

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

The Chair will accept a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s). The minutes of the May 2023 meeting were amended with the following addition to Item 3C (Department Reports) **“Added: Item 3C - Member Mr. Magno made a motion to request funding in the amount of \$615,000. to upgrade and repair outdated signals listed in this report. Voted to approve this request and have the Traffic Engineer seek funding”. A vote was then taken to approve the May minutes.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Ash Street Municipal Parking (625 Moody Street) Lot (Mayor McCarthy) 1

Mayor McCarthy has requested a layout sketch for parking spaces at the new municipal parking lot at Moody Street/Ash Street. The design allows vehicles to enter from Ash Street and use the lot as a cut-through to Moody Street. It is designed to have Thirty Nine (39) spaces, including 2 would be for Handicapped. The name would be “Ash Street Lot”. A main concern of Mayor McCarthy was that Ash Street might see an increase in traffic if it is the only exit. At the request of the Mayor, it was voted to have the Traffic Engineer consider another design, rotating the alignment of the interior spaces. **Voted to table.**

B. 375-379 Totten Pond Road Traffic Impact Study 4

Vanasse & Associates has submitted a Transportation Impact Assessment for a proposed office/laboratory building at 375-379 Totten Pond Road. Mr. Andrew Arsenault, Sr Transportation Engineer, Vanasse & Associates, appeared on behalf of Greystar for the proposed replacement of the existing building with an office/laboratory building at this location. The development is expected to increase AM peak hour trips by 97 vehicles and the PM peak hour with 94 vehicles. It will have more than the required parking spaces of 329 to 442 spaces. An additional driveway with direct access from Totten Pond Road is proposed. The Traffic Commission requests the developer incorporate some of the safety improvements previously approved; such as construction of a raised median along this section of Totten Pond Road which would prohibit left turns into or out of the 375-379 Totten Pond Road driveway. **Voted to accept the Transportation Impact Assessment for 375-379 Totten Pond Road, and that the Traffic Engineer forward a letter to City Council expressing the traffic concerns that Traffic Commission has.**

C. 103 Fourth Avenue Expansion, Traffic Impact Memorandum 13

VHB has submitted a memorandum describing traffic impacts due to an expansion of the previously accepted development at 103 Fourth Avenue. Mr. Rob Nagi, VHB, appeared on behalf of proponent BP 103 Fourth Avenue LLC. The proposal is a minor expansion of a previous approved Traffic Assessment of the site. The expansion will have an increase of 22 AM peak hour trips and a PM peak hour of 21 additional trips. These minor increases will have negligible impact to traffic operations. **Voted to accept the trip generation and distribution memo, prepared by VHB, for the minor expansion of the development at 103 Fourth Avenue.**

D. 2023 Independence Day Fireworks, Traffic Plan 22

Waltham Police Department is seeking approval of the traffic management plan for the proposed Independence Day Fireworks, scheduled for Saturday July 1. **Voted the following**

- 1: Moody Street closed Pine St to Carter St from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
- 2: No Parking on Moody Street, Saturday July 1 between Pine St and Carter Street From Saturday morning until 9:00 PM**

- 3: **During fireworks, portion of Riverwalk close to the barge will be closed**
- 4: **Barricades along the sidewalk on Prospect Street**

E. Waltham Tourism Art Project on Moody Street Parking Spaces 44

Waltham Tourism is proposing an art project, which will paint some of the parking spaces along Moody Street. Approval is requested. Ms. Elana Winkler of the Chamber of Commerce specifically request to paint some of the on-street parking spaces along Moody Street. The art work allows people to visit each piece of art and solve the puzzles at each one and then assemble the answers to solve the overall puzzle. The paint used would be short term and only last until end of summer. **Voted to approve the request for the Waltham Painted Parking Spaces, and direct Traffic Engineering to paint over any visible paint remaining with black paint at the end of the season.**

F. No Parking Request on Charles Street (Waltham Water Dept) 49

The Water Department is requesting no parking on Charles Street, near 212 Charles Street. **Voted to approve this request and increase the distance of No Parking from 30 feet to 55feet.**

Add to Schedule 1

Charles Street, south side, from Prospect St to 55' east of Prospect Street

F. Hustle For the Muscle Run/Walk 5K, Sunday October 1 55

Approval is requested for a road race on Sunday October 1. The race will start at the Mighty Squirrel 307 Waverley Oaks Road at 10:30 AM. No streets will be closed; approximately 300 participants; a portion of the route will be coned off; residents in the neighborhood will be notified. **Voted to approve the request.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)

A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (9/19) – Councillor Durkee 67

The City Engineering Department forwarded a design plan to reconstruct Elson Road. With sidewalks on both sides of the street the travel lane will be limited to 18 feet. Parking would have to be eliminated on one side of the street. The Commission preferred to continue allowing parking on the south side of Elson Road. Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Durkee opposed removing any parking on the north side of the street. Making the street one-way was discussed and dismissed. **Voted to reaffirm that the existing regulations allow parking along the south side of Elson Road.**

B. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councillor Harris 73

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended this item to be Placed on File because there does not seem to be consensus for any action. Councilor Harris requested consideration for Waltham Housing Authority sticker parking for four (4) spaces at the new Ash Street Lot. Councillor Harris indicated she would return at the September meeting with a plan to be voted on. **Voted to table.**

C. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20) (9/20) (5/23)

D. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB (5/21) 74

The request for this RRFB was tabled in 2021 until construction at 275-303 Wyman Street was completed. A study in May 2023, showed the minimum vehicular volume in the peak hours warranted approval. The developer has offered to pay for and install the RRFB. **Voted to approve**

the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the existing crosswalk at 225-235-275 Wyman Steet, to be paid for and installed by the property owner, and that this item be submitted to City Council as a gift to the City.

E. **Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councillor Harris (11/21) (11/22) (12/22)**

F. Trapelo Rd at Clocktower Rd – Proposed Traffic Signal – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) 77

Traffic Engineering completed the warrant analysis for a new traffic signal in the area of Clocktower Drive and Woburn Street. Clocktower Drive from 7am to 11am averaged 43 vehicle per hour and Woburn Street averaged 130 vehicle per hour. In the afternoon from 2pm to 6pm Clocktower Drive average 30 vehicles per hour and Woburn Street averaged 150 vehicles per hour. The minimum requirements for Clocktower Drive were not met, however Woburn Street have been. Traffic Engineering recommended a traffic signal at Woburn and Trapelo Road. If installed, there would be a "gap" time that would allow vehicles to exist Clocktower Drive onto Trapelo Road. Although it is warranted, it is not mandatory for a signal at Woburn Street. **Voted to deny the request for a traffic signal at Clocktower Drive. No vote was taken for signalization at Woburn Street.**

G. *Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) (9/22)

H. Willow St – Speed Limit Signage, Sidewalks, and Parking – Councillor LaCava (12/21)

I. Lowell St – Proposed Traffic Study for Pedestrian and Public Safety – Councillor Harris (12/21) (9/22) (11/22)

J. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22) (11/22)

K. *Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22) (9/22)

L. *Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22) (9/22)

M. *Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)

N. Lexington Street Bike Path (Councillor Darcy) (9/22) 83

The Traffic Commission does not have the jurisdiction to create an off-road bike trail. The Traffic Engineer will be available for any meeting that may be called requesting a "Bike Trail". During the discussion, concern was raised about pedestrian crossings in the area of the Paine Estate and at Oakley/ Beaver Street. **This was addressed and the Commission voted to have the Traffic Engineer study and recommend if a crosswalk(s) should be installed in this area(s), crossing Beaver Street.**

O. Charles Street Traffic Calming – Grant Street and Harvard Street (Councillors LaCava and Paz) (9/22) (11/22) (12/22) Voted to Place on File 84

P. Everett Street Signage and Speed Study – Councillor Katz (11/22) 85

A speed study showed the 85% percentile speed to be 26mph. Installation of additional signage may help to prevent one-way violations. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer install a second "DO NOT ENTER" sign of the right side of Everett Street looking from Main Street**

Q. 240/265 Beaver St. Traffic Safety Analysis – Councillor Bradley-MacArthur (11/22) 87
Voted to have the Traffic Engineer study for a crosswalk and placement of a permanent Speed Sign, with the 90-day trial period.

R. Bright Street Improvements – Councillor LaCava (12/22) 88

Councilor LaCava requested this item be tabled so that he could have a discussion on neighborhood issues, and return at the September meeting. **Voted to table**

- S. Brandeis Crosswalk on South Street, Improved Visibility – Councillor Katz (12/22) (1/23)
- T. MBTA Better Bus Project Update (1/23)

U. Adams Street Speed and Safety Study (2/23) 89

Traffic Engineering’s report showed the 85% percentile speed on Adams St measured 29mph near Chestnut Street and 26mph near Robbins Street, which is reasonable for this location. Refreshing the pavement markings will enhance the visibility and safety along the street. Also, the Police Department is requested to continue speed enforcement on this street. **Voted to have the pavement markings refreshed and take no further action at this time.**

V. Parmenter Road Comprehensive Traffic Study – Councillor Harris (4/23) 90

Traffic Engineering’s report showed the 85% percentile speed on Parmenter Road to be 24.2mph. Other improvements were made however, some problems still exist. The School Zone speed limit sign on High Street was inoperable, illegal parking continues (no parking zones and/or wrong direction parking), Alder Street is narrow (25 feet wide) vehicles park on both sides of the street; on Hovey Road the live drop-off lane (15 vehicles) has so many vehicles that the cars spilled onto High Street between 2:55pm and 3:05pm; 11 spaces in the parking are assigned for Visitor Parking, however, teachers use the spaces. The Traffic Engineer recommended the following:

- 1: **paint the word “SCHOOL” on the pavement of Parmenter Road**
- 2: **paint a new Double Yellow Center Line (DYCL) on Ash Street between Parmenter Road and Hovey Road**
- 3: **refresh the existing pavement markings around the triangle at the intersection of Ash/Hovey/ Arlington/Hamblin**
- 4: **paint ‘DO NOT BLOCK” in front of driveway at #7 Hovey Road**
- 5: **request Wires Dept fix flashing School Zone sign on Parmenter Road**
- 6: **request Police Dept enforce the No Parking at 3:00 PM around the area**
- 7: **request school to have a person stationed at the gate southeast corner during drop-off and pick-up time**
- 8: **request school enforce the reserve parking spaces; assign other spaces for teachers, have a person standby during drop-off and pick-up time to prevent vehicles from entering when the spaces area full; require staff not leave the parking lot until 3:10pm to allow parents and pedestrians to be clear in the area**

Voted to accept this recommendation and notify the Departments involved.

D

- W. Barbara/Chaffee All Way Stop – Councillor McLaughlin (4/23)
- X. Longfellow/Fairfax and Whitman/Fairfax Study – Councillor McLaughlin (4/23)

Y. Warren St Crosswalk at Waverley St/Wayne St – Councillor McLaughlin (4/23) 100

The crosswalk markings were refreshed by our Thermoplastic contractor all along Warren Street. The crosswalk is now highly visible and appropriate yellow pedestrian warning signs are in place. **No further action is needed at this time.**

Z. Bike Rack Installation in Municipal Parking Lots (4/23) 102

The City Council Community and Economic Development Committee passed a resolution that advocated for additional bicycle parking in municipal parking lots off of Main Street and Moody Street. The Planning Department recommended 1-Loop Wave Style Rack from Uline for the bike racks to be installed. The cost will be \$220. Each. It is recommended the following be installed:

- 1: Library Lot . . . none needed at this time
- 2: Central Sq. ... Parking Deck – two (one at Common St, one at Lexington St)
- 3: Church St..... one
- 4: Carter St..... none needed at this time
- 5: Railroad Lot None needed at this time
- 6: Embassy Parking None needed at this time
- 7: Crescent St two
- 8: Spruce St One
- 9: Walnut St one
- 10: Chestnut St Two

Voted to seek funding, in the amount of \$1,980. To purchase nine bike racks from Uline (model H-2892GALV) for installation by Consolidated Public Works

AA. Crosswalk at Lake St/Indian Rd – Councillor Dunn (5/23) 114

The closest crosswalk is to the west at Princeton Ave(1,200 feet away) and to the east Lexington Street (1,100 feet away). These spacing makes sense to add a crosswalk. There is adequate sight distance and overhead street lighting. ADA compliant ramps exist at each of the corners. **Voted to approve a new crosswalk crossing Lake Street at Indian Road on the west side of the intersection.**

AB. Speed Bump at Hamilton Road/Intervale Road – Councillor Katz (5/23)

AC. Proposed Research and Development Building, 460 Totten Pond Road (5/23)

AD. Elm Street Northbound Approach to Railroad Crossing (5/23) 116

Engineering has provided a survey of Elm Street north approach for the B&M Rail crossing. The plan reduces the sidewalk to 4.5 feet and is moved closer (1.5 feet) to the Railway Right of Way. Two travel northbound lanes are provided. The proposal is conditional and must have approval from the Federal Railroad Administration. **Voted to request the Traffic Engineer to forward the plan to Keolis/MBTA. Upon approval by Keolis/MBTA, approve the concept of widening the northbound approach of Elm Street to the railroad tracks.**

AE. Felton Street/Harvard Street Removal of Stop Sign (5/23)

* Mayor McCarthy will request a separate Special Meeting of Traffic Commission for the items indicated with an asterisk.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report receipts up about \$23K 117
- B. Traffic Commission Status Report 118
Crescent St parking lane painted; removed Lex St parking;
- C. Traffic Signal Inventory: Main Street/Gore Street/Barbara Road/Warren Street 121**
Traffic Engineering reported a number of deficiencies affecting the performance of these signals. Mr. Kelly is requesting funding for short term improvements, but the intersection is in need of a full re-design. The Traffic growth is 3.79%; the LOS is Level C and the equipment is almost 50 years old and needs to be replaced. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer seek funding for full redesign study of the intersection.**
- D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Newton Street/River Street 125
Signal is significantly out of date; loop detection is inoperative; signal plan needs to be updated and replace signal head on the (southwest corner)
- E: **Pavement Marking Budget** all funding for FY23 has been spent. FY2024 (\$150,000.) for Thermoplastic.
- F: **Voted to have a Sub-Committee for the coordination of Totten Pond Road Traffic Plans; Members Mr. Magno, Chief Mullin and Mr. Vizard**

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

4A: Winthrop Street at Boynton - -Request for 4-way Stop

A petition was submitted by Victoria & Denis Rezendes, co-signed by fourteen (14) other residents asking for a 4-way Stop at this intersection. Repeated studies have shown that the intersection does not meet the required warrants for a four (4) way stop. To install this stop is a violation of the MUTCD rules. Councilor Katz asked if a 4-way could be placed, while another study is performed. **This request was denied.**

This intersection is part of a larger concern with traffic in the entire area. Vehicles use the area as a "cut-through" from Weston Street to South Street. This is a "neighborhood" concern and needs to be discussed at a neighborhood meeting (West End Traffic Issues). The Traffic Engineer has been instructed to attend a meeting, requested by the area councilors, to see what can be done. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to request funding for a traffic consultant to conduct the West End Traffic Study, to recommend any improvements to traffic flow through this neighborhood.**

Attendance: All members

Adjourned @ 1:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Date of the Meeting: June 15, 2023

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Elna Winkler	57 Potter Rd	Painted Parking Spaces	Petitioner
Marv Alpert	26 Bartlett Way #2	Clocktower drive	Petitioner
Paul Katz	89 Cedarwood Ave	Winthrop St	Ward 7 Councilor
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Road	Ward 8 Items	Ward 8 Councilor
George Darcy	23 Hobbs Rd	Lexington St Bike Path Clocktower Drive Speed Limits	Ward 3 Councilor
Sean Durkee	185 Hammond St	Elson Road Beaver Street	City Council
John McLaughlin	42 Beal Road	Warren/Wayne Main & Gore	City Council
Andrew Arsenault	35 Business Center Andover	375-379 Totten Pond Rd	Engineer - Proponent
Robert Nagi	101 Walnut St Watertown	103 Fourth Ave	Consultant to Petitioner