

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Traffic Commission

Held Friday March 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

The meeting was attended by all members of the Traffic Commission, Mayor McCarthy and Councillors Durkee, Darcy, Harris, McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, and Vidal. Mr. Wayne Brasco, Chair of Waltham Licensing Commission was also present. There was a total 108 viewing this meeting.

At the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Traffic Commission Mayor McCarthy and Mr. Jeffrey Abellard, Proprietor Bistro 781 Moody Street requested consideration for Moody Street to be closed to through traffic so that outside dining could take place as it did last year starting in June 2020. In June 2020, Governor Baker approved regulations for outside dining on a limited basis and suspended local requirements for permits for the use of public property.

At that time, the Traffic Commission voted to have Waltham's Traffic Engineer, Mr. Michael Garvin, formulate a plan to close Moody Street with the assistance of the Mayor, Councillors and merchants. This plan is called "Plan #1".

Moody Street was closed at intersection of Pine/Crescent Streets south to the intersection Walnut/Cushing Streets; and then closed from the intersection of Walnut/Cushing Streets south to Chestnut Street. The northbound Moody Street traffic was blocked at the intersection of High/Maple Streets.

A single emergency access lane existed along the route where businesses where not allowed to set up tables. Vehicles were able to cross Moody Street at Walnut Street to Cushing Street, and across Chestnut Street.

This was the plan requested at the February meeting. There were numerous comments made relative to the problems that existed such as: Insufficient and confusing signage, senior citizens having problems getting to the businesses, delivery trucks (early morning use of Moody Street was allowed for this purpose), aesthetics, barricades needing to be improved; and the needs of the small businesses being affected. All these issues were expressed at the March 18 meeting and as well at this meeting. In response, Mayor McCarthy presented "Plan #2", as her preference.

Plan #2 is summarized as follows:

Moody Street would be made one-way, single lane southbound from the intersection of Pine/Crescent Streets to the intersection High/Maple Streets. There would be Drop Off areas at Whitney Avenue both sides of Moody Street, another drop off area both sides, just south of Cushing Street and a third drop off area at Maple Street. No side street can enter Moody Street. Eastbound traffic on Spruce St., Walnut Street and Chestnut Street would have half barriers. Westbound traffic on Gordon Street, Cushing Street and Chestnut Street would be one-way eastbound only, so no westbound traffic could enter Moody Street. Chestnut Street from Moody Street to Hall Street would be made one-way eastbound. (This would change the existing one-way from westbound to eastbound) Vehicles would be permitted, from the intersection of Pine/Crescent Streets to the intersection of Walnut Street to turn right into the off-street parking lots; left turns only be

permitted at Cushing and Chestnut Streets. Appropriate signage to direct the motorist to the proper parking areas must be included.

Fire Chief MacInnis stated objection to Plan #2 because this will have an effect on response time for fire apparatus. Wires Inspector Mr. Kelly favored Plan #2 as a “hybrid” plan.

Mayor McCarthy stated that she will work with the Housing Department to distribute applications for a Moody Street Permit to all businesses along Moody Street, and return with a revised proposal for a Traffic Commission vote.

Voted to table and have another Special Meeting to decide which plan or parts of each plan should be used during the Pandemic Crisis of 2021. Also, consideration for Upper Moody Street (South Side) must be discussed.

Adjourned @ 1:48pm

(Note: Member Ms. Cagle left meeting at 11:45 AM)

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk