

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: SEPTEMBER 18, 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 the Minutes of the June 2014 Meeting**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Banks School 24 Units – Special Permit**

Mayor McCarthy is requesting the Traffic Commission review this Special Permit application and submit information required. Mayor McCarthy attended this meeting and spoke in favor of this development. The City is converting the former Banks School into 24 condo units for sale. Mr. Garvin, Traffic Engineer for the City, reported the projected traffic generation, the current two-way traffic flows and the sight distances from the driveway. He concluded that the project will not add significant amount of traffic to the surrounding roadways and is not expected to result in a change to the Level of Service at any intersection. **Voted to accept and forward his report and recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations to issue a Special Permit.**

**B. Prospect Hill Road from Prentice Street to Jennings Road – No Parking**

Councilor Romard is requesting No Parking in this area. Councilor Romard and Mayor McCarthy attended the meeting and spoke in favor of this request. Councilor Romard spoke of safety issues due to the removal of All Night Parking and having vehicles parking all the time. This has created difficulty entering and exiting driveways and has diminished the sight distances. The Waltham Housing Authority was made aware of this request and had no objections. Presently (on the north side of Prospect Hill Rd.) there is No Parking from Jennings Rd to a point 160' north of Lunda Street. The Mayor also stated that the Housing Authority residents were notified by mail to park their vehicles at their overflow lot located at the corner of Prospect Hill Road and Lunda Street. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and prohibit parking on the east/north side of Prospect Hill Road from Prentice St. to a point 160' North of Lunda Street.**

**C. Relocation of Bus Stop – Moody Street**

Councilors Logan and Rourke are requesting the MBTA bus stop be relocated from 481 Moody Street to 509 Moody Street due to the lack of on street parking in this area. MBTA Bus #556, stops at 481 Moody Street. This bus then turns left onto High Street heading into Newton. Eliminating the stop at #481 Moody Street and moving it to #509 Moody St, which is south of High Street, removes a stop from a downtown location for bus # 556, and is not recommended. Parking on Maple Street near the corner of Moody Street,(in front of Waltham Floor Covering) has been restricted by an existing Mass Highway Department Traffic Control Agreement. In addition, the Fire Department has expressed concerns, with apparatus negotiating the turn. **Voted to deny this request.**

**D. Villa Street between Summit and Cedarwood Avenues – Speeding Issue**

Mr. William Bennett, # 70 Villa Street and Co-President of the Cedarwood Neighborhood Association is requesting action to reduce the speeding. Mr. Kevin Delaney spoke concerning the speeding which is occurring often and is dangerous along with other safety issues on Villa Street. The residents state that the Police efforts and enforcement are not working. The Mayor concurs and suggest traffic calming measures be looked into. In 2004 a speed study found the speeds to be 31mph to 33 mph. A Stop Sign was authorized approved on Villa Street at Summit Avenue at that time. In 2013 speed studies showed the 85% to be slightly lower and less than one vehicle per hour in the 31-35 mph range. Chief MacPherson suggested that another speed study be done in both directions without the speed display being turned on. Readings will be recorded but not displayed and may give a better understanding to the issue. **Voted to table this item and have the Police Department conduct**

another study in both directions with the speed display turned off; also Traffic Engineering to review possible traffic calming options.

**E. Old South Street – Proposed Parking and Turn Restrictions**

Mr. Ed Callahan, Director of Public Safety at Brandeis University is requesting a drop off/pick up area for their new Lemberg Children's Center. They are also requesting a Left Turn restriction exiting Old South Street onto South Street. Mr. Howard Baker attended the meeting and spoke in favor of this request. Old South Street will have an additional 70 vehicles from 8:00am to 10:00 am using this street. A pick-up/drop-off area is reasonable. In addition some on street parking is warranted. Exiting vehicles from Old South Street onto South Street should have a restricted Left Turn due to the limited sight distance. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended a Drop-off/Pick-up area and seven on street parking spaces. He also, agreed that the Left Turn onto South Street should be prohibited. Brandeis University will be supplying the Traffic Engineering with the signs in regards to the parking, for installation by City crew.

**Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation as follows:**

**1: Add to Schedule 1 No Parking**

**Old South Street, southeast side, 90 feet south of Athletic Field Drive to 105 feet north of Athlete Field Drive, No Parking Except, Student Drop Off/Pick Up Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 10:00 am and 5:00pm to 6:00 pm**

**2: Add to Schedule 18 Turns Only As Designated**

**Old South Street: All vehicles exiting Old South Street MUST TURN RIGHT**

**3: An additional request to post South Street with a speed regulation was denied.**

**F. Moody & Main on the Common – Revise Special Permit**

Traffic Consultant VHB presented a revision to the existing Special Permit for a second drive-thru window for Santander Bank. Attorney Robert Connors appeared on behalf of the developer. It was explained this was a minor modification to the original plan. On-site parking and the traffic impact will not change. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that there will be no additional traffic and the impact will remain the same. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations.**

**G. 20 Cooper Street – Proposed Development Special Permit**

Traffic Consultant VHB along with Attorney Robert Connors presented a Traffic Impact Report for the proposed 264 unit residential development. The development will have access from Pine Street and Elm Street. It is projected to generate 100 new weekday trips in the morning peak hour and 125 during the evening pear hour. The nearby transit is expected to reduce trips by 25%. The TIAS concludes the increase in traffic will have a minimal impact to operations at intersections surround the site. Commission member Mr. Kelly disagreed with this conclusion.

The proponent has committed to several mitigation measures –

- a) Construct missing link of the Riverwalk between Elm Street and Cooper Street
- b) Construct wheelchair ramps across Elm Street at the Riverwalk
- c) Upgrade wheelchair ramps on Cooper Street at Pine Street
- d) Repave Cooper Street
- e) Upgrade pedestrian signals at the Newton Street /Pine Street intersection
- f) Construct wheelchair ramp across Elm Street at Benefit Street
- g) Implement pavement markings and signs at the Elm Street /River Street intersection
- h) Contribute to the Transportation Infrastructure Fund

**Voted to accept the Traffic Impact and Access Study and forward to the City Council for their deliberations (member Mr. Kelly voted against this recommendation). Also, the Commission voted to approve a crosswalk on Elm Street south of the Charles River to connect the exiting Riverwalk.**

**H. 685 Lexington Street – Proposed Cat Shelter Special Permit**

Ms. Deborah Schreiber, representing The Cat Connection is seeking review of the traffic impacts related to opening the shelter at the former North Branch Library. Ms. Schreiber attended the meeting, along with Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Romard speaking in favor of this request. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that traffic volumes would be extremely low and there would be no interference with Kennedy Middle School students during morning hours. A letter from Ms. Susan Nicholson, Superintendent of Schools stated that six to ten parking spaces will be allotted to the Cat Connection located in the rear lot of the Kennedy Middle School; also side parking spaces during non-school days and hours as long as an event is not taking place. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendations with no mitigation measures and forward to the City Council for their deliberations.**

**I. 215 Lexington Street – Review of Special Permit**

Attorney Phil McCourt is requesting a review of the Special Permit since the former storage of vans and trucks restriction in this zone would apply to a rental/sales facility. A new Ordinance had been passed which allows storage of vans and trucks in a Commercial Zone which applies in this case. The Commission accepted the traffic study that had been prepared by the proponent for this project. **Voted to accept the traffic study prepared by Conley Associates summarizing the proposed car sales and generic retail uses and forward this to the City Council for their deliberations.**

**J. REACH – Request for free parking at Central Square Deck**

Ms. Jessica Teperow, Director of Prevention Programs is requesting permission to have 40 parking placards for their volunteers and vendors to park free while attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Waltham Neighborhoods Fall Festival on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Teperow attended the meeting and stated that their volunteers and vendors will park only on the upper level of the Central Square Parking Deck and will display the placard on the dashboard as requested by Traffic Engineering.

**Voted to accept this request for 40 parking spaces on Saturday September 27, 2014.**

**K. Complete Streets Policy –** City Planner and Commission member Catherine Cagle is requesting approval of the draft Complete Streets Policy. The intent of this policy is to provide safety and accessibility for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit users of all ages and abilities. All project proposals are to make the existing street network safer and better for all with planning, design, connectivity, operation, maintenance using solutions consistent with current best practices and standards from MassDOT, AASHTO and NACTO. Member Mr. Magno expressed concern that some projects may not be able to conform to a strict policy. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin pointed out that “site contextual design and engineering solutions” mean that each project must be reviewed and a determination made to see what part of Complete Streets Policy is applicable. **Voted to accept this policy for Development Prospectus reviews.**

**L. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Jude Barnyard Bingo – Road Closure**

Ms. Norma Newell is requesting permission to close a portion of Waverley Oaks Road between Beaver and Linden Streets on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The event will be from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, October 5, 2014. The Police Department reviewed this request and recommended approval. Waverley Oaks Road to be closed on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM (rain date Sunday, October 5) **Voted to accept this request.**

**M. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Michienzi Construction Tailgate Trot Road Race**

Mr. Frank Michienzi is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Saturday, June 6, 2015. Staging area will be 411 Waverley Oaks Road. No streets will be closed; 200 participants expected and there will be Police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

**N. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Melanoma 5K Run/Walk for Hope**

J. Alain Ferry is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 10:00 AM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Staging area will be Waltham High School, 617 Lexington Street. No streets will be closed; 200 participants are expected and there will be Police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

**O. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Edinburg Center 5K Road Race**

Ms. Gail Rogers is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Staging area will be on the Waltham Common. No streets will be closed; 150 participants are expected and there will be Police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

**P. The Guild 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Trick or Treat Trot”**

Ms. Doreen Mangini is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 9:15 AM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Saturday October 25, 2014. Staging area will be at 411 Waverley Oaks Road. No streets will be closed; 200 participants are expected and there will be police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

**Q. Paul Logue “Piggy’s Run 5K Road Race”**

Mr. John Logue is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 10:00 AM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Saturday, November 22, 2014. Staging area will be Leary Field. No streets will be closed; 700-900 participants are expected and there will be Police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

**R. Benefit Street at Elm Street – Proposed Crosswalk**

City Planning Director and Commission member Catherine Cagle is requesting approval of a crosswalk on Benefit Street. In a previous item, 1G 20 Cooper Street, the proponent has agreed to include this crosswalk in its mitigation. The crosswalk needs “handicap access” to be in compliance with mandated regulations. **Voted to authorize Ms. Cagle, on behalf of the Commission, to seek alternative sources for funding, if necessary to have this crosswalk installed.**

**S. Western Greenway Trail 5K Run/Walk**

Tim & Cathy Irving are requesting permission to hold this race on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 12:00 PM. The Police Department reviewed and recommended approval for this race on Sunday, October 5, 2014. Staging area will be Elsie Turner Field Trapelo Road. No streets will be closed; 200 participants are expected and there will be Police presence. **Voted to accept and forward this recommendation to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

## **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)

### **Voted to remove from the table**

#### **C. Warren Street at Beaver Street – Proposed Traffic Signal Study (9/13)**

The traffic volumes at this intersection are high enough to meet the Eight Hour Vehicle Traffic Volume Warrant. Based on the capacity analyses, traffic signal control is the only alternative that produces acceptable operations at this intersection. Mayor McCarthy stated she would be in support of CIP funding. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation to upgrade to a fully actuated signalized intersection and direct the Traffic Engineer to seek CIP funding for the design and construction of this intersection.**

- D. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)

### **Voted to remove from the table**

#### **E. Longfellow Rd. at Fairfax Rd. – Removal of 4-Way Stop (11/13)(3/14)(4/14)**

After review of a Speed Study conducted July 28 through August 11, it was determined that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of eastbound traffic was 35 MPH and the westbound traffic was 33 MPH. These speeds are not excessive and do not warrant a four-way stop at this intersection. The City is mandated to comply with the MUTCD requirements for such an installation. The residents in attendance disagreed and asked for more consideration to resolve this issue. After more discussion the Commission, asked the Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin to seek if other "traffic calming" measures might be implemented to slow traffic. The Mayor had stated that she is in support of traffic calming measures. The residents still believe that sight distance is an issue on Longfellow Road. They also stated that there is a school bus stop on the corner which is a safety concern for them. The Police Chief suggested that the Traffic Engineer meet with School Safety Officer Anne Frassica to discuss that matter. **Voted to Table for the Traffic Engineer to review for traffic calming measures such as speed humps and bump outs.**

### **Voted to remove from the table**

#### **F. Lake St. at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)**

At the request of Councilor Fowler, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin was asked to review the conditions in the area for a possible Crosswalk Signal. On Saturday, July 26 between 1:00 PM and 4:00PM, a busy day at the playground traffic was observed. A total of 427 vehicles passed and seven (7) pedestrians crossed Lake Street during the peak hour. A Police Department speed study was conducted and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was found to be 33MPH. As a comparison Graverson Playground on Trapelo Road had 1,134 vehicles and nine (9) pedestrians crossing Trapelo Road and an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 43 MPH. It was recommended to deny a signal as it does not meet the criteria. **Voted to Table this request until Spring to conduct another count during the baseball season.**

### **Voted to remove from the table**

#### **G. Lowell Street and Adams Street – Traffic Study (6/14)**

At the request of Councilor Rourke, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin studied traffic on both Lowell Street and Adams Street. Accident data was collected to compare accidents rates (crashes per million vehicles per intersection). According to Mass Highway signalized intersections average 0.80 and non-signalized intersections average 0.60. (Note: please keep in mind that these averages are for a million vehicles entering an intersection.

- 1: Lowell at High Street: average crash rate is 1.30 per million vehicles. It is possible that there may be a visibility issue seeing the signal head for westbound traffic. Recommendation is to replace the 15 foot mast arm with a 20 foot mast arm angled toward the center of the intersection. **Voted to accept this recommendation and seek funding.**
- 2: Lowell at Myrtle: average crash rate is 1.17 per million vehicles. Sight distance may be the problem. Recommendation is to install “bump outs” on the northwest and south west corners to increase the sight distance in both directions. **Voted to table since the Fire Chief is concerned about turning radius for fire apparatus.**
- 3: Lowell at Brown: average crash rate is 1.83 per million vehicles. Sight distance may be the problem. Recommendation is to install “bump outs” on the northwest and southwest corners to increase the sight distance. There is a catch basin in the northwest corner that would need to be relocated. **Voted to table since the Fire Chief is concerned about turning radius for fire apparatus and relocation of catch basin.**
- 4: Lowell at Robbins: average crash rate is 1.00 per million vehicles. There is not one predominate cause for accidents. Recommendation – none.
- 5: Lowell at Washington: average crash rate is 1.33 per million vehicles. The sight distance is severely limited due to the stop line location which is 35 feet in advance of the crosswalk. The stop line is located according to State mandate at that time when reconstructed. Recommendation that the sidewalk and wheelchair ramps be reconstructed to move them closer to Lowell Street. **It was voted to table and seek an opinion to relocate the existing crosswalk and handicapped ramp from MassDOT.**
- 6: Adams at Spruce: average crash rate is 2.67 per million vehicles. Most accidents are vehicles on Spruce Street not stopping for the Stop Sign. Recommendation is that on each Spruce Street approach a stop line and “STOP” legend be painted on the roadway to improve visibility of the STOP sign control. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**
- 7: Adams at Walnut: average crash rate is 1.33 per million vehicles. Failure to stop at the stop sign appears to be common. Recommendation painting of “STOP” legend on pavement. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**
- 8: Adams at Chestnut: average crash rate is 1.11 per million vehicles. It appears that sight distances may be a problem due to property owner’s bushes. Recommendation that the Building Department be notified to enforce the Corner Clearance Ordinance. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**
- 9: Adams at Cherry: average crash rate is 1.33 per million vehicles. There is not one predominate cause for accidents. Recommendation – none.

**Voted to remove from the table**

**H. Everett Street – Traffic Calming Measures (6/14)**

At the request of Councilor Marchese, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reviewed Everett Street for possible “traffic calming” measures. Everett St. is one-way northbound from Weston Street to Main Street. The automatic traffic recorder (ATR) was used from Tuesday, July 29 through Friday, August 1. The average daily volume was 1,746 vehicles per day and the highest hour occurring at 5:00 PM; 153 vehicles. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was measured to be 28MPH. Given the low speeds and

volumes they do not seem excessive for this location. The Traffic Engineer recommends no calming measures are needed. **Voted to deny this request.**

I. Appleton Street – Reinstallation of No Parking Except. Sunday & Holiday (6/14)

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report – Collected funds are down approximately \$51,000.

B. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman/Heard Sts. – Update. Charles Contracting will be pouring sidewalk and traffic signals are on order. The work is expected to be complete this Fall.

C. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Update. The extended signal mast arm has been installed and seems to be working fine.

D. South Street at Highland Street – Update. BSC Group is finalizing plans with expected construction bid to go out the end of 2014.

E. Spruce Street and Walnut Street Parking Lot Reconstruction – Update. Working with Purchasing Dept. to get bid out this Fall.

F. Lexington Street at Beaver Street – Traffic Signal Timing Revision The southbound left turn signal operation was changed from lagging to leading. Operations appear to be working well since the modification. **Voted and approved to revise signal phasing to retain this configuration which has the southbound Lexington Street traffic gets an exclusive left turn green arrow first (leading) before northbound traffic gets a green signal.**

G. Removal of unused Taxi Stands

**Voted to remove Taxi Stands from Article 21, Section X Public Stands at the following three locations**

- 1: Chestnut Street Parking Lot - north side, 2 spaces within lot
- 2: Old South Street – 2 spaces at South Street
- 3: Prospect Street – 1 space at Russell Street

**Attendance: All members except City Clerk Mr. Malone. Mayor McCarthy and Councilor Dan Romard. Numerous off committee speakers (see attached)**

**Adjourned @ 12:15PM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo**  
**Clerk**

## Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: September 18, 2014

Please Print

| Name of Speaker       | # Street, City                | Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner | For/Against Item No:   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Jeannette A. McCarthy | 610 Main Street               | Mayor of Waltham  | Banks School;<br>Villa St<br>Prospect Hill Rd<br>Warren/Beaver<br>Fairfax/Longfellow |
| Barbara Mazzola       | 77 Longfellow Rd<br>Waltham   | Petitioner  | 1A; 1B; 1D<br>2C; 2G   |
| Erin Collings         | 91 Longfellow Rd<br>Waltham   | Petitioner  | Fairfair/Longfellow  |
| Kevin Delaney         | 100 Harland Rd<br>Waltham     | Petitioner  | Villa St   |
| Jessica Teperou       |                               | Reach Beyond Domestic Violence                                    | 1 J  |
| Phillip McCourt       | 15 Church Street<br>Waltham   | Attorney 215 Lexington St   | 1I   |
| Howard Baker          | 457 Old South St<br>Waltham   | Lemberg Chield Center<br>Brandeis University                      | 1E   |
| Gail Rogers           | 157 Waverley St<br>Arlington  | The Endinberg Center<br>Waltham St. Lexington                     | 1O   |
| Dan Romard            | 291 Dale St<br>Waltham        | Ward Councilor  | Villa St<br>Prospect Hill Rd   |
| Deborah Schreiber     | 23 Harris St<br>Waltham       | The Cat Connection  | 1H   |
| Robert Connors        | 6 Lexington Street<br>Waltham | Attorney Northland<br>Petitioner                                  | 1F   |
| Robert Nagi           | 101 Walnut St<br>Watertown    | Traffic Engineer VHB  | Moody/Main St  |
| Robert Connors        | 6 Lexington Street<br>Waltham | Attorney Lincoln<br>Petitioner                                    | Cooper Street  |
| Vinod Kalikiri        | 101 Walnut St<br>Watertown    | Traffic Engineer VHB<br>Lincoln                                   | Cooper Street  |
| Nicole Maxmonsky      | 155 Virginia Rd<br>Waltham    | Interested Party  | Villa St<br>Prospect Hill Rd<br>Cooper Street<br>Complete Streets                    |