated 9/21/20 through 9/23/20, re: Church Street Traffic

Additional Handouts

- Revised Summary of Commercial Traffic Count on Stevens Street.
- Summary of Commercial Traffic Count on Brigham Street.
- Diagram of Tow-Away Zone on Pleasant Street near Elm Street.
- Email from Councilor Pearlman to Chief Giorgi, dated 9/30/20, re: Church Street Traffic.
- Copy of City Order No. 12847, dated 9/17/73, establishing specific speed zones
- Ch. 586.58 Schedule XIV: Speed Limits
- Proposed wording to Add Stevens Street to Schedule XIV
- Proposed wording to Add Union Street to Schedule XIV
- Proposed wording to Add a portion of Pleasant Street to Ch. 586.52 Schedule VIII: Tow Away Zones

-Mass DOT Approval of Truck Exclusion on Lincoln Street, including alternate route (dated 4/24/03), along with supporting documentation.