

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

Due to the absence of Chair Chief MacPherson, Vice Chair Mr. Thomas Magno conducted the meeting.

A motion was made and voted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Prospect St., North of Bridge – Proposed Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)**

Councillor Logan is requesting a RRFB at the exiting crosswalk north of the Bridge. Councillor Logan and Councillor Rourke spoke of the unusual conditions along Prospect Street. This is a mid-block crosswalk heavily used by the Riverwalk bicyclists and pedestrians. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that this crosswalk has potential for serious problems and should be reviewed. Member Mr. Chiasson stated his concerns for mid-block crosswalks. Member Ms. Cagle recommended a review of all such crosswalks along the Riverwalk which include Prospect St., Moody St., Elm St., Newton St. and Farwell St. Member Mr. Kelly stated that this location may be suitable for a solar-powered RRFB. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer review all the mid-block crosswalks along the Riverwalk corridor and make a recommendation. Item was tabled.**

**B. Calvary Street near Mary Early Bridge – Traffic Calming**

Councillor Logan is requesting a study to determine what Traffic Calming measures would be appropriate at this location. Councillor Logan spoke in favor of traffic calming measures as others in the northeast use for along Calvary Street and asked for a study to be conducted. Fire Chief Ciccone is open to making changes. **Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin, requested this item be tabled and have the Police Department place its Speed Sign on Calvary Street for study. Voted to Table**

**C. River St. at Willow St. – Safety Improvements**

Councillor Logan is requesting a traffic study to determine if any safety improvements can be implemented. Councillor Logan spoke of the problems that exist at this intersection, particularly with the misalignment of the Stop & Shop driveway and Willow Street. He asked for consideration of a separate signal phase for the driveway. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin will be putting out to bid the River St./Farwell St./Seyon St. signal upgrade and can add this to that design and do separate phasing. Member Mr. Kelly said in the meantime he can reprogram River St./Willow St. by adding 3 second delay. Member Ms. Cagle suggested that proper signage be added as well informing of the delay. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation.**

**D. Amend Article 5, Section 18 in Traffic Commission Rules & Regulations**

Councillor Logan is requesting the current 10,000 lbs. GVW be reduced to 8,500 lbs. GVW. Councillor Logan spoke of problems with commercial vehicles occupying much needed space in residential areas. Councillor Rourke agreed that commercial vehicle parking is a problem and supported a restriction. Both Councillors were clear that the restriction should apply to registered commercial vehicles only. **Voted to table this item and have the Traffic Engineer review and make a recommendation relative the size and type of vehicles to be restricted.**

**E. Riverfest 2016**

Ms. Sarah Hankins is requesting permission to close the Moody Street Bridge to thru traffic on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 5 PM. The Police Department expressed concerns on how Moody Street would be opened to emergency vehicles. **Voted to approve closing Moody Street as requested, but the Police and Fire Department will be consulted for an agreed procedure to be followed.**

## **F. Watch City Steampunk Festival 2016**

Mr. Bob Perry is requesting permission to close Carter St. from 6 AM – 6 PM and free parking for Volunteers, Performers and Exhibitors in Carter St. Lot and Central Square Deck. This event will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 5 PM. A rain date will be Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. **Voted to close Carter Street from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM on May 7, and allow parking spaces in the Carter Street lot and Central Square Deck with approved placards supplied by petitioner.**

## **G. 1265 Main Street Connector Road Update – Info. Only**

Mr. Michael Tilford gave an update on the projects. Representatives from City Point, 1265 Main Street, Mr. Robert Nagi V.H.B., Mr. Doug Waybright 75 Third Ave.; and Mr. Carmine Tomas, reported a conceptual design that would connect the property of 1265 Main Street with a North/South gated entrance/exit to 400 Fifth Avenue. Access would be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily, overnight, and on weekends. This proposal is part of an overall project to connect the site to the north. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated that a north/south corridor would ultimately be beneficial for traffic in this area but stated that he has reservations for the proposal to be started with this phase during peak hours. Councilor Fowler spoke of traffic congestion on Totten Pond Road and how this would increase that congestion. Mayor McCarthy stated that there is “on going” review of the traffic along I-95 (Rt.128) from the Mass Pike interchange north to Rt. # 3.

## **2. TABLED ITEMS:**

- A. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)
- B. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)
- C. Prentice/Plympton/Tomlin/Irving – Traffic Calming (6/15)(9/15)(11/15)(12/15)
- D. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)
- E. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15)

Voted to remove the following two items off the table

## **F. 48 Pine Street – Re-Instate Parking Spaces and Medical Needs Passes (2/16)**

Mr. John Gollinger (Executive Director) and Mr. Mark Johnson Waltham Housing Authority attended this meeting at our request. Mr. Gollinger explained that there are 120 units at 48 Pine Street and 40 have assigned parking (20 residents are on a waiting list) in their lot. There is a posted fire lane and an aggressive tow policy for unauthorized parking. Permission to use the back lot is given when his office is properly notified. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin explained that there were eight (8) spaces assigned for “Senior Sticker Parking Only” in the upper Embassy Parking Deck that were never used. The spaces are needed for evening parking. Mayor McCarthy spoke and stated that there appeared to be some confusion and the residents were unaware that the parking was available for them; she requested reconsideration of some of that parking. Councillor Logan also spoke of the need that the residents have additional parking. Ms. Youssef, a resident, spoke of the change in needs that have occurred over the years and now there exists the need for “home makers” and “visiting nurses” that allow residents to stay in their homes. Ms. Koujoujian, a resident, spoke of other communities that issue parking permits. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin spoke of the problems with enforcement. Vehicles parking without a sticker or a permit make it difficult for the Parking Control Officers to know whether the driver is a shopping patron or a visitor at 48 Pine Street. Chief Ciccone agreed that enforcement is a major concern. Mayor McCarthy asked for the WHA to issue passes “on an as needed basis” for medical and home maker personal. Mr. Magno stated a compromise should be given and restore the parking spaces on the upper deck. **Voted to re-instate eight (8) spaces for use by the Waltham Housing Authority 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM with a parking permit issued by the WHA.**

## **G. Trapelo Road Bicycle Lanes/Sharrows and additional Crosswalks (2/16)**

Trapelo Road is due to be reconstructed from Smith Street to Marguerite Avenue. The corridor typically will be 30 feet wide curb to curb which is not wide enough to accommodate bike lanes. A

minimum of 32 feet is needed to have a bike lane. There will be 11 foot lanes and a 4 foot shoulder. This is adequate but not ideal to provide some protection for a bicyclist. Site distances and sidewalks dictate where crosswalks should be placed. Recommendations were made at the following intersections:

- 1: Christopher Road – deny (no sidewalk)
- 2: Berkley Street – deny - (steep hill and lacks adequate illumination)
- 3: Kingston Rd – approve - (sidewalks to be added)
- 4: Sherwood Lane – approve - (needs lighting & handicapped ramps)
- 5: Circle Drive – tabled for further review
- 6: National Archives – deny - (no lighting and no sidewalks)
- 7: Briarwood Road – deny - (no lighting & insufficient sight distance)

**Voted to approve 11-foot travel lanes (and 4-foot shoulders, typically) on the sections of Trapelo Road that CPW will repave this year. Additionally, approve the crosswalks as recommended.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report - revenues for the month are up from last year
- B. South Street at Highland Street – Update – still reviewing and “tweaking” southbound needs more AM time and northbound needs more PM time
- C. Transportation Master Plan – Update – McMahon is working on intersections
- D. Pay-By-Phone – Update - contract for Phone App is completed
- E. Piety Corner Public Meeting – Update - the result of a neighborhood meeting was that the house at #380 should be acquired by the City.
- F: Lighted bike lane markers was recommended by member Ms. Cagle and will be reviewed

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

**Attendance:** All members except Chief MacPherson. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Logan (several items), Fowler (1265 Main St.) and Rourke (48 Pine St & Prospect St.) Mr. John Gollinger and Mr. Mark Johnson Waltham Housing Authority 48 Pine Street. Ms. Sarah Hankins for Riverfest; Mr. Bob Perry Steampunk Festival; Mr. Doug Waybright, Mr. Rob Nagi and Mr. Tomas for 1265 Main St..

**Adjourned @ 12:10 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

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

# Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: MARCH 17, 2016  
Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Sarah Hankins	103 Seminole Ave	Riverfest	Lead Organizer
Theresa Youssef	48 Pine St	Visitor & Medical Pass Parking	Tenant
Arpy Kouyoumjian	48 Pine St	Visitor & Medical Pass Parking	Tenant
Mark Johnson	110 Pond Street	Visitor & Medical Pass Parking	Waltham Housing Authority
John Gollinger	110 Pond Street	Visitor & Medical Pass Parking	Executive Director WHA
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St	1A:Prospect St Crosswalk 1B: Calvary St Traffic Calming 1C:River @ Willow Sts Safety Issues 1D: Commercial Truck Parking Regulations	City Councilor
Bob Perry	61 Clark Ln	Steampunk Festival	Lead Organizer
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	1265 Main St	City Councilor
Doug Waybright	75 Third Ave	1265 Main Street	
Robert Nagi	101 Walnut St Watertown, MA	1265 Main Street	Traffic Engineer
Stephen Rourke	36 Riverview Ave	1A: Prospect St Crosswalk 1265 Main Street	City Councilor
Carmine Tomas	881 East St Tewksbury	City Point 1265 main Street	Project Representative