

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: MAY 18, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**Voted to accept the minutes of the April meeting.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Lowell Street at Alder Street – Proposed Crosswalk**

Councillor Logan along with others are requesting this crosswalk. A site view by Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin, showed ramps on all four approaches with an overhead street light on the southeast corner. Sight distance is clear on both directions. Recommended to paint a crosswalk on the southern approach. **Voted to accept this recommendation. Member, Ms. Cagle asked Mr. Garvin to consider the fourth approach for a possible crosswalk. If Mr. Garvin determines that forth approach appropriate for a crosswalk, the Traffic Commission's vote approves that crosswalk.**

**B. # 95 Moody Street – Proposed Feasibility Study to convert to Parking Lot**

Councillors Logan and Randall LeBlanc are requesting City Council to conduct a feasibility study of obtaining this property and converting it to a municipal parking lot. The lot has been vacant for over 16 years and is adjacent to the City leased Railroad Lot. The lot could provide 25 to 30 additional parking spaces. Mr. Leo Knightly and Ms. Martha Creedon asked for consideration to accommodate the bicyclist. Member Ms. Cagle asked that "Complete Safe Streets' policy be included in the recommendation to the Council. **Voted to reply to the City Council with the report of possible parking spaces, pedestrian amenities, and consideration for "Complete Streets Policy"**

**C. Totten Pond Road – Proposed Sidewalks and Granite Curbing**

Numerous Councillors signed a resolution on 4/24/17 requesting Traffic Commission install new sidewalks and granite curbing for the entire length of both sides of Totten Pond Road in conjunction with the Piety Corner intersection reconstruction project. Councillor Romard who was in attendance spoke on this item. The jurisdiction for installation of sidewalks rests with Consolidated Public Works, (CPW). Questions such as the Right of Way (ROW) must be determined; utilities (water and sewer) must be identified and the possibility of ledge must be determined. CPW Director Mr. Chiasson agreed that his department would work closely with the Traffic Engineer to consider installing sidewalks along Totten Pond Road. **Voted to refer the resolution to CPW and asked Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin to work with the Director to propose sidewalks along Totten Pond Road.**

**D. Lexington Street at Bacon Street – Proposed No Turn on Red**

Councillor Romard is requesting a No Turn on Red facing Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall driveway. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that sometimes vehicles exiting Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall driveway are not aware that northbound traffic has a green light and there is a potential for accidents. **Voted to accept the recommendation and add the following:**

**Schedule 20 No Turn On Red: Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall driveway at Lexington Street**

**E. # 315 College Farm Road – Traffic Study**

Jennifer Conley with WSP-Parsons Brinckerhoff will present the traffic study for the proposed 12 unit residential building. Twelve condominiums are proposed to be constructed on a site that presently contains 7,300 square feet of office space. The proposed project will have less generated trips than the office building, a minor reduction. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and forward the traffic study prepared by WSP/Parson Brinkerhoff for the City Council to consider in their deliberation for a Special Permit to issue.**

**F. # 151-155 Bear Hill Road – Traffic Study**

Rob Nagi with VHB presented the traffic study for the proposed storage facility. The site is the former location of Uno's Restaurant. The project is expected to generate 16 AM peak hour trips and 29 PM peak hour trips. These numbers are less than those generated by the restaurant and will result in a minor reduction in traffic volumes on the adjacent street during the peak hour. The existing two driveways will be consolidated into one and on-site parking will be reduced from 144 spaces to 14. A sidewalk will be constructed along Bear Hill Road on the property's frontage. The proponent will contribute approximately \$78,000. To the Traffic Safety and Infrastructure Fund. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and forward the traffic study to the City Council for their deliberations for a Special Permit.**

**G. YMCA Five to Thrive 5K**

Amanda Cleary is requesting permission for this event on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The race was reviewed by the Police Department and it is reported that there will be approximately 200 participants, no streets will be closed and there will be police present. **Voted to recommend to the Mayor that a permit be issued**

**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. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)
- C. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15) (5/16)
- D. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)
- E. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16)
- F. Whittemore Elementary School – Student Drop-off and Pick-up (9/16)
- G. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)
- H. Elson Rd. at Prentice St. – Traffic Study (12/16)

**The following three items were voted to be removed from the table:**

**I. Crescent Street – Posted Speed Limit (2/17)**

A speed study was conducted from Monday April 24 to Friday April 28 along the entire length of Crescent Street in both directions (north & south). The street was divided into three sections. (Spruce Street – Walnut Street & Brown Street). In the Spruce Street area both northbound and southbound were found to be 29 MPH. The Walnut Street area was 31 MPH in both directions. The Brown Street area was found to be 32 MPH and 34 MPH. There is a cautionary Curve 25 MPH sign facing southbound traffic near #275 (Robbins/Orange St). Accident history showed nine (9) accidents in 2014; 13 in 2015; and 18 in 2016. There was no indication that speeding was a factor and the study indicates that a Speed Zone is not warranted. However, a new diamond shaped standard curve warning sign should be installed to replace the existing out dated sign. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation not to post a speed limit and replace the existing curve warning sign.**

**J. Trapelo Road at Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)**

The City Council Committee of the Whole requested an opinion on whether it is feasible to construct a right-turn lane on Trapelo road eastbound approaching Waverley Oaks Road. Specifically, investigate acquiring some of the property on the north side of Trapelo Road. This land is conservation land and requires DCR approval. There is a steep grade and widening would encroach into the Beaver Brook Reservation; likely impact wetlands. In addition there is a culvert to the east

that would have to be widened (presently under construction). It appears that widening of Trapelo Road should take place on the south side. The Right of Way appears to be sufficient to have a sidewalk, two eastbound lanes (one could be exclusively right lane for right turn) and one westbound lane. Councillors Kathleen McMenimen and George Darcy attended this meeting and spoke in opposition to taking any land from the south (residential) side of Trapelo Rd. The existing ROW is 49 ½ feet, some of which is on the north side. They asked for a reconsideration on using this land rather than the south side. The intersection needs improvement. Presently it operates at LOS F, with long delays for eastbound traffic. Member Mr. Magno asked whether our State Representatives should be contacted for some assistance and investigate process for seeking land on the north side. Member Ms. Cagle spoke of pedestrian and bicycle paths which would be very beneficial. Member Mr. Chiasson, commented that this is part of the City's Master Plan and there is a need to improve traffic at this intersection; Member Chief Ciccone agreed. Chief MacPherson stated that more information, and procedures to follow are needed before making a final decision. **The members agreed and voted to table.**

**K. Main Street at Newton Street – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)**

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported presently there are two eastbound lanes, for Main Street at Newton Street. The right hand lane (starting at Heard St.) is for right turn only onto Newton Street. Westbound traffic has a single lane that opens into two lanes near Lyman Street; the right lane is for Right turn only onto Lyman Street. Parking is permitted on the north side of Main Street from Craven Circle (opposite Newton St.) westerly to a point 215 feet from Lyman Street. This parking is for the small business owners in this area. If the two eastbound lanes were to be moved further to the south, into the Senior Center parking area, then a second westbound lane could be created from Craven Circle west to Lyman Street. Northbound Newton Street traffic, would have a better chance to continue to the north. Presently, the short single westbound lane, prevents Newton Street travelers getting to Lyman Street right turn lane due to the blocking traffic that wants to continue traveling west on Main St. This shift and creation of a second westbound lane, would permit the small businesses to retain Main Street parking and would open a storage lane for the right turn onto Lyman Street. Additionally, Heard Street would be reversed from one-way northbound to one-way southbound. Chief MacPherson expressed his concerns for the continuing problem of lane changing for through traffic (slaloms) on Main Street. Parking could be removed from the north side, creating a second westbound lane, and reserved parking in the Senior Center lot for the merchants. **Voted to table this item and seek input from Councillor Marchese on his thoughts to these concepts.**

**3: DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report – collected funds show a reduction of approximately \$3,000. Over last year

**B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update** – The Traffic Engineer is still waiting for the Mayor's sign inventory to resume installation of missing signs along Main Street and Moody Street. The sign inventory not completed.

**C. Piety Corner – Update –**

The City Council requested the redesign and demolition or removal of the house at 380 Lexington Street. The RFP will include obtaining approval from the Waltham Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (if necessary) and the Waltham Historical Commission. The final plans, specifications, and the cost estimate for the project will be put out to bid for construction. Funds for the design would be Traffic Impact Account 168 Third Avenue (\$200,434.) and Traffic Impact 830 Winter Street (\$211,559.) The combined funds (\$411,993.) should be sufficient to fund full design. Mayor McCarthy requested our Traffic Engineer complete the

design and presentation for the Conservation and Historical Commissions, with assistance from the City's Engineer Mr. Casazza and the City's Planning Director Ms. Cagle. A full survey requires highway engineering (new roadway), environmental engineering (wetlands and drainage system), structural engineering (required retaining wall), landscape architects, and CADD drafters. Full design plans, specifications, and a construction cost estimate must be prepared for the numerous elements of this design. The Traffic Engineer respectfully disagreed that we have the needed resources to complete this task in-house. The commission agreed that a project of this magnitude should be done by an outside agency who can complete the process in a timely manner. Voted to resubmit the RFP, and ask for reconsideration to have the design out-sourced and express the urgency needed to have this project move forward as soon as possible.

#### **D. Budget Meeting Notes**

E. Fitzgerald Fun Run Change of Date – From June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup> – information only

#### **F. # 18 Hagar Street – Removal of Handicap Parking Space**

Information was reported that the subject of the requested HP space had passed away. This was confirmed by Mr. Johnson of Disability Services Commission. **Voted to remove the HP space**

#### **4: Late Filed Items**

##### **A: St. Jude's 5K Road Race Saturday June 3, 2017**

Lt. Cavallaro reported there would be 400-600 participants, no streets to be closed and there will be police presence. **Voted to recommend that a permit be issued for Saturday June 3.**

##### **B: Caughey Street Parking Study Request**

Councillor Romard is requesting an onsite/evaluation of the parking on Caughey Street during peak school times and throughout the day. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer conduct a site review and report any recommendations to the Commission.**

**Attendance: Mr. Malone and Mr. Kelly absent. All other members present. Councillors McMenimen, Darcy and Romard; Ms. Lauren Masiar; Mr. Leo Keightley, Ms. Martha Creedon, Attorney Michael Connors, Attorney Bret Francis, Traffic Engineers Ms. Jen Conley and Mr. Robert Nagi.**

**Adjourned @ 11:27 AM  
Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo  
Clerk**

# Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: **Thursday May 18, 2017**

Please Print

<b>Name of Speaker</b>	<b>Address# Street, City</b>	<b>Item of Interest</b>	<b>Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner</b>
<b>Ms. Lauren Masiar</b>	<b>395 Totten Pond Rd.</b>	<b>Sidewalks on Totten Pond Road</b>	<b>128 Business Council</b>
<b>Co. Dan Romard</b>	<b>291 Dale St.</b>	<b>No Turn on Red Sidewalks Totten Pond Rd</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Co. George Darcy</b>	<b>93 Hobbs Rd</b>	<b>Trapelo @ Waverley Oaks Road</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Co. Kathy McMenimen</b>	<b>147 Trapelo Rd</b>	<b>Trapelo @ Waverley Oaks Road</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Mr. Leo Keightley</b>	<b>731 South St</b>	<b>Parking 95 Moody St</b>	<b>Citizen</b>
<b>Ms. Martha Creedon</b>	<b>731 South St</b>	<b>Parking 95 Moody St</b>	<b>Citizen</b>
<b>Att. Michael Connors</b>	<b>6 Lexington St</b>	<b>Self-Storage 151-155 Bear Hill Rd</b>	<b>Attorney</b>
<b>Ms. Jen Conley</b>	<b>WSB 75 Arlington St Boston</b>	<b>315 College Farm Rd</b>	<b>Engineer</b>
<b>Mr. Robert Nagi</b>	<b>V HB 101 Walnut St Watertown</b>	<b>Self-Storage 151-155 Bear Hill Rd</b>	<b>Engineer</b>
<b>Att. Bret Francis</b>		<b>315 College Farm Rd</b>	<b>Attorney</b>