

May 31, 2023
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

2023 JUL 26 AM 11:27



**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, May 31, 2023, 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, and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant Civil Engineer Ashley Miller, Officer Andy Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, City Councilor Katie Robey and local residents Peter and Martha Welsh and Cheryl Kassoy.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:01 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

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

2 - New Business

2a) Parking/bus stop concerns at Upland Road and Stevens Street

Cheryl Kassoy, resident of Cullinane Drive, was in attendance for this issue. She had previously spoken to Karen Boule, City Council Secretary, regarding her concerns. She explained that parents park at the end of Upland Road to pick up and drop children off at the bus stop. This then makes a 2-way street a 1-way street, with children coming from all directions. She is concerned about safety and advocating for the kids and the people who live there. She said that people fly by Lodi Road, down the hill on Stevens Street,

and the school bus stop is right there. She is asking if this area of Upland Road can be posted with No Parking signs on either side.

Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the area for reference. She said that cars park on both sides, all the way up the street. It would be safer if cars at least parked further back, and the kids could walk up the street a bit to the parents. People are parked at the end of Upland Road, not on Stevens Street. Traffic is at a halt if someone is trying to go down the street and turn onto Stevens Street or from Stevens Street onto Upland Road.

Chief Giorgi said there is already a City Ordinance for no parking within 20 feet on an intersection. You can see in the photo that 20 feet only goes up to the mailbox and doesn't solve the problem, it just pushes it back. Ms. Kassoy said that you can see cars at the end when you are coming around the corner. It's happened to her on several occasions. The kids get on at 7:00 am and off at 3:00 pm. The buses don't go anywhere into the neighborhood. This is the main bus stop for the area.

Chief Giorgi and Tom DiPersio asked if there is a better location for the bus stop. Mr. DiPersio doesn't think marking it as No Parking will work because people will park there anyways because it is for such a short time. A 15-minute window is the issue. Another option for the bus stop could be at Algos Road. It was noted that there is no blind turn at this location. Ms. Kassoy said that she believes the next stop is at Cortland Street. Chief Giorgi said that maybe one combined stop might be safer further down.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT to speak with the bus company. Maybe they can move the stop to a safer location.

3-Old Business

3a) TT parking issues on Northboro Road

Update: Ashley Miller sent the required wording to Chief Giorgi. The Chief created the time limit parking regulation and presented it at the meeting for a vote. ALL IN FAVOR.

Steve Kerrigan will advertise the regulation and then the DPW will install the specific signage.

3b) Chestnut Street No Parking Sign

Update: Chief Giorgi said that he spoke to the family on Chestnut Street regarding the handicapped parking spot. They advised that the spot is no longer needed as their elderly mother passed away during Covid. The sign has now been removed. Chief Giorgi sent an email to Councilor Irish to update him on this issue and review the fact that vehicles should not be parking within 20 feet of the intersection. This is an enforcement issue that would be handled by the Police Department. It appears that the cars that are parking here either live on Mechanic Street or come from the driveways across the street. Chief Giorgi said we might be able to add a sign stating, "No Parking from Here to Corner". Councilor Irish would advocate for this type of sign.

Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the area for reference. The Chief thought there was already a No Parking sign on the other side. Yes, the sign can be seen in the photo. We would just need to add something about No Parking within 20 feet of the intersection.

Steve Kerrigan made a motion to repeal the handicapped sign regulation that was still in place. Chief Giorgi had created the appropriate regulation to do so and it was presented for a vote. ALL IN FAVOR.

Officer Larose pulled up the regulations and the new interactive dashboard. There is no regulation for No Parking on the opposite side of the street, but no regulation is needed for “No Parking Here to Corner”, if it is within 20 feet of the intersection. The signs can just be adjusted and/or added.

3c) Request for speed limit signs on Hager Street

Update: The electronic speed signs were set up on Hager Street to gather data. Officer Larose pulled up the Extended Speed Summary reports for review. The signs were out on the northbound side from 5/21/23 to 5/27/23 and on the southbound side from 5/23/23 to 5/31/23. The sign was out for a shorter time (6 days) on the NB side as the battery died. The average speed on the NB side was 26.58 mph, with the 85th percentile traveling at 30.47 mph. The average volume per day was 961.5. There was a max speed registering at 51 mph, but Officer Larose noted that this was “ridiculous”. The report also shows the maximum speed for specific times of the day and those who slowed down for the speed signs.

The sign was out on the other side (SB), heading toward Framingham, for 9 days. There were more cars going in this direction then the other. The average speed was 21.94 mph, with the 85th percentile traveling at 27.82 mph. Officer Larose also noted that the 50th percentile was traveling at 23.14 mph. The average speed was 21.94 mph. The volume is definitely higher in this direction, with an average of 1,560.9 per day.

Chief Giorgi said the question is whether we make a change here and adopt the “Thickly Settled - 25 mph” or post the existing “Thickly Settled – 30 mph”. It was discussed that the faster side is traveling from Framingham into Marlborough. Cars could be going faster to get through the light at Rte. 20. Engineering said that Framingham has adopted the 25-mph speed limit for all “Thickly Settled” areas. The Marlborough section is a very short distance. Do we stay consistent with Framingham and post this area as 25 mph? Tom DiPersio noted that the data really doesn’t support this, but it does make sense to keep it the same as the Framingham section. Mr. Welsh also added that when coming from Framingham into Marlborough there is a downhill. Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the area. The Welsh’s home is the first house on the left. In the photo, you can just see the traffic light.

Chief Giorgi said that vehicles are not doing 25 mph in Framingham but are doing under 30 mph in Marlborough. Does posting this area as 25 mph really make people slow down? Chief Breen asked where the first speed limit sign is in Framingham. Ashley Miller said it is .8 miles to the first speed limit sign. He does feel the speed limit should be communicated sooner.

It was agreed to stay consistent with the data and post the area, in both directions, as “Thickly Settled – 30 mph”. It would be the yellow advisory sign. There is no regulation needed as this is already the speed limit.

3d) Review of unwarranted stop sign locations

Update: Ongoing -nothing new to add at this time.

Chief Giorgi asked if anyone had any other questions or concerns.

- 1) Councilor Robey has received complaints about diesel trucks parking behind the gas station at 342 Boston Post Road East, with their engines running. This area is across from the McGee Farm and close to the over 55 housing on Village Drive. There is a dirt lot out back near Touchdown Carpet. It appears that trucks are using this area as a rest stop.

Officer Larose said that years ago, when he was on the midnight shift, he had this same problem. Chief Giorgi advised that he would have the Midnight Shift take a look.

- 2) Tom DiPersio advised that he received a call from the Post Office requesting a stop sign from their property onto Granger Blvd. It was discussed that this should be treated as a sign on a private lot rather than a stop sign that would need to be regulated by the City. Chief Giorgi said they could also just paint a stop line at the entrance to Granger. This would not be an issue and would not need to be regulated. Mr. DiPersio will let them know.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Lambert
Public Safety Administrative Assistant
Marlborough Police Department

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting:

- City of Marlborough Meeting Posting for the Traffic Commission Meeting on May 31, 2023, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, April 26, 2023.
- Email from Karen Boule to Chief Giorgi, dated 5/17/23, re: Request from Cheryl Kassoy, 172 Cullinane Drive, Bus Stop Concerns, Cars Parked at Upland Road at Stevens.
- Amended regulation to add a specific section of Northboro Road East, South Side – 2-hour parking, to Schedule XII “Time Limit Parking”.

-Email chain between Chief Giorgi and Councilor Irish, dated 5/5/23, re: Chestnut St. No Parking Sign.

-Amended regulation to REPEAL the “Handicapped parking only” area in front of No. 5 Chestnut Street.

Additional Handouts

-Extended Speed Summary Report for Hager Street, Northbound.

-Extended Speed Summary Report for Hager Street, Southbound.