

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: MARCH 19, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**The Chair will accept a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. February minutes voted accepted.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Pizzi Farm Sunday Fun Day 5K**

Ms. Kathleen Irving is requesting permission to hold this race on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM. Lt. Cavallaro reported no streets will be closed; 400 participants are expected; and there will be Police presence. Lt. Cavallaro recommended the Traffic Commission approve the event. **Voted to accept this recommendation and forward it to the Mayor for a permit to issue.**

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Main Street Market Place “Highland Hustle” 5K**

Ms. Margaret McCullough is requesting permission to hold this race on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 10:30 AM. Lt. Cavallaro reported no streets will be closed; 250-300 participants are expected; and there will be Police presence. Lt. Cavallaro recommended the Traffic Commission approve the event. **Voted to accept this recommendation and forward it to the Mayor for a permit to issue.**

**C. City Employee Parking Placard**

Personnel Director Kristin Murphy is requesting an Employee Parking Placard to conduct city business in her personal vehicle. **Voted to approve this request and have a placard issued**

**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)

**H. Voted off the Table**

**Lafayette Street – Switch No Parking side of street (2/15)**

The Commission heard from neighborhood residents and the Ward Councilor Marchese who submitted a counter-petition signed by 17 Lafayette Street residents in opposition to this proposed change. It was argued that the proposed change is for “convenience” and has no basis for child safety. Two School Traffic Supervisors are on duty to assist the children crossing both Main Street and Lafayette Street. In addition, it was stated that St. Jude’s School should provide parking for student pick-up and it should not include city streets. Two petitioners in attendance stated their opinion that this is a “school child safety issue”. The Commission agreed not to amend the parking and it was suggested to the petitioners, that St. Jude’s School should be involved in any request for on-street parking and/or “student drop off”. **Voted to deny the request to amend parking on Lafayette Street and no other changes for “student drop off” without involvement of St. Jude’s School.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report – meter collections down approximately 19K
- B. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. – all LED's replaced; trial period should be complete by next month; there is a problem with underground conduit being investigated by Mr. Kelly.
- C. South Street at Highland Street – bid to open in April
- D. Spruce Street and Walnut Street Parking Lot Reconstruction – construction to start with Walnut Street Lot by end of March or early April (weather permitting)
- E. Pay Stations – new stations expected to be delivered by week of April 6.
- F. Long Term Parking in City Lot – One year trial period. The Commission showed interest in the concept but wanted more information concerning the fee to be charged. The present fee of \$2/day appears to be unrealistically low and could be interpreted as subsidizing parking. The present rates for parking should be reviewed. Member Mr. Chiasson, felt that the rates should be reviewed, but this program should be implemented for the trial period at this time. **Voted to table the item and have Traffic Engineering research other communities for all parking rates and also long term fees. (Mr. Chiasson voted opposed tabling this item.)**

**4: LATE FILED ITEM(S)**

**A: Watch City Steampunk Festival May 9, 2015**

Mr. Bob Perry, Lead Organizer, for the festival seeks permission to hold this event on Saturday May 9, 2015 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (rain date Sunday May 10). Specifically he is asking the following:

- A: Closure of the two northbound lanes of Moody Street from Pine Street to 144 Moody Street.
- B: closure of Carter Street, entire length
- C: Use of the entire Carter Street parking facilities
- D: use 50 parking spaces for vendors on Upper level of the Central Square parking Deck
- E: use of some space at the Embassy Parking Lot
- F: Agreed to promote how to get to the event on their promotional material using all modes

Traffic Engineering recommended all of the above except for the Embassy parking. Also, it is understood that all volunteers and vendors **must only** park on the upper level of the Central Square Parking Deck or Carter Street lot. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

**Adjourned @ 11:10 AM**

**Attendance: All members present. Councilor Marchese and several Lafayette Street residents. Petitioners Ms. Susan Lombardo, Maria Paniagua, and Mr. Bob Perry**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo,**

Clerk

Off Committee  
Speakers

## WALTHAM TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Date of the Meeting  
March 19, 2015

<b>Name of Speaker</b>	<b># Street, City</b>	<b>Item of Interest</b>	<b>Affiliation, i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested Party Petitioner</b>	<b>For - Against</b>
Gary Marchese	79 Bright Street	Lafayette St	Ward Councilor	Against
Sal Pinzone	14 Lafayette St	Lafayette St	Resident	Against
John Arone	57 Lafayette	Lafayette St	Resident	Against
Maria Paniagua	212 Westminster Ave Watertown	Lafayette St	Petitioner	For
Susan Lombardo	11 Lowell Street Waltham	Lafayette St	Petitioner	For
Bob Perry	61 Clark Lane Waltham	Steampunk Festival	Committee Chairman	For