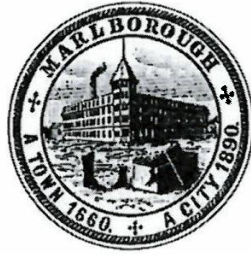


October 25, 2023

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**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 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.marlbrough-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.
- Extended Speed Summary Report for Church St., #268, SB and Church St. @ Greendale, SB.