

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JANUARY 19, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Voted to accept the minutes of the December meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. 1070-1110 Lexington St. Waltham Plaza – Traffic Impact Study

MDM Transportation Consultants presented the traffic study for two proposed restaurants in the former McDonald's. Attorney Richard Dacey presented an overview of the project which is to replace McDonald's at the northern end of the Waltham Plaza with two restaurant tenants, Chipotle Mexican Grill and a second unidentified restaurant tenant. Chipotle will occupy 2,330 square feet of the present 3,990 square feet available; no increase in building area will result. The two restaurants are projected to result in a net reductions of vehicle trips in each peak hour. The traffic impacts will be less than what existed with the prior use. The proponent has agreed to supply new wayfinding signs to be installed on Trapelo Road that will include logos of all destinations on preceding wayfinding signs on the highway, and will replace the former McDonalds logo on Route 128 and Route 2 (as well as associated off ramps) with Chipotle logos. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended to accept the traffic impact report and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations on the issuance of a Special Permit. **Voted to approve this recommendation**

B. BJ's Gas Station – Main/Linden/Ellison – Traffic Impact Study

VHB presented the traffic study for this proposed gas station. VHB Traffic Consultant Mr. Patrick Dunford, summarized the proposal to replace the existing Sunoco gas station and a portion of the parking lot for CVS/Dunkin Donuts/Petco Plaza, with a new six-pump (twelve fueling positions) gas station. One driveway on Main Street will be eliminated and another one will be a right in / right out, only. Linden Street will have one driveway located east of Main Street as opposed to the three that presently exist. A second driveway opposite Middlesex Road will be revamped. The parking lot will have a reduction of parking spaces from 187 to 153 spaces and will be reconfigured to upgraded standards. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated the Level of Service (LOS) at the intersection of Main/Linden Sts. may drop to a level F from level C. The consolidation of driveways is a good and needed improvement. Additionally, the proponent is committed to contributing \$15,000 to the City that could be used towards the potential curb/sidewalk modifications should the suggestion be implemented from the Transportation Master Plan (forcing Ellison Park to be right turn only, which would dramatically improve level of service at this signal). Member Catherine Cagle wants to see the addition of bicycle parking on site as per our Bicycle Parking Standards. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended the Traffic Impact Report be accepted and forwarded to the City Council for their deliberations on the issuance of a Special Permit. **Voted to approve this recommendation**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Highland St. "Spur" at Curtis St. – Removal of "No Right Turn" Restriction (9/12)(10/12)(5/16)(6/16)
- B. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)
- C. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)
- D. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15)(5/16)
- E. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)
- F. Parking Near Driveways (4/16)
- G. Massasoit Street – Proposed Truck Restriction (9/16)

- H. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16)
- I. Whittemore Elementary School – Student Drop-off and Pick-up (9/16)
- J. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)

Voted to remove Items K & M from the Table

K. John, Moore, Oak, Flood & Friend Sts. – Parking Issues (12/16)

Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of this request and the need for immediate action that should be taken. Councilor Logan in a letter of support requested “pilot program”. Mayor McCarthy concurred with this recommendation and requested the Commission move forward to implement a residential sticker program. A site view, the entire area, and discussions show there is sufficient residential parking and the present parking restrictions are being enforced. Owners of the “Ride” have made efforts to supply off street parking for the majority of its employees. Member Mr. Chiasson suggested amending the regulations to restrict the parking from 8am to 4pm; however, this may only move the problem to other streets. Member Fire Chief Ciccone suggested the process for implementation of a sticker program move forward and continue talk with the “Ride” owners. Voted to have Traffic Engineering continue the evaluation of a “sticker program” and make a presentation at the next meeting.

Voted to table

- L. Elson Rd. at Prentice St. – Traffic Study (12/16)

M. Speed Limit Standards (12/16)

At the request of Councilor Logan this item was continued to be tabled

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report total receipts for the year 2016 were up approximately \$7,000.
- B. Transportation Master Plan – Update The final report has been submitted and will be forwarded to all concerned parties.
- C. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Mayor McCarthy had previously requested Traffic Engineering to hold off on installing the remaining signs on Main Street and Moody Street until she completes a sign inventory of all signs already installed. This month, Mayor McCarthy has requested Traffic Engineering to conduct the inventory and provide it to her, after reviewing with Wires Inspector Tim Kelly. T.E. Garvin committed to supplying that within one week. Mr. Magno requested that T.E. Garvin also include a complete list of approved traffic regulations regarding signs. T.E. Garvin agreed. Mr. Magno asked how long it has been since signs were not allowed to be installed. T.E. Garvin responded since July 2016.

Attendance: Mr. Kelly & Mr. Malone absent. Mayor McCarthy, Mr. Tom Coxall, Att. Richard Dacey, Mr. Robert Michaud, and Mr. Patrick Dunford.

Adjourned @ 11:34 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo

Clerk

Off Committee Speakers

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: January 19, 2017

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