

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Acting Chair accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2017 meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Bedford Street at Pearl Street – Increase No Parking from corner

Councillor Giordano was present and is requesting the No Parking to Corner be increased due to sight issues. A site visit showed that vehicles do park up to the existing 30' setback and occasionally a tall vehicle will park up to the setback making it difficult to pull out. T.E. Mr. Garvin recommended to increase the setback to 50 feet. **Voted to amend the restriction in Schedule #1 as follows:**

Bedford Street, north side, from Pearl Street to a point 50' E. No Parking

B. Weston Street – No Engine Braking

Councillor Giordano was present and is requesting No Engine Braking signs on Weston Street before Eddy Street. At the October 2016 a policy was discussed that these signs should only be installed on a hill and not on a straight level roadway. In addition, it was noted that such a regulation is difficult to enforce. This section of Weston Street is straight, has no hill and is under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. Member Ms. Cagle (Planning Director) asked if "courtesy signs" could be placed at all entrances to the City asking for consideration not to use the engine brake technique. Member Mr. Kelly (Wires Inspector) asked for MassDOT to be contacted and request assistance with this request. Member Mr. Chiasson (Director C.P.W.) asked for the State to consider posting eastbound traffic. **Voted to have T.E. write a letter to MassDOT to review eastbound Weston St. for engine breaking signage.**

C. Fiske Avenue at Weston Street – Turning Restrictions

Councillor Giordano was present and is requesting a review of this intersection. The Councillor is requesting a Right Turn Only due to the many accidents of vehicles exiting Fiske Ave. Mayor McCarthy was present and stated the vehicles do not "line up correctly" and that a double yellow centerline be painted due to the wide turns coming off of Weston St.. There are currently two very faded Do Not Enter 7AM-9AM signs that need replaced. The turn from Weston Street onto Fiske Ave. is more than a 90 degree right turn. Councillor Logan expressed his concerns about the many accidents. Member Ms. Cagle (Planning Director) stated there is a need for "traffic calming measures" at this location. Mr. Chiasson (Director C.P.W.) would like to know where the State control starts and ends on Weston St. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer study and report his findings at a future meeting.**

D. Lunda Street – Proposed No Parking

Councillor Romard is requesting No Parking signs on the west side from # 36 to City owned property. Lunda Street at this location is cul-de-sac and the parked vehicles make it difficult for trucks (trash, snow plows, etc) to turn around. T.E. Mr. Garvin recommended posting No Parking. Mayor McCarthy was present and asked that the restriction be made temporarily due to construction of the Rail Trail and there will be a need for this parking. Fire Chief Ciccone would like to see the No Parking approved due to safety issues. **Voted to approve the recommendation and prohibit parking by adding to Schedule #1 the following: Lunda Street, west side, in front of #36. (Upon completion of the "bike rail trail" this restriction can be reviewed and if applicable be rescinded.)**

E. Lexington Street – Do Not Block Intersection markings

Councillor Romard is requesting discussion on placing these markings on Lexington Street. The Councillor requested these markings at Curve Street and Stanley Road. A site visit did show that Curve Street should have the markings but not Stanley Road. The southbound traffic that backs up from the intersection at Totten Pond Road (Piety Corner) does not go as far as Stanley Road. Mayor McCarthy was present for this discussion and would like the T.E. to speak to the Stanley Road petitioner. **Voted to install markings on Lexington Street at Curve Street (Do Not Block Intersection) and have a further review of Stanley Road.**

F. Lexington Street – No Engine Braking

Councillor Romard is requesting No Engine Braking signs on Lexington Street between 340 & 360. As stated above for item 1B, the Commission discussed that these signs should only be installed on a hill and not on a straight level roadway. In addition, it was noted that such a regulation is difficult to enforce. Lexington Street in this area is straight and level. The Traffic Engineer has been asked to consider posting all entrances to the City with “courtesy signs” asking for consideration in not using “engine brake” technique particularly at night. **Voted to deny this request.**

G. Trapelo Road at Pine Vale Road – Proposed Intersection Improvements

Councillor Darcy was present and is requesting discussion on improvements to this intersection. Mayor McCarthy along with several area residents spoke on this petition. It was repeatedly stated there is a need for a fully actuated traffic signal so the pedestrians can safely cross the street and vehicles can turn left from Pine Vale Road onto Trapelo Road. Also, westbound vehicles are going up onto the sidewalk to pass vehicles that have stopped to make a left turn onto Pine Vale Road. Mayor McCarthy spoke of the efforts being made to have Trapelo Road reconstructed with granite curbing, sidewalks and road re-construction. In addition, the “Hawk” overhead crosswalk signal should be considered. Residents are being informed of easements needed so the construction may begin. Mr. Chiasson (Director C.P.W.) stated the project will take approximately two years to complete from the start date. Granite curbs will prevent vehicles from going up onto the sidewalks. As part of the roadway reconstruction project the Graverson Playground's entrance will be relocated farther east on Trapelo Road and the existing “RRFB” at Pine Vale Rd. will be relocated to this location. Mr. Kelly (Wires Inspector) stated he will seek to have permanent Radar Speed signs installed. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported there is a need for a traffic analysis now and a new speed study should be conducted after the reconstruction has been completed. There was discussion of installing a median along the center line of Pine Vale Rd. The street width is only 20 feet wide and a median cannot be installed. Traffic Engineering could paint a double yellow center line on Pine Vale Rd. Member Ms. Cagle (Planning Director) asked for advance warning signs for eastbound cyclists approaching Pine Vale Rd..

The Commission voted the following;

- 1. Install warning signs and have permanent radar speed displays**
- 2. Install permanent radar speed signs on each direction of Trapelo Rd. (Wires Dept.)**
- 3. Trim bushes (CPW)**
- 4. Conduct Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis**
- 5. Conduct a speed study before and after construction**

H. 48 Pine Street – Crosswalk Safety Improvements

Councillor Logan was present and is requesting a review of this crosswalk for safety reasons. The request is for RRFB crosswalk and/or a 20 MPH Safety Zone. Wires Dept. did add a street light in that area to illuminate the crosswalk. Ms. Cagle (Planning Dir.) suggested we look into raised

tables as well. The Fire Chief does not have an issue with raised tables, as he does with speed humps. Traffic Engineer Mr. Gavin recommended a study to be conducted. **Voted to table and have a traffic study completed.**

I: Harris Street – Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Concerns

Councillor Waddick was present and is requesting Traffic Engineering observe the conditions on the street regarding increased speeding and volumes of vehicles. The Councillor stated the character of the street has changed and a review is needed. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a study.**

J: Linden Street from Waverley Oaks Rd. to Beaver St. Traffic Issues

Councillors Robert Waddick and R.LeBlanc are requesting Traffic Engineering review the speeding, truck traffic and heavy volumes of vehicles. Councillor Waddick was present and suggested white edge lines and enforcement of the existing Truck Exclusion. Traffic engineering stated a review was warranted and recommended a study. **Voted to table and have a study conducted.**

K. 65 Main Street – Revised Special Permit

Giles Ham, Traffic Engineer with Vanasse & Assoc., presented this revised traffic impact report. The modification refers to the plan at the Shell Gas Station 65 Main Street. The developer is proposing to close the existing curb cut on Barbara Road. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended to accept the revised site plan. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

L. 28 Williams Street – Disabled Parking Space

Mr. Jose Ortiz, 28 Williams St. is requesting a Disabled Parking space in front of his residence. All the needed forms have been completed and the Disability Services Commission has recommended approval. **Voted to approve one HP space as follows: William Street, south side, opposite #28**

M. 83 Columbus Avenue – Disabled Parking Space

Ms. Marianne Squires, 83 Columbus Ave., Apt. 3 is requesting a Disabled Parking space in front of her residence. All the needed forms have been completed and the Disability Services Commission has recommended approval. **Voted to approve one HP space as follows: Columbus Avenue, north side, in front of #83.**

N. Saint Jude School Barnyard Bingo

Mr. Joel Teeven is requesting road closures for this annual event to be held on Saturday, October 14th. **Voted to close Waverley Oaks Road, between Beaver Street and Linden Street, Saturday October 14, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

O. Employee Parking Placard

Inspector of Buildings, William Forte is requesting an Employee Parking Placard for his employee John Jennings. **Voted to approve an Employee placard for Building Inspector Mr. John Jennings**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Voted to remove items C, Forest St; item I Caughey St.; and item J Cedarwood Ave; from the Table

- 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)

A neighborhood meeting was held on July 20 to discuss traffic calming measures to reduce the speeding along Forest St. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported the street is approximately 40 feet wide and rarely has parking on either side which encourages high speeds. Reducing the width of the roadway will have a traffic calming effect that will lower the speed. A seven foot wide parking lane on the west side of the street was painted and it has reduced the southbound travel lane to about 13 feet. The northbound lane remains 20 feet wide. A 5 foot wide painted line can be installed on the east side that will reduce the northbound lane to 15 feet in width. The installation of an RRFB should be delayed until a speed study has been completed to determine the effect of the lane reductions. Councillor Romard sent an email disagreeing and stated that the RRFB at Harrington Road should be installed immediately. Member Mr. Kelly (Wires Inspector) favored the RRFB installation to be "overhead" on a mast arm, but this requires the crosswalk to be relocated and a tree be removed on the west side for installation of the mast arm base. Member Ms. Cagle (Planning Director) favored the RRFB and recommended the item be tabled for more information.

Amend the vote and proceed with painting a 5 foot wide lane and remove parking on the east side of Forest St. from #121 Forest Street north to Doty Street. Table the installation of the RRFB until results of the speed study will be available.

- D. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)
- E. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16)
- F. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)
- G. Trapelo Road at Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)
- H. Main Street at Newton Street – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)

I. Caughey St. – Parking Study (5/17)

Observations indicated that teachers from the Plympton School were parking on Caughey Street. After a meeting with Principal Stephen Duffy an agreement was made with Harvey Industries to allow teacher parking in their lot. **Voted to place this item on File.**

J. Cedarwood Area – Various STOP and YIELD signs (6/17)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reviewed the requests and agreed that it is not clear which vehicle has the right of way. Mayor McCarthy was present and agreed with TE findings. He recommended the installation of Stop and Yield signs.

Voted to approve and install four new signs:

Schedule 11 (Stop Signs)

Add: On Thornton Rd. (2) at Hamilton Rd. facing eastbound and westbound traffic
On Florence Rd. (1) at Hamilton Rd. facing eastbound traffic

Schedule 12 (Yield Signs)

Add: On Harland Rd. at Hamilton Rd. facing eastbound traffic

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report

Receipts are down approximately \$13K from the same time last year. The PayByPhone feature is now up working very well.

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

There are numerous amounts of missing signs that need to be evaluated. T.E. Garvin presented a list of 150 signs yet to be installed.

C. Piety Corner – Update

The project design bid opening is September 28th.

D. Massasoit St. at Main St. – Existing Restriction

In 1985 a regulation was created that stated No Left Turn at Main Street. Waltham Lumber must use this entrance/exit onto Main Street. A review is needed to see what improvements are needed to be made. **Voted to Table.**

E. Lincoln Street at Lexington Street – Yield sign and markings for southbound right turn channel. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommends a Yield sign be installed for Lexington Street southbound traffic turning onto Lincoln Street. **Voted to approve this recommendation;**

Add Schedule #12 Yield Signs

Lincoln Street (turn channel) at Lexington Street (southbound)

F. Resident Sticker Parking for Calvary St. Area - Update

Voted to have the administration of the parking permit program transferred to Traffic Engineering. Flyers and notifications will be available shortly for distribution.

G River / Farwell / Seyon Update Opening bid September 27, 2017

H Transportation Master Plan: Traffic Engineering has submitted an index of Major and Minor items for review, with the intention for Traffic Commission to discuss in October.

Meeting Adjourned @ 12:06 PM

Attendance: All members except Chief MacPherson. Mayor Jeannette McCarthy; Councillors Robert Waddick, Robert Logan, Joseph Giordano and George Darcy. Residents and interested parties.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo

Clerk

Date of the Meeting: September 21, 2017

Please Print

| Name of Speaker | Address # Street, City | Item of Interest | Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Jeannette A. McCarthy | 610 Main St. Waltham, MA | C,D,E,G Tabled C,I, & J | Mayor, City of Waltham |
| Edie Constantine | 1263 Trapelo Rd | Pine Vale @ Trapelo Rd | City of Waltham |
| William Constantine | 1260 Trapelo Rd | Pine Vale @ Trapelo Rd | Resident |
| Sandra Anagnosstakis | 1239 Trapelo Rd | Pine Vale @ Trapelo Rd | Resident |
| Leonard Savoie | 236 Seminole Ave | Pine Vale @ Trapelo Rd | Resident |
| Robert Waddick | 129 Church St | I & J Harris & Linden St | City Councillor |
| Robert G. Logan | 109 Taylor St | Pine St | City Councillor |
| Joe Giordano | 74 Moore St | Bedford St | City Councillor |
| Kimberly Becker | 12 Fiske Ave | Fisk & Weston St | Resident |

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