

## MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

HELD: APRIL 17, 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**

### 1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

**A. Forest Street – Bicycle Lanes** Councillor Darcy is requesting discussion of bicycle lanes on Forest Street. Councillor Darcy attended the meeting and stated that there is enough room on Forest Street to accommodate a Bike Lane. T.E. Mr. Garvin stated that Forest Street is approximately 40 feet wide and could have two 11 foot wide travel lanes and two 5 foot bike lanes. This would leave 8 feet for a parking lane on one side of the street. Another option is to remove parking on both sides and have two 15 foot wide travel lanes. Member Mr. Chiasson favored parking on the residential (west) side. Member Mr. Kelly also favored the residential side for parking. Chief MacPherson agreed that 11 foot lanes will help alleviate and control speeding. Member Ms. Cagle recommends neighborhood discussion before removing any parking. It was suggested that Councillor Darcy set up a neighborhood meeting with the other two abutting Councillors to determine what the neighborhood's feeling is since parking would potentially be removed on at least one side. **Voted to table until neighborhood has had a chance to voice their concerns.**

**B. 1077 Lexington Street – Proposed Subway TEC** has been requested by the Rules and Ordinance Sub-Committee to receive a finding from the Traffic Commission regarding this project. Mr. Kevin Dandrade spoke on behalf of this proposal. He explained that the Rules & Ordinance Committee requested an opinion on the internal traffic circulation of this parking lot, the driveway exit/entrance, and that the report included all the affected intersections. T.E. Mr. Garvin responded that restricting the driveway to exit/entrance only would result in the restriction to be widely ignored. He recommended that the driveways be permitted to remain as they currently operate. All of the area study intersections were properly included in TEC's Traffic Impact Study. **Voted to accept the findings of the Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin's and forward the letter to the Rules & Ordinance Committee.**

**C. 2014 Waltham Riverfest** Ms. Sarah Hankins, Downtown Waltham Partnership, Inc. is requesting approval of the annual Riverfest event to be held on June 13 and 14. Ms. Hankins said they want to use Landry Park and close off spaces in front of # 210 Moody Street. **Voted to block two lanes (east side) of the Moody Street Bridge and authorized on-street parking for this event.**

**D. # 126 Smith Street – Do Not Block Emergency Vehicle Entrance** Mr. Ed Win, # 126 Smith Street is requesting signage for motorist not to block the entrance. Councillor Darcy was present and spoke in favor of this request. The entrance/exit driveway is the only access for emergency vehicles, vehicles waiting at the Trapelo Road signal block the driveway. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to install "Do Not Block Driveway" sign, facing southbound traffic on Smith Street.**

**E. # 18 Hagar Street – Handicapped Parking Space** Paul and Lorraine LeBlanc are requesting a Handicapped Parking Space in front of their house. This party has met all the requirements and letter from Disability Services recommends approval. **Voted to have a Handicapped space installed and add the following to Schedule 6 in the Rules and Regulations:**

**Add - Hagar Street, west side, 1 space, in front of #18.**

**F. Service Vehicle Parking Permit** CPW Director Mr. Michael Chiasson is requesting that this permit be issued by Traffic Engineering rather than the CPW Dept. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that placing this under Traffic Engineering makes sense. **Voted to approve and move the issuance of Service Vehicle Parking Permit to the Traffic Engineering / Parking Meter Office.**

**G. # 193 Hammond Street – Removal of Handicapped Parking Space.** We received a message that the original petitioner has passed away and the sign is no longer needed. **Voted to remove the Handicapped parking space and delete from Schedule 6 in the Rules and Regulations the following:**

**Delete: Hammond Street, east side, 1 space in front of #193 8am-8pm**

**H. # 44 Summer Street – Removal of Handicapped Parking Space** We received a message that the original petitioner has passed away and the sign is no longer needed.

**Voted to remove the Handicapped parking space and delete from Schedule 6 in the Rules and Regulations the following:**

**Delete: Faneuil Road, east side, 1 space, in front of #4**

**I: Tow Contract Update** - Attorney John Santangelo is requesting the status of the tow contract and possibility of a new bidding process. Mr. Santangelo summarized that a contract had been signed by his client Ramsey Towing, but it had not been implemented due to minor technicalities. It was also his opinion that no contract with any company presently exists. He suggested that a new bid may be in order. Attorney Edward Bigham stated that contracts have been signed and should be honored with the two companies (Pilgrim and Waltham Auto). **The Commission voted to seek advice from the Law Department on how to proceed relative to the Purchasing Agent and the possibility of new bids. Also, what if anything should the Commission do to move this forward.**

**J. # 1019 Trapelo Road – Reconsider Special Permit** Mr. Fred Keylor with HWMoore Associates, Inc. is requesting reconsideration of their Special Permit issued for this location. Traffic Commission accepted the traffic study in January 2013. Included in the study were commitments to upgrade the detection cameras and signal phasing in the controller to allow NEMA Quad Left Phasing. To implement NEMA Quad left phasing requires conduit to be

removed and replaced. Cost for this is unknown and could be very expensive. Mr. Keylor is asking the Commission to recommend the acceptance of the original proposal of \$7,500 contribution. Both Traffic Engineer and Member Mr. Kelly agreed that the NEMA Quad phasing is needed, however, no final costs were discussed during their deliberations on the original project. They concurred that the mitigation specified in the Special Permit, providing NEMA Quad Left Phasing, should be retained. **Voted to accept this recommendation. Member Ms. Cagle voted to deny.**

## **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).** Mayor McCarthy and Councillor McLaughlin spoke in favor of having the 4-way Stop re-installed. They cited more data is needed to determine if the warrants can be met. In addition, sight distances should be reviewed. The Mayor also stated she would like to see traffic calming measures looked into. Chief MacPherson explained the use of the speed signs and that while the sign appeared to be off it was actually recording vehicle speeds. Member Mr. Malone requested more study with the use of "hose" lines as opposed to the speed sign. Member Ms. Cagle expressed concern for more speed enforcement. Member Mr. Kelly concurred that the Police should give the area "extra attention". T.E. Mr. Gavin stated the data showed 7day westbound 5,302 vehicles and 7,969 eastbound vehicles. The 85% speed was 26 MPH. The use of Stop Signs to control speeding is not an acceptable practice. Neither the accident rate nor the sight distances qualify the intersection for a 4-way stop control. Voted to table for more data to be collected. Also, Chief MacPherson asked for possible "Speed Limit" signs to be posted. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer study further and use "hoses" to determine the traffic speed for a two week period.**
- F. Lake at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)
- H. Farmers Market Relocation to Central Square Parking Deck (11/13)
- I. **Prentice/Plympton/Tomlin/Irving Streets – All Way Stop (3/14). At the request of Mayor McCarthy this item was tabled**
- J. **Lexington Street at Beaver Street - CTPS Recommendations (3/14)** Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended the southbound signal on Lexington Street at Beaver, have a leading exclusive Left Turn and not the lagging exclusive movement. **Voted to approve and to seek funding. Look into whether this can be done in-house or need to hire outside contractor.**

- K. **Newton Street at River Street – Signal Timing (3/14)** The loop detectors have been damaged and should be replaced. The entire intersection needs to be upgraded and has been included in the C.I.P. request. The detection at this intersection should be made operational so that it operates as an actuated signal. The delays and queues will still be extensive due to volumes and intersection geometry. It will be continued to be monitored. **Voted to approve, but make changes after the CPW roadway project is completed.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report – \$2,000 less than last year at this time. Also all on-street parking meters have been removed.
- B. Forest Street at Trapelo Road Update – Final Inspection scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. Bid Opening May 5
- D. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal Study (5/12)(12/12) request to transfer funds is before City Council.
- E. South Street at Highland Street – Request funding for traffic signal design. Mayor wants design completed this year and construction completed the following year.
- F. **Prospect/Maple/High Streets Corridor – Pavement Markings** TMI Services Inc. is the selected bidder to install thermoplastic.
- 1: High Street between Cedar Street and Newton Street will have removal of the reverse center turn lane and replaced with bike lanes on each side of the street;
- 2: the remainder of the corridor will have “sharrows”
- 3: improved lines on Prospect Street at Crescent St
- 4: better defined parking lane on Prospect Street north of Charles St.
- Voted to approve these changes along Prospect/Maple/High corridor**
- G. Pay Stations Bid has conditionally selected VenTek pending field test of machines in the amount of \$134K.

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

**Adjourned @ 11:50 AM**

**Attendance: All except Chief Ciccone. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Darcy & McLaughlin.**

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

**Off Committee Speakers**

## **Waltham Traffic Commission**

**Date of Meeting: April 17, 2014**

Please Print

| <b>Name of Speaker</b>      | <b># Street, City</b>                   | <b>Affiliation i.e. Attorney<br/>- Abutter Interested party<br/>- Petitioner</b> | <b>For/Against<br/>Item No:</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Jeannette McCarthy</b>   | <b>610 Main Street</b>                  | <b>Mayor</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Sarah Harkins</b>        | <b>103 Seminole Ave<br/>Waltham</b>     | <b>DWP Riverfest</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Charman Bray</b>         | <b>39 Taylor Street<br/>Waltham</b>     | <b>DWP Riverfest</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Edward T. Bigham Jr.</b> | <b>564 Main Street<br/>Waltham</b>      | <b>Attorney – Representing<br/>Waltham Auto Tow</b>                              |                                 |
| <b>George Darcy</b>         | <b>93 Hobbs Road<br/>Waltham</b>        | <b>Ward Councillor</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Kevin Danorade</b>       | <b>65 Galen Street<br/>Lawrence, MA</b> | <b>TEC Inc<br/>1077 Lexington St</b>   |                                 |
| <b>Ranga Norasinhari</b>    | <b>90B River Street<br/>Waltham, MA</b> | <b>Subway<br/>1077 Lexington St</b>  |                                 |
| <b>John Santangelo</b>      | <b>404 Main Street<br/>Waltham</b>      | <b>Attorney Ramsey Towing</b>  |                                 |
|                             |   |  |                                 |