

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: MARCH 20, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Voted to accept February's minutes.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. One Moody Street - Antennas

Northland One Moody Street Realty is requesting approval of their Special Permit of an antenna for wireless companies AT&T and Verizon. These antennas result in no traffic impact. **Voted to approve this request.**

B. Prentice/Plympton/Tomlin/Irving Streets – All Way Stop

Ms. Mary McDonnell and numerous residents in the area are requesting that this intersection be made into an All Way Stop. **Mayor McCarthy requested this be tabled until next month's meeting.**

C. Doty Street at Trapelo Road – No Left Turn

Councillor Darcy is requesting that a No Left Turn restriction be approved for eastbound Doty Street one-way section. Councillor McMenniman and Councillor Darcy were present to discuss this request. Councillor McMenniman stated that drivers are using the one-way section of Doty Street to by-pass the new traffic signal at Forest Street, by taking a left from Doty Street to get onto Trapelo Road westbound. The Councillor also stated there seems to be confusion with a sign on Trapelo Road facing westbound traffic approaching Doty Street that states "Left Turn Only". This is causing some motorists to take a left onto the one-way section of Doty Street going the wrong direction. The Councillor asked that we review whether the sign needs to be relocated or pavement markings need to be installed. The Police Chief stated that Police have been monitoring this intersection and the violations have declined. **Voted to approve this request and add to Schedule 18: Turns Only As Designated in the Rules and Regulations. Also direct Traffic Engineering to look at the placement of the sign with the contractor.**

Doty Street: LEFT TURN PROHIBITED: No vehicles traveling eastbound on Doty Street (one-way section) shall take a left turn onto Trapelo Road.

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Highland St. "Spur" at Curtis St. – Removal of "No Right Turn" Restriction (9/12)(10/12)
Waiting for Law Dept. opinion
- B. Ellison Park traffic issues (9/13)(10/13)
- C. Warren Street at Beaver Street – Proposed Traffic Signal Study (9/13)
- D. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)

E. Longfellow Rd. at Fairfax Rd. – Removal of 4-Way Stop (11/13)

Voted to remove from table. Mayor McCarthy presented her support along with Councillor McMenniman to the numerous residents in attendance at this meeting. Ms. Erin Collings, #91 Longfellow Rd. spoke of the when the sign was installed 15 years ago when then Councillor O'Halloran came before the Traffic Commission and it was approved. She noted other 4-way stops installed in the Warrendale area. Ms. Helen Reynolds, #36 Fairfax Rd. spoke of the speeding issue with children in the area and difficulty backing out of her driveway. This was echoed by all the other residents in attendance. The Mayor

spoke of how the removal of the stop signs on Fairfax Road came about from a non-resident regarding all 4-Way stops within the City and removal of our Chapter 90 funding. After review of these locations this was one location that did not meet the warrants and was voted to be removed. The residents suggested possible installation of speed humps similar to Hagar Street. The Police Chief suggested that the Police Department install their speed monitoring devices to study the current speeds on Fairfax Road. **It was voted to continue monitoring the speeds on Fairfax Road to see if they continue to increase without the stop sign in place. Voted to table.**

- F. Lake St. at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)
- G. Farmers Market Relocation to Central Square Parking Deck (11/13)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – Revenue was down by approximately \$6,000 compared to last year at this time.
- B. Forest Street at Trapelo Road Update – Will be conducting a walk through with the contractor and compiling a final punch list of items to complete to finalize project. Thermoplastic arrows will be installed on the pavement.
- C. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. Update– T.E. will reviewing designer cost estimate and work with Purchasing to get project out to bid to see what prices come in as.
- D. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal Study (5/12)(12/12) – Wires Dept. to install mast sign arm in early Spring. We will seek funding from current Traffic Impact money fund installation. **Voted to seek needed funding.**
- E. South Street at Highland Street – Request funding for new traffic signal – No update
- F. Newton Street at River Street – Signal Timing – Turning Movement Count will be conducted on 3/27.
- G. Lexington Street at Beaver Street – CTPS Recommendations. Traffic Engineer is recommending changes 1, 2 and 10 from CTPS study. Other ideas will need additional funding. Commission member Catherine Cagle asked how much to do all the improvements and T.E. said in the hundreds of thousands. Right now there is a safety issue for vehicles taking a left turn and causing cross collisions. Ms. Cagle wanted to know if pedestrian accidents were noted in the study. T.E. was not sure that was reviewed. Police Chief wanted to know if what the accident history was before the previous changes were made to the signal. The following describes the changes recommended:
 - 1 Change the Lexington Street southbound left turn signal operation from lagging (permissive/protected) to leading (protected/permissive).
 - 2 Retime the signal to optimize the splits for the phases.
 - 10. Install warning sign “Turning Vehicles Yield to Pedestrians” on Beaver Street and on Lexington Street northbound, approaching the intersection. **Vote to table.**

- H. Parking Meter Surplus – Removal of on-street meters. Traffic Engineering will be removing the meters the first week of April. Bid opening for the Moody/Main sidewalk reconstruction project will be opened on April 4th. Commission member Tom Magno was concerned with the length of construction on whether to remove the meters now or later. Traffic Engineering wants to remove them as soon as possible so as not to interfere with their painting season. Ms. Nicole Waxmonsky who is a bicycle and pedestrian supporter asked if bicycle racks will be considered with the sidewalk construction. CPW Director Mike Chiasson said it has not be considered. **Voted to approve the removal and surplus of 165 on-street meters in April. It was also voted to have CPW speak to the Mayor regarding inclusion of bicycle racks and report his findings back at the April meeting. Ms. Cagle to collaborate with CPW Mr. Chiasson on appropriate bicycle parking design.**
- I. Proposed Budget – FY 2015. Member Tom Magno left the room to abstain from voting on page 2 (Personnel) section of the Traffic Engineering budget. **Voted to approve page 2 of the Traffic Engineering budget. Mr. Magno returned to room. Voted to approve both Traffic Engineering and Parking Meter budgets as submitted.**

AND ANY LATE FILED ITEM(S) THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

Late Item.

4A. Member Catherine Cagle stated that National Bike Month is in May and Bay State Bike Week is May 10-18th. Healthy Transportation Working Forums will be scheduled this spring to discuss opportunities for Bay State Bike Week, a complete streets policy and a Healthy Transportation Advisory Group. She is asking for any input for the other Commission members.

Attendance: All members present. Clerk Frank Lombardo absent.
Adjourned at: 11:15 AM

Lisa Gerlach
Acting Clerk