

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON: MAY 15, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Voted to approve.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Pine Street at Lowell Street – All Way STOP

Councillor Logan is requesting Traffic Engineering review this location as a possible All-Way STOP. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported his review showed four (4) accidents in three (3) years; May 2001 – May 2014 The accident warrant requires five or more per year. Traffic volumes to meet the warrants are unlikely; 800 vehicles per hour on the major street and 200 per hour on the minor street. **Voted to deny**

B. Spruce Street at Moody Street – Removal of MBTA Bus Stop

Councillor Logan is requesting that the existing MBTA Bus Stop and expand the loading zone into this area. Presently one bus Route 558 turns onto Spruce Street. There are not a large number of riders and it makes more sense to route these buses along Crescent Street. The MBTA is in favor of revising Route 558, and remove the Spruce Street bus stops. Two new stops will be located on Crescent Street. **Voted to approve and have two new bus stops (one in each direction) on Crescent Street in the revised route area.**

C. Spruce Street at Moody Street – Expand Loading Zone

Councillor Logan is requesting that the loading zone be expanded closer to Moody Street. Presently, on the north side, there is No Parking, No Standing from Moody Street west 60 feet; (there is no parking on the south side). The loading zone on the north side was approved after discussion with the Downtown Waltham Partnership and approved by the Traffic Commission in September 2013. The No Parking and No Standing restriction was put in place in order to facilitate the turning maneuvers of vehicles turning onto Spruce Street from Moody Street. It was recommended to deny and keep the loading zones as they are on Spruce Street. **Voted to table this request and have the Traffic Engineer review the requirement for parking restrictions within 60 feet of Moody Street.**

D. Elm Street – Change new 4 Hour Parking to 1 Hour Parking

Mr. Jim McElroy, # 14-20 Elm Street is requesting the new parking 4 hour limit be changed to 1 hour parking for their customers. Mayor McCarthy spoke in support of this request. Mr. McElroy stated that as the owner of the property, the present tenants support one (1) hour parking. Area employees, are taking the parking, and short term parking is needed. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that four hours, in this area is not appropriate. He agreed that the side streets off Main Street may need adjustment on a case by case basis. He supported one (1) hour parking on Elm Street both sides. **Voted to approve and amend the parking to one (1) hour.** Make the following changes to Schedule 1.

Delete: Elm St., E. side, Central St. to 225' S. of Main St., 4hr parking 8am-6pm Exc. Sun. & Holi.

Delete: Elm St. W. side, 225' S. of Main St. to 170' N. of Carter St. 4hr parking 8am-6pm Exc. Sun. & Holi.

Add: Elm Street, E. side, Central St. to 225' S. of Main St., 1hr parking 8am-6pm Exc. Sun. & Holi.

Add: Elm St. W. side ,225' S. of Main St. to 170' N. of Carter St. 1hr parking 8am-6pm Exc. Sun. & Holi.

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)(3/14)(4/14)
- F. Lake St. at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)

G. Farmers Market Relocation to Central Square Parking Deck (11/13)

Mr. Rudnick, the Mayor and the Building Department have worked together to finalize a permanent location in the Arthur J. Clark Government Center. The site will be used from June 14-November 8. The parking lot will be open to vendors starting at 8:00 AM until 2:30 PM. The actual market hours will be 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM. No further action by the Traffic Commission is needed. **Voted to place on file.**

- H. **Prentice/Plympton/Tomlin/Irving Streets – All Way Stop (3/14)** Ms. Mary McDonnell and other residents attended the meeting and stated that the situation is confusing and the fifth stop sign is needed, there are children in the area and the incline on Prentice Street should not be a problem. Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor for an all-way stop. Member Mr. Malone also favored an all-stop. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin explained the need for "warrants" that must be met. Traffic counts indicate that Prentice Street has approximately 300-400 vehicles per hour and other minor streets carry less than 200 per hour. These numbers do not meet "warrant" requirements. The accident history showed one accident in three years and that was caused by a vehicle failing to stop at the stop sign. Sight distances are more than adequate. Member Chief Ciccone asked if other traffic calming measures could be reviewed. Member Mr. Malone asked for measures to reduce speeding. Mayor McCarthy also encouraged further study and to seek traffic calming measures that may be appropriate at this intersection. **Voted to table and have Traffic Engineering review other traffic calming measures.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter ReportReceipts are down approximately \$13K from last year.
- B. Forest Street at Trapelo Road Update – Information Only. Inspection and punch list established (sidewalk work – pavement markings & guardrail).
- C. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. Update– Information Only. Bid has been received and is under review.
- D. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal Study (5/12)(12/12) Request for funding approved by the City Council.
- E. South Street at Highland Street – Request funding for new traffic signal. Preparing bid documents and specifications for construction bid.
- F. Spruce Street and Walnut Street Parking Lots – Request use of \$30K CIP monies to go to bid for design of the two parking lots. **Voted to approve**

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

4: Voted to accept reconsideration of parking on lower Main Street (east of the Main Street Overpass)

Councillor Joe Vizard and Mr. Frank Joyce, Joyce Funeral Home are requesting consideration for reinstating on street parking in this area of Main Street. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin explained that four (4) lanes of travel, based on traffic counts, was warranted in the section of Main Street. Mr. Joyce stated that the occasional short term parking, needed for his business has not been a problem in the past. Additionally, he has hired a Police Detail, when needed, to assist pedestrians and on-street parking. Member Mr. Chiasson, stated he felt when the parking is needed the situation is reasonable and not a deterrent to traffic. Mayor McCarthy stated she felt this to be a traffic calming measure that helps reduce the speed in the area. Member Mr. Malone stated that parking on Main Street must be reviewed on a case by case basis and exceptions are needed.

Voted to approve and remove the present No Parking and 30 Minute parking restriction on Main Street from the Overpass, east to Rangely Road. Traffic Engineering will review and recommend whether additional measures are needed. Make the following changes to Schedule 1.

Delete:

Main St., N. side, Watertown Line to Bowker Rd., No Parking

Main St., N. side, Bowker Rd. to 100' E. of Willow St. to 30 Min. Parking 7am-3pm, Exc. Sat., Sun., Holi.

Main St., N. side, 100' E. of Willow St. to Craven Cir., No Parking

Main St., N. side, Craven Cir. To 215' E. of Lyman St., 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun, Holi.

Main St., S. side, 50' W. of Heard St. to Watertown Line, No Parking

Add:

Main St., N. side, Watertown Line to Brigham Rd., No Parking

Main St., N. side, Linden St. to 215' E. of Lyman St., 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun, Holi.

Main St., S. side, 50' W. of Heard St. to Massasoit St., No Parking

Main St., S. side, Rangley Rd. to Watertown Line, No Parking

Attendance: Absent Mr. Kelly, (meeting NSTAR Emergency procedures); Mr. Magno (injured); Ms. Cagle (Boston Planning Meeting); all others present.

Adjourned @ 11:02 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: **May 15, 2014**

Please Print

| Name of Speaker | # Street, City | Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner | For/Against Item No: |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Jeannette A. McCarthy | Mayor of Waltham | | 1D Elm Street 2H All-Way Stop Prentice/Plympton Parking Lower Main St. |
| Mary McDonald | 24 Upland Rd | | 2H All-Way Stop Prentice/Plympton |
| Frank Joyce | 245 Main Street | | Parking Lower Main St |
| Charles Cerimlisk | 188 Main Street | | Parking Lower Main St |