

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 18, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

The Acting Chair-Tom Magno accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Voted to accept November's minutes.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A.

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. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)
- D. Lake St. at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)(9/14)
- E. Lowell Street at Washington Avenue – Traffic Study (6/14)(9/14)(10/14)
- F. Appleton Street – Reinstallation of No Parking Except. Sunday & Holiday (6/14)
- G. Villa Street between Summit and Cedarwood Aves. – Speeding Issues (9/14)(11/20)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – funds are down about \$82,000 from last year.
- B. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. – Update – Traffic Signals will be installed next week on Dec. 22nd and 23rd.
- C. South Street at Highland Street – Update – Project will be ready to go out to bid after the New Year.
- D. Spruce Street and Walnut Street Parking Lot Reconstruction – Update – There were 11 bidders for the project and the bids are under review. The low bid came in over the amount of our current available funds. Member Tim Kelly wanted to know who the electrical subcontractor was for this project. We do not have that information until bid has been awarded. **Voted to direct T.E. to seek additional funding for this project to proceed and award the project to the low bidder.**
- E. Pay Stations – Update – The contract is awaiting final signatures to purchase the pay stations. Signage, Sign Post, Concrete Pads are all on order and we anticipate installation this winter in the Central Square Parking Deck.
- F. "Move from Block" defined in Rules and Regulations – This item was tabled from last month. The TE submitted 3 sign options that could be added to the existing on-street signage. TE recommends Option 3 "No Return To This Block Within 4 Hrs." The Mayor attended and would appreciate this item be tabled until the TE and her speak regarding this signage. She is receiving complaints of sign clutter on Moody Street. Member Tim Kelly suggest that maybe the existing sign and the proposed sign be combined into one. Acting Chair Tom Magno is concerned that the people need to know what the rules are on the street. He continued that since we removed the parking meters and individual parking space markings the public needs to know what they are to do. It was suggested by member Tim Kelly to install a larger sign on the existing concrete light poles on Moody Street which are basically one per block. This would reduce the amount of signs installed. Member Catherine Cagle mentioned that if the

proposed Parking Management Plan is approved than this can help us with available data to determine what we might be able to do. **Voted to Table.**

- G. Transportation Master Plan – Update – The subcommittee of TE Garvin, Ms. Cagle and Mr. Chiasson met on Dec. 5th to review existing transportation plans from 20 other Cities/Towns in the Commonwealth. After their review the subcommittee recommends the following outcomes:

1. A municipal Transportation Master Plan needs to be actionable and provide clear timeframes/responsibilities to avoid becoming a bookshelf document. The plan needs balance between data and analysis that is then communicated as actionable recommendations for use in making informed decisions.
2. All forms of transportation and associated facilities shall be included, consistent with Waltham's Traffic Commission Complete Street Policy, adopted September 2014.
3. Recommend Traffic Engineer Mike Garvin draft a RFP to be reviewed by the Traffic Commission at the January 2015 meeting.

Voted to approve these recommendations.

- H. Main Street at Prospect Hill Road – TE and Wires Director inspected the new traffic signal at this intersection. All issues have been addressed and should be approved. **Voted to approve and add to Schedule 10 in the Rules and Regulations.**
- I. Updates to Rules and Regulations – Traffic Engineering will be reprinting the Rules and Regulations in January with all the items approved during 2014. In addition the following items need to be added/deleted. Member Catherine Cagle also asked that the Complete Streets Policy be added to the Rules and Regulations as well. Member Russ Malone recommends that we contact the State Public Utilities to verify whether we need approval from them before printing. **Voted to approve and add/delete the following in the Rules and Regulations and include Complete Streets Policy. Also contact State Public Utilities to see if we need approval before printing.**

Article 2, Section 4 Temporary Closing of Streets – Remove the first paragraph as follows which is similar to the second paragraph.

Remove: *The Chief of Police or his/her designee is hereby authorized to close temporarily, any street or highway in an impending or existing emergency, public safety concern, or for any lawful assemblage, demonstration or procession provided there is reasonable justification for the closing of such street. At no time shall a street under routine or scheduled roadway construction be closed without permission from the Traffic Commission or his/her designee or the Director of Consolidated Public Works or his/her designee.*

Keep: The Traffic Commission or his/her designee or Chief of Police or his/her designee is hereby authorized to prohibit temporarily, stopping, standing, or parking on any street or highway or part thereof in any impending or existing emergency or for a lawful assemblage, demonstration or procession on or in the event of extraordinary or unusual circumstances. At no time shall a street under routine or scheduled roadway construction be closed without permission from the Traffic Commission or his/her designee or the Director of Consolidated Public Works or his/her designee.

Article 7, Section 3 Obstructing Traffic; Entering Intersections or Crosswalks – Remove the wording and replace with wording from Article 7, Section 29. Then delete Article 7, Section 29.

Remove: *No person shall operate a vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct unnecessarily the normal movement of traffic upon any street. Officers may require any driver who fails to comply with the section to drive to the side of the roadway and wait until such traffic that has been delayed has passed.*

No driver shall enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk and on the right half of the roadway to operate the vehicle they are operating without obstructing the passage of any other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to precede.

Replace with: No person shall drive in such a manner as to obstruct unnecessarily the normal movement of traffic upon any street or highway. Officers are hereby authorized to require any driver who fails to comply with this section to drive to the side of the roadway and wait until such traffic as has been delayed has passed.

No driver shall enter an intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is a sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk and on the right half of the roadway to accommodate the vehicle he/she is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed, except that on a one-way street drivers shall not be restricted to the use of the right half of the roadway.

Remove Article 7, Section 31 and relocate to Article 6, Section 11

Remove: In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 89, Section 9 of the General Laws, the street listed in Schedule 12 hereto appended and specifically incorporated in this section are designated as Yield Streets at the intersections and in the direction indicated.

Relocate: *In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 89, Section 9, the streets listed in Schedule 12 are designated as Yield streets at the intersections and in the direction indicated.*

This section shall not apply when the traffic is otherwise directed by an officer or by a lawful traffic regulating sign, signal or device or as provided in these regulations.

Add the following new Schedules:

Schedule 21 – Bike Lanes

Schedule 22 – Sharrows

Schedule 23 – Destination Signs

4. LATE FILED:

- A. Mr. Charlie Frost was present to discuss the possibility of a waiver or have Police Department change the Taxicab Rules and Regulations, Section 3, Subsection 4f and 4i. This is in regards to having a sound vehicle and no vehicle older than 10 years old. Mr. Frost currently has a 2004 Grand Mercury with 3,000 miles on it. **Voted to Table.**
- B. Parking Demand Management Plan Funding – Representative Tom Stanley brought this possible grant to the attention of the TE and Ms. Catherine Cagle. This grant is for Cities/Towns where there are at least 30,000 daily visitors. There is \$100,000 available

funding if awarded to each City/Town. **Voted to approve and have TE and Ms. Cagle work together to submit a proposal by end of December.**

Adjourned at 10:32 AM

Attendance: All present except Chair-Chief McPherson and Clerk Frank Lombardo

Respectfully Submitted

Acting Clerk
Lisa Gerlach