

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 21, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Riverfest 2011

Mr. Mark Wasnock is requesting permission for traffic modifications on the Moody Street bridge for Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Ms. Allison Berry was present to speak about this event. Fire Chief Cardillo is concerned that the Fire and Police Department had not been contacted about this event. The Chief is also concerned that with the Moody Street Station being under construction he will have to position one of his trucks on the other side of Moody Street Bridge. The proposal for this year is to close the two southbound lanes of traffic on Moody Street Bridge to support vendors and pedestrians. Their alternative plan is to close the two outside lanes in either direction, and allow the motorist to move within the inside lanes. We will allow the small parking section of the Embassy Parking Facility behind Moody Street to be used for food and entertainment and we will refrain from issuing tickets on Saturday in the Embassy Parking Facility only. Petitioner will also need to contact the MBTA Commuter Rail Division about additional pedestrian traffic in the area. **Voted to approve subject to presentation of plan to both Fire and Police Departments before the event.**

B. Gore Street at Main Street - No Turn on Red

Received email from John S. to install No Turn on Red sign coming from Gore Street onto Main Street. Transportation Department recommended that this be approved due to the angle and the existence of two lanes in the right turn channel. Fire Chief Cardillo recommended this be denied based on the inappropriate email request from an unknown person. The Chief also stated that we could reach out to the Ward Councilor to determine what his opinion is. The vote was a tie with members Vokey and Kelly voting to approve the request and Cardillo and Malone voting to deny with Commissioner LaCroix breaking the tie by voting against. **It was voted to deny this request.**

C. Albemarle Road - Pedestrian Safety

Councilor Darcy is requesting ways to make pedestrian travel safe on this roadway. City Councilors Darcy and McMenimen were present for this item. Darcy stated that this is not a cut-through neighborhood and they would be interested in the installation of mirrors, speed humps, sidewalks, posted speed limits and even a STOP sign on top of the hill. Councilor McMenimen states the problem is also single family homes being torn down and replaced with two family homes. This is increasing the amount of vehicles in the neighborhoods. Mr. David McCaffrey, # 17 Albemarle Rd. spoke that a lot of children are in the area now and vehicles fly over the hill. He suggested making Albemarle Road one-way from Trapelo Road to Ivaloo Street. Mr. Michael Walsh, # 19 Albemarle Road spoke regarding the poor visibility going over the hill with motorist going 20-30 MPH. Chief Cardillo suggested the use of permanently mounted electronic speed limit message board. **Voted to table and have traffic consultant determine if any measures can be implemented and report back to the Commission.**

D. South Street at Brandeis University - Change Pedestrian Signal

Mr. Yigal Agam is requesting that the existing pedestrian activated yellow flashing signal be revised to a pedestrian activated red signal. **Vote to table and ask Brandies University representatives attend the next meeting.**

E. Russell Street - Overnight Parking

Mr. John Smith, # 164 Russell Street is requesting Overnight Parking on Russell Street from # 154 - 168 on the north side. Mr. Smith was present to discuss his concerns regarding the residents no longer being allowed to park in the Banks School. This small section was not allowed Overnight

Parking as the rest of Russell Street was back in 1989 due to the Banks Elementary School. This school is no longer in use and is being converted into other uses. **Voted to approve and make the following changes in the Rules and Regulations.**

Schedule 1 - Delete: Russell St., north side, 250' E. of South St. – No Parking

Schedule 1A - Add: Russell St., north side, 250' E. of South St.

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Barbara Rd./ Chaffee Ave. – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/09)
- B. Brookfield Rd. at Upton Rd. – Stop Sign (2/10)
- C. #306 Lexington St. – Driveway Opening (4/10)
- D. Lincoln St. at Sanderson Rd./Curve St. – Traffic Improvements (6/10)
- E. Spruce St. Parking Lot – Stone Wall (6/10)
- F. Connors Pool # 148 Newton St. – Proposed revision to vehicle access to site (6/10)
- G. Zone Change Request – Change in Policy (6/10)
- H. 200 Moody Street – Proposed Development (9/10)
- I. Traffic Commission Policies (9/10)

J. #1019 Trapelo Road – Redevelopment of former Shell Station (9/10)

Voted to remove from table. Attorney Phil McCourt spoke briefly about this project and that the petitioner, Mr. Dan Yu agrees to all our recommended mitigation. Mr. Fred Keylor, traffic consultant with HW Moore Associates spoke on the traffic study. The proposed development will consist of the demolition of the existing gas station and car wash and construction of a new 9,343 sq. ft commercial/retail building along with two new access drives and parking for 47 vehicles. They are anticipating the proposed 9,343 sq. ft. to be 1,999 sq. ft. bank with single drive-thru window; a 1,500 sq. ft. Starbucks coffee shop (walk-in service only); a 1,000 sq. ft. fast food restaurant (take-out service only); and 4,844 sq. ft. of generic hard goods retail space (AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, etc.). Our traffic consultant, GPI, still has reservations about some of the elements of the site layout and design, including: The amount of activity occurring on the drive thru lane including; parking, trash pickup and bank drive thru window, and its ability to only accommodate a single vehicle abreast. Also the ability of the site to accommodate larger delivery vehicles. The proponent has indicated that he would be willing to put restrictions on the site and/or lease agreements with tenants in terms of time of trash pickup and deliveries as well as restrictions on the size of delivery vehicles (no tractor trailer units). He has further indicated that the parking on the drive thru lane would be restricted to bank employees. GPI states that with the implementation of the revised signal coordination plans which are part of their mitigation, it is expected that the site will have minimal impacts on the operations along Trapelo Road or on the Lexington Street corridor and that any issues identified above would be contained within the site. Commission member Ron Vokey agreed with the concerned regarding the drive thru window with the single lane. Member Russ Malone stated that the site itself is a big concern due to the size. Fire Chief Cardillo stated that there is no fire lane on the development and that the site is bad. The petitioner stated that they spoke with Deputy Chief Richardson regarding this project. Councilors Darcy and McMenimen were present and both stated they are giving full disclosure that they are just here to observe since they may be voting on this at a later date.

Voted to accept this report and all mitigation listed below and forward to City Council.

Lexington St. at Trapelo Rd.:

- 1. Establish standard NEMA Quad left phasing to allow left turn to run concurrently with the corresponding through movement as well as the corresponding opposing left turn movements on both Lexington Street and Trapelo Road.**
- 2. Establish new detection zones and modify the controller as required.**
- 3. Upgrade the wireless video detection cameras to wired video detection cameras.**

Lexington St. at Trapelo Rd; Stearns Hill Rd. and Ridge Rd./Lionel Ave.:

1. Design and implement Signal Coordination Plans.

K. Highland St. “Spur” between Hope Ave. & Curtis St. – Review traffic (10/10)

Voted to remove from table. Councilor Logan sent an email stating he wants this tabled until the May meeting. **Voted to retable.**

L. Lexington St. at Glenmeadow Condominiums – Proposed Traffic Signal (10/10)

Voted to remove from table. At the October meeting Ms. Rossana Campos requested that we reconsider installing a traffic signal at this location. Our traffic consultant, GPI, conducted traffic volumes at this location in March 2011. Of the eight traffic signal warrants, at least one should be satisfied prior to installation. Warrant 1 (8 hr. vehicular volume) and Warrant 2 (4 hr. vehicular volume) are satisfied, but it should be noted that the volumes at 1105 Lexington access drive alone do not warrant signalization. It is the impact of the Waltham Plaza traffic that results in the warrants being satisfied. However, according to MUTCD “the satisfaction of a traffic signal warrant or warrants shall not in itself require the installation of a traffic control signal. The MUTCD further recommends that prior to the installation of a traffic signal other measures should be explored to improved operations. One item that was noted at the intersection is the lack of defined lanes along Lexington Street. GPI’s recommendation is that while a traffic signal is warranted at the intersection, it is recommended that alternatives to signalization be explored. Lexington Street should be striped to clearly define the travel lanes through this intersection. If a single northbound and southbound lane can be provided without impacting the operations along Lexington Street, access from both the Glenmeadow Condo’s as well as the Waltham Plaza would be improved. Should it be determined that a traffic signal is desired in the future, since the traffic signal would be installed to provide access to two private driveways the property owners should be notified to determine how the design and construction cost would be paid. Commission member Ron Vokey agreed in seeing if the private entities would assist in funding. Councilor McMenimen spoke about how both Windsor Village and The Ridge privately funded the installation of the two new signals on Lexington Street. Councilor Darcy mentioned that we should contact the Town of Lexington to see if they are still including at Brookhaven a signal for pedestrians. **Voted to retable and have GPI submit proposed stripping improvements along Lexington Street.**

M. 110 Bear Hill Road – Proposed Development (11/10)

N. Traffic Commission Policy – Revised Petition Policy (11/10) – In Law Dept.

O. Four-Way Stop Review (11/10) – In Law Dept.

P. Trapelo Road at Pine Vale Road – Full Traffic Signal (11/10)

Voted to remove from table. At the November meeting Ms. Edith Constantine, # 1263 Trapelo Road requested a full traffic signal at this intersection. The item was tabled until traffic counts and a signal warrant analysis could be completed by our traffic consultant. Mr. Constantine was present and spoke stating that he believes the problem is on Trapelo Road not Pine Vale Road and it has to do with the speeds on Trapelo Road. Our traffic consultant GPI completed the counts in March and the results showed that none of the eight signal warrants are met. GPI further noted that though the traffic signal warrants were not met or recommended at this intersection, the City is in the process of installing a pedestrian activated flashing warning light at this location. It was also mentioned that this pedestrian signal could in the future be relocated further east along the flat section of Trapelo Road along Graverson Park. This can only be done with the installation of sidewalk along the Trapelo Road and by having the park entrance redesigned to direct pedestrians to the new park entrance and away from the Pine Vale Road entrance. Councilors Darcy and McMenimen were both present. The Commission voiced their support of moving the new

pedestrian signal at a future date, but that funding would be needed to complete for the sidewalk and relocation of the park entrance. Both Councilors were in agreement. **Voted to deny.**

Q. Ellison Park – Posted Speed Limit (12/10) Voted to remove from table and regroup under item 2Y.

R. Ellison Park near # 115 - Speed Hump (12/10) - Voted to remove from table and regroup under item 2Y.

S. Main Street at Appleton Street – Traffic Signal Issues (1/11)

Voted to remove from table. This signal has been an ongoing issue. At the January meeting we directed our traffic consultant to conduct a traffic counts and a traffic signal warrant analysis. The traffic counts were taken in February. There are eight traffic signal warrants, based solely on traffic volumes; none of the volumes in the warrants were met. However, the volumes alone are not the sole guidance for traffic signalization, that is determined by a engineering assessment. Sight distances were evaluated at this intersection. Sight lines along Main Street both eastbound and westbound are sufficient for 30 MPH speed limit. However, the sight lines looking to the west and more importantly to the east from Appleton Street are restricted by street hardware and on-street parking. In addition, the presence of the church on the north side of the intersection, continues to still be a destination for pedestrians. If the Commission desires to remove the traffic signal numerous steps will need to occur:

1. Eliminated parking on the south side of Main Street within 30 feet of the intersection of Appleton Street.
2. Remove or relocate the traffic signal control cabinet on the southeast corner.
2. Post “Traffic Signal Under Study for Removal” signs along all approaches to the intersection.
3. Flash the signal for a period of 90 days and install a STOP sign on the Appleton Street approach.

Currently this signal is not causing any backups on Main Street. **Voted to keep the traffic signal.**

T. South Street at Wheelock Road – Exclusive Left Turn Retiming 90 Day Trial (1/11)

U. Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement Procedure – Letter to Law Dept. (2/11)

V. Upper Moody Street – Change Free 1 Hr. Parking to 2 Hr. (2/11) - Voted to remove

from table. At the February meeting Ms. Margaret West requested that Upper Moody Street have the free 1 hr. parking increased to 2 hrs. The Commission voted to send a questionnaire to all businesses the entire length of Moody Street with a deadline for returned of March 11th. Of the 106 questionnaires issued only 34 were returned. Of the 34 returned 28 were from Lower Moody Street (Main St. to High/Maple Sts.) and 6 were from Upper Moody Street (High/Maple Sts. to Derby St.) All 34 responded to questions 1 and 2, with various responses on questions 3-8. The following was the results.

- | | | |
|---|----------|---------|
| 1. Do you wish to leave free parking to 1 hr.? | Yes (15) | No (19) |
| 2. Do you wish to increase free parking to 2 hrs? | Yes (17) | No (17) |
| 3. Do you wish to return parking meters? | Yes (2) | No (31) |
| 4. Do you provide on-site parking for employees? | Yes (11) | No (23) |
| 5. Do you provide on-site parking for customers? | Yes (7) | No (26) |
| 6. Do you feel enforcement should be increased? | Yes (8) | No (17) |
| 7. Are you satisfied with the present enforcement? | Yes (25) | No (6) |
| 8. Do you think night time enforcement of parking meters is required? | Yes (4) | No (29) |

There were numerous comments that came back also. Due to the closeness of the vote and lack of responses, especially from Upper Moody Street it was recommended to not make any changes. **Voted to deny this request.**

W. Required Parking Spaces (2/11) – in Law Dept. Voted to remove from table. A letter was received by the Law Dept. on the proper procedure to change the parking space ordinance in the City. Due to the information supplied more time will be needed to determine the next course of action. **Voted to retable.**

X. South Street at Highland Street - Proposed Traffic Signal (3/11) – Voted to remove from table. Councilor Logan sent an email wanting this item remain on the table until the May meeting. **Voted to retable.**

Y. Ellison Park & Summer Street Area - Traffic Calming (sp. 3/11) – Voted to remove from table. Councilor Waddick was present and spoke on this issue. He spoke of the proposals discussed at the Special March meeting. One proposal, investigate one-way streets, he stated that it should not include Summer Street. Mr. Gerald Olson, # 147 Ellison Park spoke about his recommendations of traffic calming on Summer Street by alternating parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Olson also submitted a suggested plan for our traffic consultant's use. Mr. Tom Casey, # 115 Ellison Park stated the traffic enforcement is lacking at the STOP sign on the island which was recently re-installed. He was also curious that since the speed study was recently completed if our consultant would go back and restudy after the traffic improvements have been taken. John Diaz stated that he would recommend that some of the proposed improvements be completed soon and new counts taken. There are some improvements that will require funding such as squaring of the island and intersections, but that one-way patterns could be accomplished without funding. Ms. January representing Garden Crest was asked to attend by Fire Chief Cardillo at the Special March meeting. The Chief asked if the Garden Crest residents are told to park on Summer Street which is not approved for Overnight Parking and only has a 2 hr. daytime parking limit. Ms. January stated that believed that over the past 9 years they were allowed to park on Summer Street. The Fire Chief wants Garden Crest to work with the City to add more parking on their property. **Voted to retable and have GPI conduct a traffic study of this area.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – Review is staying steady. Also reported that the six new Parkeon Pay-By-Space machines have been delivered. We are now working preparing the site locations, along with proper signage, space numbering, removal of existing meters and flyers.

B. Traffic Consultant contract renewed for another year – GPI's contract has been renewed for another year. Also the City Council approved our request for an additional \$25,000 for GPI's services.

C. Totten Pond Road Ice Rink Pedestrian Crossing – Update . Boston Properties will be pulling the permits in May for the construction of this pedestrian signal and crosswalk. It was asked of Transportation Dept. if the city would pay for the Police detail to conduct this project. The Police Chief stated no since their agreement was for them to perform the work.

D. Children's Hospital Definitive Subdivision review - Information Only. GPI reviewed this project and their letter was forwarded to the Board of Survey and Planning.

E. Forest Street at Beaver Street Relocation of Utility Poles – Update. Member Tim Kelly has been meeting with Verizon. One pole will be removed in the next few weeks, while there is no date as of yet on the removal of the pole with the underground connection.

F. Forest Street at Trapelo Road – Proposed Traffic Signal Update. Transportation Dept. received a response from the Law Dept. To obtain the right-of-way required on the north side of Trapelo Road for the street widening it would require State Legislations approval. The current agreement states that this area is for recreational purposes only. This process could take 6-8 months. The Law Dept. and Mayor both determined that it would be best to just complete the design within our own right-of-way. Our design consultant Vanasse & Associates will supply us with a new scope of design and cost estimate in the beginning of May.

G. Finance Committee Request - We have forwarded the following information onto the Finance Committee as requested. 1) The range of hourly rates for services provided by the traffic consultant. 2) Information regarding turnaround time on various projects completed by this consultant. Also turnaround time provided on similar type projects done prior to use of a consultant. 3) That the Traffic Commission prioritize the current projects assigned to the traffic consultant from the highest to lowest based on public safety to the residents of Waltham.

H. Weston Street at Cedarwood Avenue - Relocation of crosswalk and pedestrian signals. Letter sent to MassDOT. Information Only.

Adjourned at 11:50 AM

Attendance: All members, except Tom Magno

Mr. John Diaz (GPI) was present

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa Gerlach. Acting Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: April 21, 2011

Please Print

Name of Speaker	# Street, City	Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner	For/Against Item No:
Robert J Waddick	129 Church St	City Councilor	Gardencrest
Kathleen McMemimen	147 Trapelo Rd	City Councilor	Albemarle Rd
Gerald Olson	147 ellison prk	Abutter	Gardencrest Ellison Park
Jack Smith	164 Russell St	Abutter	Russell St All Night Parking
Tom Casey	115 Ellison Park	Abutter	Gardencrest Ellison Pk
Allison Berry	Moody Street Bridge	Interested Party	Riverfest
David McCaffrey	17 Albemarle Rd	Interested Paarty	Albemarle Rd
Michael Walsh	19 Albemarle Rd	Interested Party	Albemarle Rd
William Constantine	1263 Trapelo Rd	Interested Party	Trapelo @ Pine Vale Ped Signal
John Mirabito	62 Hillcrest Street	Interested Party	Trapelo Rd @ Pine Vale Ped Signal
George Darcy	93 Hobbs Road	City Councilor	Albemarle Rd