

January 17, 2024
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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 January 17, 2024, 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, Interim DPW Commissioner Ted Scott and City Clerk Steve Kerrigan. Also present: City Engineer Tom DiPersio, Assistant Civil Engineer Ashley Miller, Officer Andrew Larose from the MPD Traffic Services Unit, and local resident Dave Cormier.

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

Chief Giorgi started recording the meeting at 10:12 a.m. and began by welcoming everyone and making introductions. He thanked everyone for their understanding as the last meeting was cut short due to unforeseen circumstances.

1- Minutes

Review of the minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting of November 29, 2023.

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

2 - New Business

2a) Continued Discussion: Request to DELAY removal of Northern Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton St. and Auburn St.

Tom DiPersio and Ashley Miller, from the Engineering Department, have done some analysis and discussed this with Interim DPW Commissioner Tedd Scott. Due to differing opinions with area residents, it was agreed to table this issue until the Spring. It was determined that the winter was not the best time to do any further study or change any traffic patterns.

Mr. Cormier asked if there will be any discussion about alternatives. He would like to know what else can be done to mitigate taking the stop signs down. All agreed that waiting until the Spring to make any changes provides the opportunity to do it properly. The notices about the removal of the stop signs will be taken down for now and all stop signs will remain.

Another area of concern was that there were no speed limited signs, just one “Thickly Settled” sign. Mr. Scott advised that he would respond to this issue.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to TABLE this agenda item until the spring for further review and discussion. Mr. Cormier advised that he would spread the word to his neighbors.

2b) Request for Crosswalk Sign at the corner of Devens St. and Washington St.

This agenda item came from Slava (unknown last name), in an email to Councilor Dumais. Chief Giorgi reviewed the email. Slava is requesting a crosswalk sign at this intersection, in front of the school on Washington Street. He included a photo with an example of the type of sign he is referring to. He said that there is a bus stop right in front of his house and that cars do not pay any attention to the stop sign on the bus and kids do cross the street here. He is asking why there is one of these signs at the opposite end of Washington Street but not in front of the school. He also mentions the need for a speed limit sign.

Chief Giorgi said that there is no crosswalk where Slava is asking to see a sign. Is he actually requesting a crosswalk? Ashley Miller said she does not know if there is drop off for the kids at this school. It was discussed that a crosswalk will not solve the problem of cars driving around the bus. Chief Giorgi said that the bus company has not been calling the Police Department with any problems. It's unclear which school the bus issue concerns. If students are going to the school on Washington Street, they should be walking to the end of the street and crossing at the school.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to REFER to the POLICE DEPARTMENT for enforcement. The Police Department can also reach out to Slava and the bus company for clarification.

2c) Discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

City Engineer Tom DiPersio submitted this agenda item. Making this area one-way would allow the city to make better use of the whole area and the new plaza behind City Hall. The road would be made narrower and improve walkability in the area. There is not a lot of traffic that travels west to east, Florence Street to Court Street. He provided a diagram of the consultant's recommendation for the area and is just looking for input at this point.

Officer Larose said that his concern would be that cars would pull into the area and then have nowhere to turn around. There would have to be signage at Florence Street indicating “Not a Through Street” and make the “Do Not Enter” very clearly marked. He

asked what they are doing to widen the area. Mr. DiPersio advised that there would be no change to the area along the Post Office property. The plaza behind City Hall will be totally redone. Technically, the road behind City Hall would be a no parking zone. The need for handicapped parking was brought up.

Steve Kerrigan's concern was with the parking deck. In the winter, it's an ongoing battle as people come to City Hall and have nowhere to park. Mr. DiPersio advised that the spaces in front of the parking garage will stay. The Lost Shoe currently takes up a couple of those parking spaces with tables. It was discussed that maybe they can put tables in the plaza area instead. Ted Scott said that they need to get permission from City Hall for each event that they have. Mr. DiPersio said that they will have room for tables on their own side with the new design.

Chief Giorgi advised that he has no objection to Weed Street being made one-way in this area. Mr. DiPersio said that there would need to be a formal vote at some point. He would also like to have some input from the Fire Chief.

MOTION was made, seconded, duly VOTED to KEEP this item on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

3-Old Business

3a) Mt. Pleasant Street Traffic Concerns

Update: At the meeting in October, this issue was referred to Engineering to look at the timing of the lights. Engineering has no further update. This item will REMAIN on the Agenda.

3b) Crescent Street Parking Issues

Update: At the October meeting, it was agreed that this item would be TABLED until roadway construction is complete before making any changes. TABLED until the Spring.

3d) Commercial Vehicle Parking Issues

Update: Steve Kerrigan advised that he has spoken to Jeremy McManus, in the Legal Department, as to whether this would be better handled through a Traffic Regulation or a City Ordinance. Mr. Kerrigan said that he received an email from him that basically said it could be handled either way. He would have to do more research. This item will REMAIN 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 10:34 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 January 17, 2024, including meeting agenda.

-Draft of Traffic Commission Minutes from Wednesday, November 29, 2024.

-Email from Elyse Heise to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/5/23, Re: URGENT – Delay Removal of NORTHERN Stop Sign at Intersection of Clinton and Auburn Street.

-Email from Councilor Dumais to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/14/23, re: Crosswalk Corner of Devens St. and Washington St. – original email from Slava, dated 11/11/23, including (including photo).

-Email from Tom DiPersio to Chief Giorgi, dated 11/22/23, re: Traffic Commission Item (discussion of possibility of making Weed Street one-way (westbound only) between Court Street and the west side of the City Hall rear plaza.

Additional Handouts or Displayed on Screen at Meeting

-Diagram of proposed work on Weed Street