

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JUNE 16, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Connector Road from 1265 Main St. to Fourth Ave.

Mr. Carmine Tomas (Owner) and Mr. Robert Nagi (VHB Traffic Consultant) presented this report. Permission was requested to open a north-south "connector road" from the 1265 Main Street (Rt. #117) through to Fifth Avenue, to Totten Pond Road. The road would be built to city specifications and have a sidewalk on one side (east side). There will be two gates that would be closed weekday from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM, and from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. and open all other times. Multiple signs to be posted stating the hours when the road would be open.

State Representative, Thomas Stanley stated he supported this connector as part of a solution to ease the traffic congestion in this area and it is totally funded by the private sector and no public funds are needed at this time. Ward Councilor George Darcy also supported this plan. Ward Councilor William Fowler, opposed the road at this time. He expressed concerns for an over-all traffic plan and felt this proposal, alone without improvements to the intersection at Third Ave. & Totten Pond Road is not warranted. Any increase to traffic would have an adverse effect on the residents of Lincoln Street and Lake Street area.

Other Speakers

1: Howard Wombolt - - traffic problems will be relocated; Tower Road should be used and made two way

2: Anne Donahue – Lincoln Street will see an increase to an overburdened roadway

3: Ms. McDonald – 4th Avenue worker – need for a secondary access/egress

T.E. Mr. Garvin stated that he favored the "connector road" on a limited access basis during non-peak hours.

Member Ms. Cagle – very concerned with only one-sided sidewalk; it was explained that a major gas line runs through the property and a sidewalk on the other side is not possible.

Member Mr. Chiasson - favored limited access use

Member Mr. Magno – a Master Traffic Plan is still in the planning stages

Member Chief MacPherson – favored the connector from a public safety point-of-view, (Fire Chief Ciccone concurred). A Secondary access/egress is very concerning for the safety of the workers in the 4th and 5th avenue area.

Motioned to approve the installation of the "connector road" open during limited hours and to have the Traffic Engineer (Mr. Garvin) work with the site owners in an effort to have a second sidewalk installed (on the west side) if possible.

B. Melanoma Foundation of New England - 5K Run/Walk for Hope

Ms. Amy Mason is requesting permission to hold this event on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Lt. Cavalarro reported approximately 600-700 racers; there will be Police presence, and no roads will be closed. **Voted to recommend a permit to issue.**

C. Riverfest 2016 – Reserved parking for vendors

Ms. Sarah Hankins is requesting reserved parking in the back of 200 Moody Street for their vendors. **Voted to approve vendor reserve parking in the small lot behind #200 Moody Street for Saturday June 18.**

D. Lexington Street – Comcast work

License and Franchise Committee is seeking a review from Traffic Engineering regarding this project. Comcast intends to install conduit with vaults on Lexington Street from School Street to Main Street. The installation will be located in the right hand lane (west side of street) and will require no parking on the east side of the street. This will allow Fire Apparatus to have enough room to pass. Work during the daylight hours could only occur from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Overnight work could be done, preferred by the contractor, and would take 5 to 7 nights to complete.

Councilor Waddick, spoke in favor of this installation and but stated he has reservations about night work. Although night work appears to be the best alternative. Chief MacPherson stated that most of the complaints relative to night work are with the “back-up” alarms on the trucks, dropped tail gates and some “jack hammer” noise. Most of the jack-hammer noise would not occur after midnight. A noise permit is required to be issued by the Police Department in order to work after 9:00 PM and before 7:00 AM. Pending approval of the Board of Planning & Survey, **voted to have the work done overnight and the Police Department will issue a permit.**

E. Thayer Road – No Parking/Tow Zone

Mr. Chris Brackett, # 20-22 Dwight St., is requesting No Parking/Tow Zone along his property.

Thayer Road is a “Private Way” In order for the Traffic Commission to take jurisdiction and post No Parking. 100% residential approval is required. Mr. Brackett who spoke in favor of this request was informed that these signatures would be required before a regulation would be enacted. **Voted to table and have Mr. Brackett obtained the necessary residential signatures for the Commission to accept jurisdiction.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: Voted to remove Items A – C & H off the table

A. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)(5/16)

At last month’s meeting the Traffic Engineer was requested to review the accident history of the intersection of Highland St and Curtis and Highland Spur at Curtis Street. The number of accidents at Highland & Curtis from 2008 thru 2011 were four (average rate 1.20). From 2011 thru 2015 the intersection has experienced 22 (average rate of 4.71). The distinct jump in the number of accidents that occurred at this intersection could be the result of the prohibited turn from the Highland Spur onto Curtis Street. Traffic Engineering recommended removing this restriction.

Councilor Logan appeared on behalf of this item, favoring retaining the restriction. He investigated whether the Highland Spur is a public way and he has determined that it is a Public Way. In addition, he felt the accident rate increase is not the result of the restriction, but increased traffic volumes in the area. The Commission should consider changing the configuration at the entrance to the spur at Hope Avenue so as to discourage the use as a major cut-through. Some commission members were of the opinion that the Traffic Engineer should investigate this as a possible solution to prevent the spur from being the main through way.

Residents Ms. Paula Rautenberg and Mr. Chris Abrams also spoke of this alternative.

Voted to table and reconsider a road design change.

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)

Residents had petitioned for All-Way Stop Signs, however, this intersection does not meet the requirements to install all stop control. A speed study was conducted and the 85% speed for northbound traffic, which does not have Stop control was found to be 38 MPH. Other traffic calming measures to be considered are installation of ADA compliant wheelchair ramps at each corner and installation of a pedestrian crossing sign on the northbound Prentice Street approach. The effect of these measures will be to improve safety for pedestrians and increase awareness of the presence for potential pedestrians for approaching motorists.

Voted to approve these recommendation for ADA wheelchair ramps and a Pedestrian Crossing Sign.

D. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)

E. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15)(5/16)

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

G. Parking Near Driveways (4/16)

H. Gore St. – Traffic Calming (5/16)

As a result of a request for a posted speed limit, a speed study was conducted on Gore Street. The 85% percentile speed was found to be 30.9 mph for northbound; and 31.2 mph for southbound. The request for a posted speed limit should be denied. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – monthly receipts have increased from last year

B. Transportation Master Plan – Update – ideas and comments are under review

C. Request funding for new truck – voted to approve and request a transfer of funds to purchase

D. Surplus old sign making vinyl printer – voted to have the printer declared as “surplus”

E. Calvary Street – Removal of various parking restrictions – due to the changes in occupants of the street Traffic Engineering recommended the parking regulations be amended. The result will be No Parking on the South side entire length and parking will allowed on the north side except near Farwell Street.

Delete on Calvary Street

South side, Newton St to Liverpool Lane, No Standing

South side, Newton St to Liverpool Lane, No Stopping
North side, Newton St to Liverpool Lane, No Standing
North side, Newton St to Liverpool Lane, No Stopping
North side, 170' E. of Newton Street to Newton St No Parking
North side, Liverpool Ln. to a point 170' east of Newton St, No Parking
North side 75' E of #44 to #44, No Parking 8AM-12PM

Add to Calvary Street

North Side, Newton Street to point 60' East of Newton St. No Parking

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

4: Parking Permits 2016 Fall Festival September 10, 2016

Ms. Debora Hoffman is requesting 40 parking permits for volunteers and vendors for the 7th Annual Waltham Neighborhoods Fall Festival. Parking is restricted to the upper level of the Central Square Parking Deck only. Voted to approve.

Adjourned 2 12:07 PM

Attendance: All members except Mr. Malone. State Rep. Thomas Stanley; City Councilors Robert Logan, Robert Waddick, George Darcy & William Fowler. Numerous residents and petitioners

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

off Committee Speakers

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: June 16, 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	109 Taylor St	Highland St. Spur	City Councilor
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	Connector Rd. City Point	City Councilor
Bob Marcou	5 Bancroft St	Reach Fall Festival	Volunteer
Chris Brackett	20-22 Dwight St	No Parking	Abutter
Kevin Delaney	100 Harland Rd	Connector Rd. City Point	Resident
Howard Womdoldt	127 West gate rd	Connector Rd. City Point	Interested Party
Tom Stanley	19 Neighbors Lane	Connector Rd. City Point	State Representative
Anne Donahue	578 Lincoln St	Connector Rd. City Point	Interested Party
Luke Keristor	12 Bacon St	Connector Rd. City Point	Interested Party
Paula Rautenberg	41 Curtis St	Highland St Spur	Resident
Beth Reith	300 Fifth Ave	Connector Rd. City Point	Employee
Sarah Hawkins SSarr	103 Seminole Ave	Riverfest	Petitioner
Doug Waybright	75 Third Ave	Connector Rd. City Point	Employee

Carmine Tomas	1265 Main Street	Connector Rd. City Point	Project Owner
Robert Nagi	VHB Watertown	Connector Rd. City Point	Traffic Consultant
Christopher Abrams	48 Highland St	Highland St. Spur	Resident
Dawn Morrissey	68 Highland St	Highland St. Spur	Resident
Mr. James Allen		Connector Rd. City Point	Interested Party