

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

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Meeting Name: Traffic Commission

Date: November 29, 2023

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 10/25/23

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.
- b) Request for Crosswalk Sign at the Corner of Devens St. and Washington St.
- c) Discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

3) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns
- b) Crescent Street Parking Issues
- c) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues

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 October 25, 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, Interim DPW Commissioner Ted Scott and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant Civil Engineer Ashley Miller, Sgt. Ronald and Officer Andrew Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit and City Councilor Kathleen Robey.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions.

1- Minutes

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of September 27, 2023.

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

2 - New Business

2a) Request for Handicap Parking Sign at 228 Prospect Street

This request was submitted by Peter Keenan, property owner, on behalf of his in-laws at 228 Prospect Street. The neighbors at 232 Prospect Street have been parking in front of the house and blocking the stairs. The stairs in front of the home are the only access

point for his father-in-law, who is handicapped, and the frequent home health care givers that visit the house multiple times per week. Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the address. There is an indent in front of the house for parking. You can clearly see that if someone were parked here that it would block the staircase. They do have a driveway but with no direct access to the home. The only access point is the staircase in front. Mr. Keenan said in his correspondence that he has "appealed to the neighbors (tenants) and the owner of the property to extend common courtesy to their elderly neighbors to no avail."

Chief Giorgi asked if this area in front was city property? Mr. DiPersio said that he would guess that yes, it is city property. Mr. Kerrigan noted that we did something like this in front of a house on Lincoln Street. It seems like it would be ok for the handicapped person but not for the health care workers. Everyone would want to park here. It was noted that the neighbors have plenty of space out front to park and that there was a no parking sign. But this actually can't be done because it is city property.

Chief Breen said that Mr. Keenan is requesting a handicapped parking sign which would only allow people with a handicapped placard to park there. Mr. DiPersio advised that it can't be posted as handicapped parking because it doesn't meet the grading requirements etc. It was discussed that this would have to be called Permit Parking Only and is a different application. Steve Kerrigan asked how this would be enforced if we are not requiring a handicapped placard. Ashley Miller said that when people apply for the permit parking, they are required to show that they have a handicapped placard. The correct form is the "On Street Parking Permit" application. Chief Giorgi said that he would have Mr. Keenan fill out the correct form.

The issue is that it is really for the resident only, not the healthcare workers or other visitors. Should there be something that they can display on the dashboard? Officer Larose said that he doesn't think the residents actually park there. They don't drive any more. The son in law would like to park there as well. Officer Larose advised that you could have a handicapped placard even if you don't drive. The owner of the placard just needs to be in the vehicle.

The Traffic Commission did approve a "Permit Parking Only" spot for a specific house # on Chestnut Street. Steve Kerrigan said that he is not opposed to them having access to the house, however, this could open it up to others wanting a reserved spot in front of their house. Chief Giorgi suggested that the spot be reserved for a specific vehicle, and we would give them a permit to display on the dashboard. Chief Breen noted that Mr. Keenan tried to talk to the neighbors and it's still happening. Blocking the stairway access is like blocking their driveway.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to APPROVE the permit, contingent upon completion of the appropriate "On Street Parking Permit" application. The application would need to include a specific license plate # and some type of placard would be issued for the dashboard.

2) Request for Parking Restriction on the West Side of Liberty Street

Chief Giorgi received an email from Luis Lozano, resident of 41 Liberty Street. He is requesting a parking restriction on the west side of Liberty Street near Granger Blvd. He notes that Liberty Street has high activity as a cut through street and there is also a school bus stop. When vehicles are parked on Liberty Street it creates a blind spot for oncoming vehicles when he and his wife are trying to pull out of their driveway. Several vehicles have almost hit them, and he has a real safety concern. He included 2 photos and 3 videos of accidents in front of his home. He also included a section from the City Code concerning Fence Height limitations as he feels the height of the vehicles obstruct the view similar to the way a fence would. He would like to also see the Traffic Commission enforce the Marlborough parking ordinance Ch. 586-22 General Provision, of which he also included a copy.

Officer Larose pulled up the photos for reference. He also noted that #45 has no where else to park. There is a parking restriction on the East side. He played the videos as well. Chief Giorgi noted that only 1 of the videos actually showed a crash having to do with parking. He thinks that one of the videos, where the driver is coming down Liberty, was actually an OUI. The video with the car coming off Granger Blvd. showed the car coming way too fast. The photos Mr. Lozano submitted do show his argument, from his driveway looking south, trying to back out you really can't see anything.

There is supposed to be 10 feet of travel in each travel lane, but the street is so narrow, and parking is already restricted on one side. Officer Larose was questioning where else everyone is supposed to park? Chief Giorgi asked if it was No Parking on the entire east side? Mr. DiPersio said he thinks it extends to Ringold Street. Ashley Miller will check on this. It was discussed that if parking were restricted on the West side, even if was only on part of the street, there would be no where for this family to park.

Mr. DiPersio advised that the fence scenario is for a fence on someone's personal property. It is not applicable on public property. Chief Giorgi said there may be nothing we can do. Mr. Kerrigan noted that there is a driveway for #45 but it's a multifamily home and they are allowed to park on the street. The driveway for #45 is barely wide enough to pull into. There are 2 apartments with maybe 2 cars each. Mr. Kerrigan asked what would happen if we changed the restriction from the East side to the West side, so parking was restricted in front of the houses instead. Ms. Miller said that if the issue is with people backing out of their driveways, the trees on the other side would cause more of a problem. Steve Kerrigan said that if parking was restricted on both sides up to Ringold Street, "it would cause an undo burden on the residents," as no one could even park while visiting.

Chief Giorgi noted that Mr. Lozano's contention was trouble with backing out, but the videos of crashes do not support this. All agreed that it may be best to leave it as it is as changing it does not make the situation any better.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

3-Old Business

3a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns

Update: At the last meeting this issue was referred to Engineering to look at the timing of the lights. Engineering has started collecting data but has not yet compiled the information. This agenda item will be TABLED until Engineering has completed the final report and assessment. It will REMAIN on the Agenda.

3b) Crescent Street Parking Issues

Update: At the last meeting this issue was referred to Engineering to look into the roadway width and feasibility of restricting parking to one side. Engineering advised that they have started this process. They provided a diagram showing the # of parking spaces available on each side. Chief Giorgi reviewed that the resident who submitted this issue was looking for parking to be restricted on the side with the sidewalks. This would then only allow parking on the side without the sidewalks. It was noted that the sidewalk is on the side of the street with the cemetery, the right side of Crescent Street when coming from West Main Street. The diagram provided by Engineering shows 21 available spaces on the right side and 13 available spaces on the left side. Officer Larose pulled up a photo of the area for reference. Mr. DiPersio said that the 6-inch reveal on the new sidewalk may deter people from parking on the sidewalk, but people may still bump up onto it. It was noted that there are more houses on the side opposite the cemetery. Mr. Scott asked how many driveways the multifamily apartments have? The only parking restriction currently is the city ordinance stating no parking within 20 feet on an intersection. Mr. DiPersio noted that there are more parking spaces available on the Cemetery side, the side with the sidewalks, but this does not necessarily mean that it is the best side for parking. Mr. Scott said there seems to be a lot of off-street parking available. The road is still under reconstruction. All agreed that it would be best to TABLE this agenda item until construction is completed and see how it works. It will REMAIN on the Agenda.

3c) Continued Speed Concerns on Church Street

Update: At the last meeting residents expressed concerns about the location of the speed signs. Officer Larose has moved the semi-permanent sign from Warren Ave. to Greendale Ave. He noted that the results of the Speed Summary are almost exactly the same at this new location. Another has been moved to the downhill section of Church Street. The new locations did not change the results. The downhill section actually shows slower speeds, with an average speed of 23 mph. All agreed that the "outliers" are the issue and enforcement is difficult. Mr. Scott asked if the Speed Study data shows when the "outliers" are there? Officer Larose advised that it is sporadic and all over the place for maximum speeds. The study shows an hourly breakdown, and you can see there is higher volume during the commuting time. The results show that over the course of the week there were 10 people traveling more than 10 mph over the speed limit. Officer Larose reviewed the chart and the # of violators and timeframes. Most violations were between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Officer Larose has the display turned off if someone is going over 50 mph, meaning the data is recorded but not displayed. This is to discourage someone from trying to see how fast they can go. He would like to see it flash if someone is going over 50 mph, but it is just black. Chief Breen also noted that it could actually be the same person speeding over the course of the week. If there are 10 violators it doesn't mean 10 different violators. Mr. Scott also noted that there is

nowhere for a police car to hide in this area. Cars can see them and slow down. All agreed that they recognize the concerns of the Church Street area residents but that it is difficult to catch the outliers. All agreed to ACCEPT and PLACE ON FILE.

3d) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues

Update: At the last meeting the discussion centered on whether this would best be handled by a City Ordinance or a Traffic Regulation. All were leaning toward the City Ordinance as the best direction. Steve Kerrigan advised that a City Ordinance needs to be accepted by the City Council. Officer Larose questioned whether tickets would be issued from the City Ordinance book or the Parking Ticket book. City Ordinance violations require a more involved process, such as finding the owner of the vehicle etc.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to KEEP this item on the agenda as more work is needed.

Chief Giorgi asked if anyone had any further issues they would like to discuss? None noted.

That there being no further business of the Traffic Commission held on this date, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 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 October 25, 2023, including meeting agenda.
- Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, September 27, 2023.
- Correspondence from Peter Keenan to Chief Giorgi, dated 10/23/23, re: Application for Handicap Parking sign at 228 Prospect Street (completed application included).
- Email from Luis Lozano to Chief Giorgi, dated 10/21/23, re: Traffic Commission Request – West Side Liberty, along with photos.

Additional Handouts or Displayed on Screen at Meeting

- Diagram of Crescent Street with available parking spaces indicated.

Karen Lambert

From: Elyse Heise
Sent: Sunday, November 5, 2023 1:18 PM
To: David Giorgi
Cc: David Williams; Samantha Perlman; Christian@christianformayor.com; campaign@samanthaperlman.org; Patricia Bernard; Theodore Scott; Thomas DiPersio; Ashley Miller; Cassia; james.wellesleymedia.org
Subject: URGENT - Delay Removal of NORTHERN Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton and Auburn Street

Chief Giorgi and all others to whom this may concern,

Please review the linked videos of the view to the north from Auburn Street at the Clinton intersection, where there is currently a stop sign due to be removed:

Video 1:

<https://youtu.be/MdP4S64mPBU?si=ZrxB4oV2OnPXSe71>

Video 2:

https://youtu.be/_41mQteuUxo?si=FpwxxHizKSGUGuVL

As you can see this BRIGHT RED CAR wasn't visible until it was almost directly in front of the stop sign, even when the car on Auburn has pulled a few inches into the intersection the car approaching from Clinton cannot be seen until it would be too late.

This is a serious visibility issue here, the city will be exposing itself to liability as numerous accidents are likely to occur. There is a safety issue for both pedestrians and the cars going through this intersection.

This SPECIFIC stop sign MUST remain past 11/20 until the visibly and safety issues at play here can be resolved.

I will be at the 11/29 meeting along with some of my neighbors to discuss what we can do to make this corner safer.

Elyse Heise
 16 Auburn St.

On Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 11:08 AM David Giorgi wrote:

Good Morning Ms. Heise,

Thank you for forwarding me your concerns about the removal of the stop signs in your neighborhood and I can appreciate your frustration. However, the removal of the stop signs was not made arbitrarily or senselessly. Instead, when the issue was brought to the Traffic Commission in April of 2023, the former DPW Commissioner tasked the Engineering Department with conducting a research study to see if the stop signs at Clinton St./Auburn St., as well as Clinton St./Old Charter Rd., and Beach St./Clover Hill St. met the warrants or provisions to remain at their current

location. As a point of reference, in 2022 the Traffic Commission also addressed a similar situation on Bigelow St. where several stop signs had been installed many years ago even though they did not meet the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices(MUTCD) Section 2B.07 Multi-Way Stop Applications. Similar to the research for Bigelow St. and the intersecting streets, the report presented to the Traffic Commission in the July 2023 meeting advised that the current stop signs at Clinton St./Auburn St., Clinton St./Old Charter Rd., and Beach St./Clover Hill St., did not meet the provisions needed to remain in their current locations. I have attached a copy of the research work completed by the Engineering Department as well as the minutes of the July 2023 Traffic Commission meeting where the issue was discussed. Unfortunately, the stop signs should not remain at their current locations and therefore the Commission voted to remove them, but not before notifying the ward city councilors and installing the warning signs that the stop signs would soon be coming down. The Traffic Commission took the same action when the stop signs were removed on Bigelow St. which was also met with frustration by some of the residents in that area. However, stop signs cannot be placed on streets as a calming measure to slow down vehicle traffic.

In recent Traffic Commission meetings, we met with residents of Church St. who were upset about the volume and speed of vehicles which travel on their street. One possible solution which was raised by a resident was to install stop signs at every, or every other, intersecting street in order to slow down traffic. Unfortunately, again, stop signs are not intended to be installed as a way to slow down vehicle traffic. Therefore, the Traffic Commission members did not approve this recommendation. Similarly, if we cannot install stop signs where they are not warranted, we also cannot allow them to remain in locations where they are not warranted. As the engineering study concluded, the current signs on Clinton St./Auburn St. do not meet the requirements and will be removed.

The Traffic Commission meets at 10:00am on the last Wednesday of every month in Memorial Hall at City Hall. If you would like to attend a meeting and speak about your concerns, you are certainly welcome to attend.

Thank you,

David A. Giorgi

Chief of Police

From: Elyse Heise

Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:09 AM

To: David Giorgi

David Williams

Samantha

Perlman

Christian@christianformayor.com; campaign@samanthaperlman.org

Subject: Stop Signs to be removed at DANGEROUS intersection of Clinton and Auburn

Chief Giorgi,

I am furious that without my knowledge and without consulting myself and my neighbors, you and your traffic

committee took it upon yourselves to arbitrarily remove two stop signs at a DANGEROUS intersection where young children frequently play, and catch the school bus every day.

I realize this may not seem to the town as a high traffic area, but there is more in play here than just the amount of cars going through.

1. This is a very thickly settled area with a lot of children who play in and around the street. Two new families just moved into houses on either side of this intersection just this week. These stop signs keep us safe. Children cross this intersection all the time to play with their friends who live across the street. Kids regularly ride their bikes up and down Auburn Street sometimes barely coming to stop at the stop sign on our end.

2. This intersection is a school bus stop for the Jaworek Elementary School. Now that these stop signs are due to be removed will the police department be posting school guards to maintain the safety of our children. Seems to me the stop signs will be more cost effective and less of a strain on police and school personnel.

3. Clinton St, slopes steeply downward right after this interaction. It is a BLIND HILL for anything past a few feet. CARS trying to turn there will not be able to see cars coming from the opposite direction soon enough if they are speeding down the road, which they will be able to do without the stop sign.

4. Our THICKLY SETTLED area will become a route 20 cut-through. Without the stop signs, cars will use Clinton street as a quick detour to Stevens as they would be able to go as fast as they want. This will cause the street to become a HIGH TRAFFIC AREA, making the lack of stop signs even more dangerous.

It does not matter how many cars go through this intersection. What matters is that they stop. It only takes one car to hit a child.

These stop signs were voted to be taken down without consulting any one in the neighborhood and without considering the slope of the road, visibility, or any other issues besides the amount of cars that went through.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to the city comptroller and to both candidates for mayors. As the LIABILITY COSTS to the city will no doubt substantially increase as a result of the numerous accidents that will no doubt occur.

Please regard this letter as notice to THE CITY of the DANGEROUS SITUATION created by your removal of these stop signs.

I hope and trust that you will reconsider this senseless decision, and for the sake of the health and welfare of the neighborhood leave the stop signs where they are.

Elyse Heise

16 Auburn St

917-815-5565

Karen Lambert

From: Christian Dumais
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 2:39 PM
To: David Giorgi
Subject: Fwd: Crosswalk Sign Corner Of Devens St and Washington St

Hello Chief,

Hope things are well with you!!

I have this email below, can this issue can be added to the traffic commission agenda?

I unfortunately, will not make it to the traffic commission meeting for November.

If you would like to discuss this before, I would be more than happy to do so.

Best,
 Christian
 --

Christian Dumais
 Ward 3 City Councilor
 Marlborough

Cell: 781-983-7901

Begin forwarded message:

From: Slava
Date: November 11, 2023 at 3:25:36 PM EST
To: Christian Dumais
Subject: Crosswalk Sign Corner Of Devens St and Washington St

Good Afternoon Christian Hope you're having a wonderful day , (WARD 3)

I wanted to know if you could add this to the traffic Meeting this month or next to possible add to the corner of Devens St and Washington St

Last couple months We Spoke About this The bus stop right in front of are property and kids do cross the street but cars do not pay attention to there stop sign that comes out of the bus and still pass it And that's never good and wanted to know if you could possibly add one of these sign right in front of the school

I noticed there all at the opposite end of Washington St but not at the front of the school just curious, why that is ?

If one of these could please be put up for the neighborhood and at the Washington school or corner of Devens would be greatly appreciated

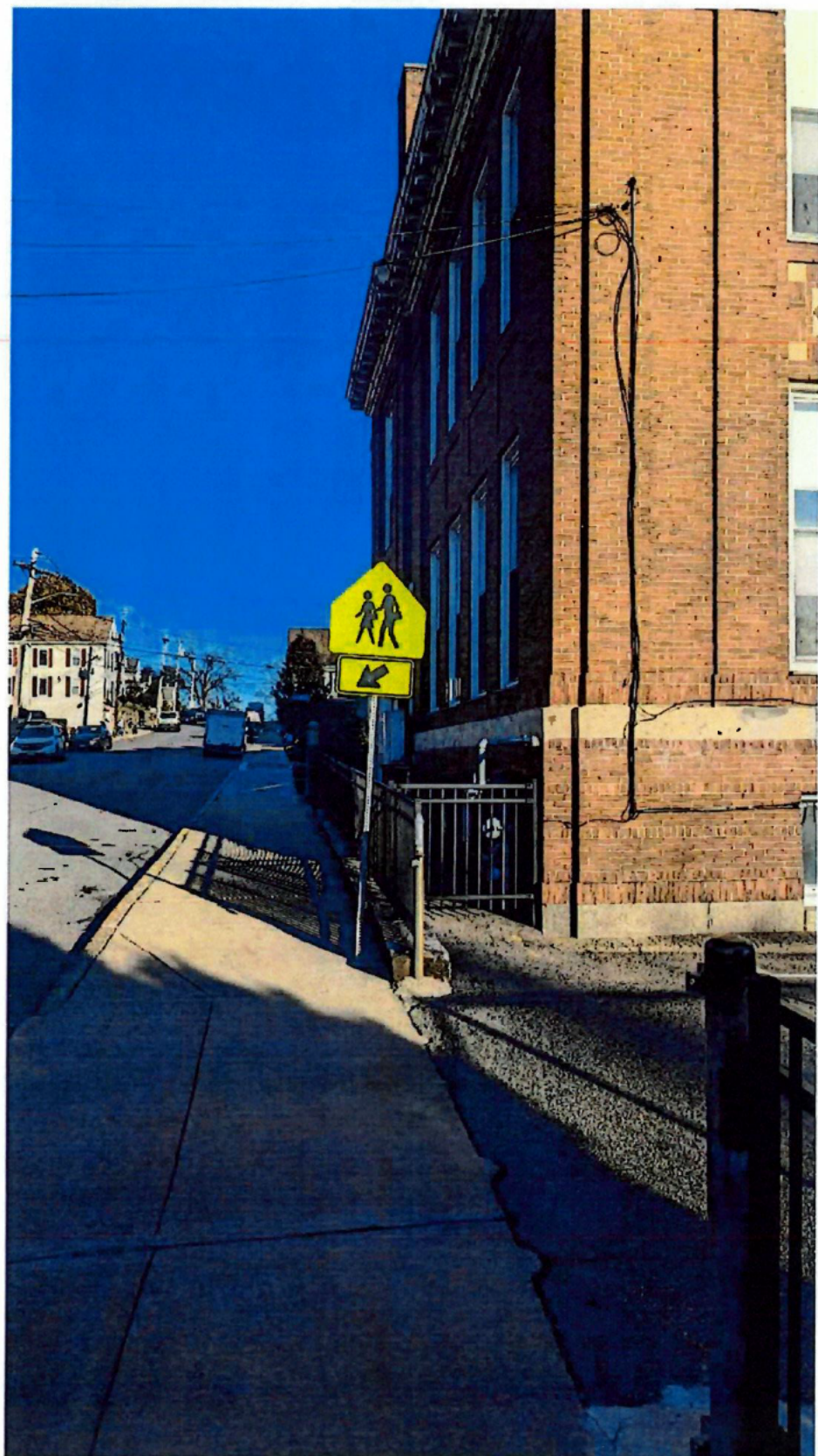
I spoke to someone at the school and they agreed there should be something put up for the safety of the school and the residents and know it's hard to get any answers to make it happen

We agree a speed limit sign needs to be done or cross Walk for the bus stop

You can forward this to the following folks that would have to look at this to make this possible

Appreciate it
Ward 3 Resident

Thanks,
Slava



Karen Lambert

From: Thomas DiPersio
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:16 AM
To: David Giorgi; Karen Lambert
Cc: Ashley Miller
Subject: traffic commission item

Hi Chief and Karen,

Can we add an item to the agenda for next week: discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

If that's ok, we can send you a sketch for the packet on Monday.

Happy thanksgiving!

Thomas DiPersio, Jr., PE, PLS
City Engineer
Department of Public Works
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone:(508)624-6910x33200

