

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. River Street at Jackson Street – Pedestrian Crosswalk & Speed Limit Signage**

Ms. Catherine Pawlak, # 386 River Street is requesting crosswalk, pedestrian signage and Speed Limit signage. Ms. Pawlak attended the meeting and spoke relative to the problem of crossing River Street. She cites lack of crosswalks and speeding. Upon review it was determined that in 1982, the reconstruction of River Street, had a crosswalk located on River Street at Jackson. The crosswalk on Jackson Street has been repainted however, River Street has been overlooked. Overhead lighting is sufficient and handicapped ramps have been installed. Crosswalk signage should also be installed. A speed study would be required for the entire length of River Street and a posted "Speed Limit" may possibly exceed the present "Thickly Settled" 30MPH.

**Voted to have the crosswalk on River Street at Jackson repainted. Pedestrian signage will be installed. The request for a posted "Speed Limit" is denied.**

**B. McDevitt Middle School 5K Road Race Fund Raiser**

McDevitt Middle School PTO is requesting permission for a road race to benefit the school.

Ms. Colette Casey-Brenner, PTO President of McDevitt appeared on behalf of this request. She explained that the Police and Fire Departments have been involved with the project and all their concerns have been addressed. The race will be conducted on Sunday May 22, 2011, and will commence at 12 noon. The route shall be the Embassy Park, south on Moody St., Crescent/Derby St., right onto Crescent St., left onto Woerd Ave., loop around the "island" back onto Woerd Ave., left to the Riverwalk behind the Watch Factory, cross Prospect St, continue on the Riverwalk. to Moody Street turning south to the Start/Finish line at the Embassy Park. A permit must be issued by Mayor McCarthy. The Traffic Commission has authorized the Police Department "to close, block, redirect traffic, remove parking or any other regulation/control" determined to be necessary for the safety of the runners/public during this event. Such authorization shall coincide with the Mayor's permit for this event. **Voted to approve request.**

**C. Russell Street at Prospect Street – Signal Timing and Speed Humps**

Ms. Suzanne Hevelone, 135 Russell Street is requesting the pedestrian timing phase be checked. She is also requesting Speed Humps on Russell Street due to vehicles using it as a cut-through. The petitioner has stated that signal's timing is not proper and does not activate the pedestrian phase. The Wires Department had found a defective push button on the Bank of America corner (northeast) and has had it replaced, they also found that the sensor loops were never reinstalled after Prospect Street was repaved. Wires Department will have the loops installed in the spring. The use of speed humps is still a major safety concern to the Fire Department; damage to equipment and personnel injuries. **It was voted to deny installation of Speed Humps and to have a follow up visit by the Wires Department and/or our consultant if the signals have not improved.**

**D. Lake Road at Seminole Avenue – Stop Sign**

Mr. Richard Cameron, # 117 Seminole Ave. is requesting a STOP sign at this intersection. Mr. Cameron attended the meeting for this petition. A site review indicated vehicles exiting Lake Road onto Seminole Avenue have a slight hill to the left; there have been no reported accidents for the previous three years. **Voted to place a Stop Sign on Lake Road, due to the poor sight distance, facing westbound traffic.**

**Add to Schedule 3 STOP Streets**

**Lake Road at Seminole Ave. – Facing westbound traffic**

#### **E. Upper Moody Street – Change Free 1 Hr. Parking to 2 Hr.**

Ms. Margaret West, # 580 Moody Street is requesting this time limit be changed. Ms. West attended this meeting on behalf of this request. She explained that she intends to move her business to 580 Moody Street (Myrtle & Moody Sts) where there presently exist 1 hour free parking. This Upper section (Maple/High Street south to Derby/Crescent St) had parking meters removed in 1995 after a short trial period. In December 1995 the Commission denied a request to increase the time to 2 hours because the majority of the Moody Street merchants agreed that 1 hour was good for most and that enforcement would be difficult with two time restrictions. The Commission wants to know if their opinion has changed. **It was voted to query the Moody Street merchants, entire length, for an opinion on the amount of time for free parking. The flyers will be delivered by the P.C.O.'s and the merchants will be asked to return the flyer as soon as possible. The Commission tentatively, has scheduled this matter for the April 21, 2011 meeting.**

#### **F Temporary Snow Emergency Procedure Update**

The Police Department (Capt. Feeney, OIC Community Services) had determined several streets must be posted "Temporary No Parking" due to the unusual amount of snow (Article II Sections 1-2-3 Authority of the Police for an Emergency Situation) emergency vehicles could not get through at the following locations Pond St; Crescent St. north side Maple to Cronins Landing; Summer Street both sides Ellison Park to Lyman Street; Hovey Road, west side & Prospect Street east side Felton to Charles. As of this date, the streets have been cleared and parking has been restored except for the following three streets:

##### **Posted Temporary No Parking at the following**

**Pond Street** - both sides

**Crescent St** – north side; Maple to Cronins Landing

**Prospect Street** – east side Felton Street to Charles Street.

#### **G. Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement Procedure**

Transportation Department is requesting that the current Overnight Parking practice for streets not posted be reviewed. The Chief of Police (T.LaCroix) explained the Police Department's position for compassion to the residents who have absolutely no parking. Several members reminded the Commission that the purpose of No All Night Parking is to maintain clearance for Emergency Vehicle. Streets such as Summer Street, Pond Street, Columbus Ave, and parts of Crescent Street must be reviewed. There is a need for a comprehensive review of all streets with the Councilors, and Special Interest Groups. The Commission should support a minimum of 2.5 parking spaces per unit for new development. (Letter to the Law Department on how this can be done) In addition one-way streets patterns should be investigated, which will allow for one-side parking. **Voted to table.**

#### **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. Main St. at Heard St. – Relocation of MBTA bus stop (6/10)
- H. Zone Change Request – Change in Policy (6/10)
- I. 200 Moody Street – Proposed Development (9/10)
- J. Traffic Commission Policies (9/10)

- K. Highland St. "Spur" between Hope Ave. & Curtis St. – Review traffic (10/10)
- L. Moody St. / Crescent St. / Pine St. – Delayed Green Signage (10/10)
- M. Lexington St. at Glenmeadow Condominiums – Proposed Traffic Signal (10/10)
- N. 110 Bear Hill Road – Proposed Development (11/10)
- O. Trapelo Road at Pine Vale Road – Full Traffic Signal (11/10)
- P. Ellison Park – Posted Speed Limit (12/10)
- Q. Ellison Park near # 115 - Speed Hump (12/10)

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

Voted to remove from the table

Councilor Marchese forwarded correspondence supporting the need and retention of this signal. In addition a petition was received 24 residents requesting the signal be kept active. The problem with the signal is that it is outdated and needs to be repaired. The warrants to retain the signal are questionable. **Voted to seek a cost estimate to repair/retain the signal. Additionally, the estimated cost for trip/detector to be installed on Appleton Street to activate the signal. Item was tabled.**

**S. 455 Totten Pond Road - Proposed Rezoning and Redevelopment (1/11)**

Voted to remove from the table

Att. Dacey attended this meeting for the proponent. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) submitted their traffic study, an assessment of the traffic generation for the proposed rezoning and redevelopment of this project. Under existing conditions the site provides an approximately 6,000 square-foot Naked Fish restaurant (with 202 seats for patrons) and a hotel with 113 rooms and suites. The proposed development is to reconstruct the hotel/building, generally within its existing footprint and the conversion of the space to approximately 140 apartment units. The existing restaurant space will not be altered as part of this proposal. The trip generation is expected to be very similar to the total trip generation of a previous reviewed project (July 2008) The Apartment Proposal is expected to generate approximately 40 fewer total trips than the previous proposal. Weekday morning and evening peak hour trips will generate an increase of three more than the previous proposal. The proposed project is not expected to have any additional impacts to the surrounding area. To mitigate the site-generated traffic impacts, the Proponent proposes to consolidate the two Totten Pond Road driveways into one full-access and will align with the site driveway on the opposite side of Totten Pond Rd. to form a four-way unsignalized intersection. The proponent will move the existing Old Winter Street westerly drive to the easterly boundary which will improve sight distance. The proponent will include a comprehensive TDM program, enhanced pedestrian accommodations on-site, new sidewalks on frontage with Totten Pond Road and Winter Street, and will become a member of the Route 128 Business Council. VHB concludes that the existing transportation infrastructure within the study area, upgraded with the proposed improvement measures, will accommodate the traffic volumes projected to be generated by the project. Mr. Diaz, Traffic Consultant for the Traffic Commission has reviewed this report and reported no concerns.

**Voted to accept the traffic study and mitigation measures and forward this report to the City Council for their discussions.**

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

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report - - Noted that revenues are down due to the inordinate amount of snow.

Attendance: All members, Mr. Diaz (GPI), Ms. Gerlach. Off Committee speakers listed below  
Adjourned @ 11:04 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Off Committee Speakers

## Waltham Traffic Commission

**Date of the Meeting:**

**Please Print**

<b>Name of Speaker</b>	<b># Street, City</b>	<b>Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner</b>	<b>For/Against Item No:</b>
Richard F. Dacey	707 Main Street	Attorney – Hospitality House LLC	455 Totten Pond Rd 2S
Colette Casey-Brenner	89 Florence Road	PTO President, McDevitt Middle School	5K Road Race 1 B
Lt. Joseph Brooks	Waltham Police Dept	Licensing Officer	1 B
Catherine Pawlak	386 River Street	Resident – Petitioner	Crosswalk River St 1A
Rick Cameron	117 Seminole Ave	Resident – Petitioner	Stop Sign 1 D
Catherine Juliano	542 Main St	Resident	Appleton St Signal 2R
Margaret West	21 Ellery Road	Petitioner – resident	2 Hr Parking Moody St 1E