

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: MAY 19, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The minutes of the previous meeting were voted as accepted.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Gore Street – Traffic Calming

Councillor Marchese is supporting this request from numerous residents in the area regarding truck traffic and speeding. Resident Mr. Carmen Caira spoke in favor of this petition. He spoke of the heavy trucks using the street at 3:30 am, which has many potholes and dips which make the truck excessively noisier than in the daytime. There is constant speeding, passing School Buses and many of the signs in the area need to be updated. Councilor LeBlanc also spoke on behalf of the neighbors for some relief of these upsetting issues.

In 2002, the Commission was asked to consider a Night Truck Restriction. No alternate route could be determined. The area south of Gore Street is zoned Commercial and Industrial. Due to the width of Gore Street it is ideal for truck traffic versus the narrower residential streets that an alternative route could bring. Mr. Caira felt that trucks should use the Elm Street / River Street route that is used by eastbound traffic heading to his area.

Voted to request the Police Department conduct a Speed Survey on Gore Street. Traffic Engineering will review the signage and update signs as needed. If an alternative route for the westbound trucks can be found then a truck survey will be conducted for a possible truck exclusion.

B. Charles Street Avenue – Removal of No Parking Regulation

Councillor Logan is requesting that the current No Parking restriction be removed. The Traffic Commission reviewed the request to remove the restriction in October 2015. The street is too narrow to allow fire apparatus access to houses. **Voted to deny this request**

C. Edinburg Center – Rock Into Recovery 5K

Ms. Gail Rogers, Director of Development at The Edinburg Center is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, September 24th. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.in**

D. Lexington Street Upgrade for bicycle and pedestrian use with multiuse path.

Mr. Leo Keightley submitted a petition signed by numerous Waltham, Lexington and surrounding residents to propose this idea. The existing cross section of Lexington Street north of Totten Pond Road is typically four lanes (two in each direction). The lanes are narrow, and speeds are relatively high. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin proposed that from Curve Street to Lake Street one northbound, and two southbound. He further proposed that Lake Street to Stearns Hill Road which should have one lane in each direction, and a center turn lane. With this configuration bike lanes could be added. The section from Jack's Way, south entrance to the High School, to the north exist of the High School has a median. The median should be removed and an overhead mast arm for the traffic signal should be installed. The removal of the median would allow the continuation of the two southbound lanes and a bike lane.

Commission member Mr. Magno expressed concerns that this is a major change in the movement of traffic along a very busy street and caution should prevail. Member Mr. Chiasson stated that resurfacing of Lexington Street is expected to start in early July (Lexington line

southward). Member Mr. Kelly opposed the removal of the median strip and a new mast arm for the signals.

Voted to approve the revised pavement markings along Lexington Street, adding a bike lane in each direction between Stearns Hill Road and Curve Street. Stripe one though lane in each direction, with a second southbound lane south of Lake Street, and center turn lane north of Lake Street. Remove the median near Jack's Way to allow for the proposed pavement markings.

Additional vote - T.E. Mr. Garvin is to seek funding from Infrastructure Accounts to replace the traffic signal mast arm and removal of the median at Jack's Way. The C.P.W. Director will be asked to have the lanes painted as part of the re-surfacing of Lexington Street. Traffic Commission voted as a contingency to revise the pavement markings as described above even if the median is not removed.

E. 699 Main Street – Relocation of Disabled Parking Space

Mr. Anver Shaikh, owner of Waltham Smoke and Convenience located at 699 Main St. is requesting the existing Disabled Parking space be relocated. **Voted to remove the HP space instead of relocation.**

F. Transportation Master Plan Presentation

McMahan Associates presented their Transportation Master Plan recommendations.

Ms. Maureen Chlebek, Ms. Allison Luff and Ms. Chish Apicella of McNMahon Associates gave a progress report on recommendations.

G. Transfer Off-Street Parking Commission Duties to Traffic Commission

Mayor McCarthy has submitted the City Council Order # 33441 transferring the duties of the Off-Street Parking Commission to the Traffic Commission (Chapter 2, Article XX Off Street Parking Commission is abolished and duties transferred to the Traffic Commission). **Information only**

H. Embassy Parking Lot Air Rights

Mayor McCarthy is seeking Traffic Commission determination of whether it has any need for the air rights over the small parking section behind 200 Moody Street. **Voted to approve the request and declare the air rights "surplus" with no future needs for the air rights in this small parking lot section behind #200 Moody Street, provided that a minimum clearance of at least 8'-6" is maintained to all existing surface parking spaces in the lot.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: Items A – E – F – H were voted to be removed from the Table

A. Highland St. "Spur" at Curtis St. – Removal of "No Right Turn" Restriction (9/12)(10/12)

Councilor Logan adamantly opposed removing the restriction. The Commission will review again after the improvements are made to Highland/Curtis to see if the accident rate is reduced and to compare the accident rates prior to 2010 when this restriction was installed. **Voted to re-table**

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 direct Traffic Engineering conduct a study of the existing crosswalks to determine whether it is advisable to place a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) or any other

treatment at the crosswalks; and whether additional sidewalks along both sides of Forest Street would preclude the installation of bike lanes.

F. Calvary Street near Mary Early Bridge – Traffic Calming (3/16)

The Police Department conducted 19 days of study from April 14 through May 4. The study showed the 85th Percentile Speed was 29 MPH and it showed that speeding is not a problem on Calvary Street. **Voted to deny the request**

G. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)

H. Highland St. at Curtis St. – Proposed 4-Way Stop (4/16)

Multi-way stop control must the warrant criteria outlined the MUTCD manual. The traffic volumes do not meet the threshold for warranting an All-Way Stop. The accident review showed a trend that vehicles roll through the Stop sign on Curtis Street. The No Right Turn from the Highland Spur creates an artificial increase in volume of traffic at Curtis St. and Highland St. allowing vehicles to turn right would create a safer condition at the Highland Street/Curtis Street intersection and the accident rate may be reduced. There is no discernable reason for the right turn prohibition from the Highland Spur

Voted to deny the request for an All-Way Stop. Paint “Stop” legends on the street at the two stop lines for Curtis Street approach, and install W4-4p signs, “Cross Traffic does Not Stop”

Voted not to change the Right Turn Only on the Highland Spur and to reconsider if the accident rate improves.

I. Parking near Driveways (4/16)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report. . Monthly collections continue to improve

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

4: Late Items

A: Trapelo Road @ #901 – RRFB - Falzone Field T.E. Mr. Garvin is requesting approval to request an appropriation of \$85,000. to install a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Crosswalk Light on a mast arm, two Speed Check display units, and a new 20 MPH school Zone Light on Trapelo Road. Voted to approve this request and have the Traffic Engineer seek the funding to install the RRFB at this location.

B: Waverley Oaks Road – Mr. Charles Vandenbossche, Friends of St. Jude’s Annual Barnyard Bingo Festival at Cornelia Warren Athletic Field request to close Waverley Oaks Road from Linden Street to Beaver Street on Saturday October 15, 2016 (rain date Sunday October 16) from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Voted to approve this request and close Waverley Oaks Road on Saturday October 15, 2016 from 11:00 am to 5:00 PM

Adjourned 2 12:31 PM

Attendance: All members except Fire Chief Ciccone. Councilors Logan, Marchese and LeBlanc. Representatives from McMahon Associates, and petitioners Mr. Carmen Caira, Mr. John Allen and Mr. Leo Keightley

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

off Committee Speakers

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: May 19, 2016

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Robert G. Logan	City Councilor	Multiple	Interested Party
Gary J. Marchese	City Councilor	Gore Street	Interested Party
Diane LeBlanc	City Councilor	Gore Street	Interested Party
Leo Keightley	731 South St Waltham	Lexington Street Bike lanes	Petitioner
Carmen Caira	69 Gore Street	Gore St Traffic	Petitioner
Allison Luff	McMahon Asso.	Waltham TMP	Traffic Consultant
Maureen Chlebek	McMahon Asso.	Waltham TMP	Traffic Consultant
Chish Apicella	McMahon Asso.	Waltham TMP	Traffic Consultant