

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: JUNE 15, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

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

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. # 66 Dix Street – Proposed Disability Parking Space**

Mr. Scott Gladman is requesting a Disabled Parking Space in front of his residence. Mr. Johnson, Chairperson of the Disability Services Commission recommended approval of this request. **Voted to install a HP parking space as follows:**

**Dix Street, south side, in front of #66**

**B. 225 Wyman Street – Traffic Impact Study**

Attorney Robert Connors gave a brief history of the site stating these buildings (#225 & #235) are over 50 years old and the proposal calls for the demolition of the existing structures and replacement with a four (4) level building which is below the allowable FAR (.83). Mr. Sean Manning, Traffic Engineer for VHB, stated the proposal is for 500,000 square feet of office space, an increase from the existing 300,000 square feet. Parking spaces will be increased to 1,750 from the existing 626. There will be two (2) access/egress driveways and an internal connecting system to the adjacent building (#175-#185) next to the site. The AM peak hour traffic will generate approximately 233 trips and the PM peak hour is expected to be 224 trips. There will be covered bicycle parking and pedestrian pathways. Ms. Cagle spoke in favor the bicycle accommodations and the pedestrian walkways. Mr. Magno expressed concerns with increasing the traffic in an area that has many problems. Chief MacPherson, expressed his concerns with I95/Rt.128 backups that cause the grid lock in the area. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported both Wyman Street driveway would operate at a (LOS) F. The internal connections will be an improvement since it would allow traffic to access I-95 without travelling on Wyman Street, and the limited access to Lincoln Street will continue to be “gated”. He recommended the report be accepted. **Voted to accept the traffic study and forward to City Council for their deliberations on issuance of a Special Permit.**

**C. Riverfest – Use of Embassy Parking Lot**

Ms. Sarah Hankins is requesting use of the smaller section of the Embassy Parking Lot behind # 210 Moody Street for their Riverfest event on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Voted to approve the use of the smaller section of Embassy Lot as requested.**

**D. Cedarwood Area – Various Stop or Yield Signs**

Mayor McCarthy is supporting this request. The Neighborhood Association requested the following in the Cedarwood Area:

- 1) Stop Sign at the intersection of Hamilton Road and Thornton Road
- 2) Yield or Stop at Harland Road and Hamilton Road
- 3) Yield or Stop at Florence Road and Hamilton Road

**Voted to have a traffic study of the three intersections and a recommendation at the September meeting.**

**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)

**Voted to remove items F, H, and K off the table**

**F. Whittemore Elementary School – Student Drop-off and Pick-up (9/16)**

Councillor Rourke had a “neighborhood meeting” to discuss traffic concerns during student drop-off and pick-up times. The surrounding streets become clogged with parked cars and the normally two-way streets only allow travel in one direction. Some suggestions for one-ways did not receive much support. A suggestion for a student drop-off and pick-up did have support. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended to designate the eastern side of Parmenter Road, from Ash Street to the northern school driveway as a live parking lane. Only the lead vehicle would be allowed to open doors for the students. Parents must remain in their cars. Parking is presently prohibited from Ash Street to High Street on the east side of Parmenter Road. There is an existing crosswalk across Parmenter Road at Myrtle Street. This crosswalk will be in the middle of the new live parking lane and should be relocated to the northerly school driveway. Mr. Garvin has verbal commitment from Whittemore School and will coordinate with them on the implementation.

**Voted to designate the eastern side of Parmenter Road, from Ash Street to the northerly Whittemore School driveway as No Parking – Student Drop-off / Pick-Up Only. Also remove the crosswalk across Parmenter Road at Myrtle Street and relocate across Parmenter Road at the northerly school driveway.**

**G. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)**

**H. Elson Rd. at Prentice St. – Traffic Study (12/16)**

Councillor Waddick requested a review of this intersection with the possibility of a four (4) way stop. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reviewed the warrant requirements to see if they were met.

- 1) Accident history over the past three years (2014-2016) showed an accident rate of 1.3 per year.
- 2) The traffic volumes show Elson Rd. 1,034; Prospect Hill Rd (east) 941; Prospect Hill Rd (north) 3,478; and Prentice St. (South) 3,036. Traffic volumes must exceed 300 vehicle per hour total of both approaches.
- 3) Speed Data – Prospect Hill Road/Prentice Street 85% northbound 32 MPH; and southbound 36 MPH.
- 4) Site distances – Elson Road looking left has some restrictions due to the incline, the mail box and utility pole. Looking right there are no restrictions. Chief MacPherson asked what the process is to relocate mail box.  
Prospect Hill Road – looking left have some restrictions by the embankment and brush.

None of the criteria are met to warrant a four (4) way stop control. Furthermore, a Stop Sign for northbound traffic (Prospect Hill Road) at Elson Road could interfere with operations at Main Street. Ms. Cagle suggested the addition of stop lines at the two approaches and have crosswalks on all four approaches if Mr. Garvin has no issues with that.

There is a pedestrian crosswalk on Prentice Street that need pedestrian signage installed.

**Voted to deny the request, and add Pedestrian signage on Prentice Street, stop lines and four crosswalks if deemed ok by Mr. Garvin.**

**I. Trapelo Road at Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)**

J. Main Street at Newton Street – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)

**K. Caughey St. – Parking Study (5/17)**

At the request of Councillor Romard an evaluation of the parking conditions along Caughey Street was reviewed. Presently, parking is allowed on both sides of the street except for the first 100 feet near Plympton and Farnsworth Avenue. It appears to be teacher parking from the Plympton School.

Parents park on both side of Caughey Street for drop-off and pick-up; often this narrows the two way street to one-way travel. In the afternoon, vehicles park on Farnsworth Street (although parking is prohibited 2:30 to 3:30). Vehicles park on Caughey Street both sides and narrow the street to one-way travel. The worst congestion is from 2:55pm until 3:10pm. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended some additional No Parking on Caughey Street and restrict one side to 2 hour parking only. This could affect the on street teacher parking they would be required to relocate to other areas which could be problematic. In addition, Hazel Street (a nearby side street) is scheduled to be reconstructed shortly. **Voted to not approve T.E.'s recommendation, and to recommend T.E. contact Councillor Romard to hold a neighborhood, PTA and School Dept. meeting and seek an amicable solution to correct the situation. The Commission expressed its serious safety concerns relative to this parking problem and it must be addressed. Voted to table.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. **Parking Meter Report** - - Collections are down approximately \$9,000 from last year

**B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update**

T.E. Mr. Garvin addressed the numerous questions relative to the installed signs on Main/Moody St. Some of the signage is under the jurisdiction of the MBTA. A specific request for two parking spaces Harvard to Grant Street was tabled. **Voted to retain the sign on Main St in front of City Hall Right Lane Must Turn Right at Elm Street. Voted to ask Handicapped Services to review HP parking at 522 Main Street. Denied removal of sign at Newton Street Right lane Must Turn Right. Voted to downsize the One-Way sign at Townsend St. T.E. Mr. Garvin stated that there are still missing regulatory signs and some street name signs must be added. Voted to have Mr. Garvin create a new list of missing signs, including street names, and to do what is needed to be done.**

**C. Piety Corner – Update**

Mayor McCarthy has instructed Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin to do an “In-House” design for this project. Planning and Engineering are to assist in the preparation for presentation to the Conservation Commission and Historical Commission. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer proceed with a “concept design”. The design will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission and Historical Commission. He is to seek a consensus opinion and guidance. Mr. Garvin will report on what will be required to proceed for approvals.**

D. New crosswalks at **Chestnut St. at Lowell St.** and removal of mid-block Lowell St.

**Voted to accept this recommendation and add three crosswalks at Chestnut St. / Hall St. The mid-block crosswalk will be removed**

**E. Jack’s Way – Posted Speed Limit**

A speed study was conducted and the 85% was 35 MPH. Under the new Speed Limit Regulations we are allowed to go up to 10 mph under that number. **Voted to post Jack’s Way at 25 MPH.**

- F. **# 92 Pond Street** – Removal of Handicap Parking Space . **Voted to remove**
- G. **Fourth of July** – Street Closings **Approved all street closing and temporary parking regulations.**
- H. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Waltham Neighborhoods **Fall Festival – Parking Voted to approve 40 Upper-Deck parking spaces on Saturday September 9, 2017 for this festival.**
- I. **268 Brown Street** – Removal of Handicap Parking Space - **Voted to Remove.**
- J. **Resident Sticker Parking for Calvary St. Area – Update** – The Commission was served a complaint on May 30, 2017 which was filed in Middlesex Superior Court by Veterans Transportation LLC. It has been turned over to the Law Department for review. Traffic Engineering is moving forward to implement the program of sticker parking. Commission member Tom Magno recused himself from this item. Information only.
- K. **Lexington Street Markings – Update**  
Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin presented a plan to restripe Lexington Street. This plan had been previously discussed and has a recommendation from the Master Traffic Plan. Lexington Street is presently being repaved and will need to be re-painted.
- Proposed from Lincoln Street north to Lake Street is one (1) northbound lane and two (2) southbound lanes. In addition there would be a five (5) foot bike lane for both northbound and southbound. From Lake Street to Trapelo Road three lanes; one northbound, one southbound and a center-turn lane. Also, there would be dedicated turning lanes at the following intersections:
- a) Lexington Street: All vehicle traveling northbound in the right lane approaching Jack's Way **MUST TURN RIGHT**
  - b) Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling northbound in the left lane approaching College Farm Road **MUST TURN LEFT**
  - c) Lexington Street: All vehicle using the center lane between Lake Street and Lionel Avenue **MUST TURN LEFT**
  - d) Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling southbound in the left lane approaching Lionel Avenue **MUST TURN LEFT**
  - e) All vehicles traveling northbound in the left lane approaching Stearns Hill Road **MUST TURN LEFT**
- Voted to accept this recommendation and amend Schedule 18 Turns Only As Designated**
- L. **Church Street Parking Lot – Update** – waiting to purchase new pay station and for CPW to pave the lot after they pave City Hall Parking Lot.

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

**Attendance: All members except Fire Chief Ciccone. Mr. Kelly left the meeting at 12:07 PM.**

**Adjourned @ 12:34 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk**

**off Committee Speakers**

## **Waltham Traffic Commission**

**Date of the Meeting: June 15, 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>Robert Waddick</b>	<b>129 Church St.</b>	<b>Elson Road</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Bob Connors</b>	<b>6 Lexington St</b>	<b>225 Wyman St.</b>	<b>Attorney</b>
<b>Sean Manning</b>	<b>V.H.B. 99 High St. Boston, MA</b>	<b>225 Wyman St.</b>	<b>Traffic Engineer</b>
<b>Sarah Wetmore</b>	<b>V.H.B. 99 High St. Boston, MA</b>	<b>225 Wyman St.</b>	<b>Traffic Engineer</b>
<b>Leo Keightley</b>	<b>731 South St</b>	<b>Lex. St. Markings</b>	<b>Interested Party</b>
<b>Martha Creedon</b>	<b>731 South St</b>	<b>Lex. St. Markings</b>	<b>Interested Party</b>
<b>John Allen</b>	<b>7 University Park</b>	<b>Lex. St. Markings Traffic Signal Sensors</b>	<b>Waltham Bicycle Committee</b>