

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: OCTOBER 18, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

A motion was made and the minutes of the September meeting were accepted.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. 128 Corridor Traffic Plan

Rob Nagi with VHB presented this plan as requested by Mayor McCarthy. Mr. Nagi presented a conceptual plan for traffic improvements along the Route 128 corridor which included the Route 20 and Third Avenue interchanges. The plans are expected to be before the Commission at the 25% design stage. Some of the highlights on this plan are as follows:

- 1: Main Street (Route 117) bridge over Rt.128 to be replaced with a new seven (7) lane wide bridge
- 2: Green Street to be realigned directly opposite Bear Hill Road and extend to Route 20 rotary
- 3: Route 20 rotary to have three (3) new traffic signals
- 4: Northbound ramp off Rt.128 onto Rt.20 widened to three (3) lanes
- 5: A new northbound on-ramp from Main Street (Rt.117)
- 6: Stow Street will no longer connect directly to Main Street
- 7: A new structure for the Wayside Rail Trail, or it may be carried on near Rt. 117 bridge.
- 8: A new road to connect Green Street and Jones Road
- 9: Reconstruct the off and on ramps between Rt.128 northbound and Third Avenue/Prospect Hill Lane
- 10: A new traffic signal at the intersection of Third Ave/Prospect Hill Lane/Route 128 interchange
- 11: The existing access to Rt.128 from Winter Street will be retained
- 12: Third Avenue will be widened
- 13: The traffic signal at Totten Pond Rd/Third Avenue will be reconstructed
- 14: Prospect Hill Lane will be widened.

Once these changes are in place, traffic may then be removed from the Stow Street residential neighborhood and traffic volumes through Totten Pond Rd/Third Avenue intersection will be significantly reduced. In addition, the connector road between Fifth Avenue and Border Road may be opened full time.

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin suggested the following items be addressed during the design stages and what measures can be taken to alleviate these anticipated problems:

- 1: Creating a cul-de-sac at the end of Stow Street may increase cut through traffic through the bank parking lot, Cutting Lane and Sheridan Road?
- 2: What geometric or signal changes are proposed for Stow Street at Main Street and Weston Street?
- 3: There should be a grade separation for the bike path, over Main Street and over Rt.128 for the rail trail.
- 4: A full traffic study/analysis for Banks Square
- 5: Consideration is needed for a new connection from Prospect Hill Lane/Fifth Avenue to Totten Pond Road.

6: It is recommended that Phase 2 of the 1265 Main Street project not be allowed to open until the reconstruction of Piety Corner (currently under design) is complete, so it can better handle the expected increase in traffic volumes.

Voted to approve the concepts presented and have the questions of the Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin addressed and presented at the 25% design stage.

B. Small Business Saturday – Free Parking in Lots

Councillor Logan was present to discuss his request for Free Parking in the Public Parking Lots on Saturday, Nov. 24th. Upon review the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended this request be approved. **Voted to approve free parking with the exception of restricted parking areas, HP parking violations, Bus Stops and on street parking exceeding time limits will be enforced.**

C. Mallard Way – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor Darcy was present to discuss this item. A neighborhood petition was submitted that requests "...speed reducing raised tables.." be installed. **Voted to have Traffic Engineering conduct a speed study and report the findings to the Commission at a future meeting.**

D. Trapelo Rd. at Porter Rd. – Malfunctioning Pedestrian Traffic Signal

Councillor Darcy was present to discuss this item. The discussion concerned the need to fix the existing signal. Wires Inspector Tim Kelly said the cabinet needs replaced at a cost of \$50,000 – \$60,000. A warrant analysis should be conducted to determine if a fully actuated traffic signal or an RRFB would work better at this location. Future development of the Fernald site may determine what would work best. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer, study the request for a recommendation at a future meeting.**

E. 1077 and 1093 Lexington St. – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalks

Councillor Darcy was present to discuss the addition of crosswalks at or near these locations. **Voted to table this item and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a study (pedestrian study) to determine if an RRFB and a crosswalk is warranted in this area.**

F. Lexington St. between Totten Pond Rd. and Beaver St. – No Engine Braking

Councillor Romard is requesting this item be discussed. This area of Lexington Street is straight and has no hills. It does not meet any criteria for this type of sign. **Voted to deny.**

G. Central Street – Speeding Issues

Councillor LaCava was present to discuss this item. Councillor LaCava and several residents spoke of speeding issues, one-way violations, crosswalk violations, and the fact that this is a major cut through for traffic. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a speed study and make recommendations at a future meeting**

H. River St. at Jackson St. – Proposed RRFB

Councillor LaCava was present to request a study for a RRFB is at this location. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a pedestrian study in the on and off season and make recommendations at a future meeting. The study should include possibility of moving the RRFB to Amory Street.**

I. 89 Pond Street – Proposed Disabled Parking Space

Bob McDonald is requesting a Disabled Parking Space across from his house. **Voted to approve this request and add the following to Schedule 6**

Pond Street, south side, opposite #9

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Items E-I-J-K & N were voted be removed 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. **Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16) Councillor** Logan requested this item be taken off the table. Councillor Harris sent Councillor Logan a text in support of this issue. Voted to have Traffic Engineer conduct a study of the amount of violators. Member Tim Kelly recommended that we also check Newton and Watertown for what they may have for regulations.

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

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

E. **48 Pine St. – Crosswalk Safety Improvements (9/17)(10/17)**

Councillor Logan was present to discuss his request to have colored painted crosswalks at this location. The color Red does not meet MUTCD standards for markings. However, the Traffic Engineer recommended yield lines (aka "shark teeth") be painted in advance of the crosswalk in each direction. **Voted to approve the installation of yield pavement markings ('shark teeth') in advance of the crosswalk at 48 Pine Street.**

F. Cabot St. Area – Traffic Calming Measures (10/17)(12/17)

G. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)

H. Moody St. at Alder St. – Proposed RRFB (4/18)

I. **South St. at Turner St. – Proposed RRFB (5/18)**

J. **South St. btn. Charles River Rd. and Weston Town Line – Proposed Safety Island (5/18)**

Councillor Mackin was present to discuss both items together. South Street varies in width but in general it is one lane in each direction in this area. Northbound and southbound speed near the Weston Line was found to be 44mph & 42 mph. The speed in the area of Gosman Sports Complex and the Stanley School was found to be 38mph northbound and 37mph southbound. Truck percentage was 6% to 7%. The speed data shows a relatively high rate on this street. An alternative traffic calming measure would be to paint a shoulder on each side of the street. Vehicle speeds tend to be reduced when travel lanes are narrowed (11 feet wide). Shoulders, as opposed to a median, will allow vehicles to turn left into and out of driveways. The pedestrian crosswalk at Turner Street is potentially hazardous with many distractions for a driver and a RRFB is recommended. (Mr. Kelly reported a hard wire is required at this location and a solar device will not work due to the lack of clear sun light). **Voted to approve painting a shoulder from the Weston Town Line north to Highland Street (in the Spring 2019) and seek funding to install an RRFB at Turner & South Street.**

K. **Bright St. – Proposed 25 MPH Speed Limit (5/18)**

Councillor LaCava was present to discuss this item. The speed study conducted on Bright Street between River & Grove showed the weekday average volume to be 1,403 (501 northbound and 902 southbound; and the 85% speed to be 30 mph in both directions.

Between Grove and Main Street the volume was 1,112 vpd (559 northbound and 553 southbound) with the 85% speed to be 30 northbound and 29 southbound.

The data does not indicate a particular speeding problem on Bright Street.

Voted to deny the request and not make any changes at this time.

- L. Waverley Oaks Rd. at Wilson Rd. – Proposed RRFB (6/18)(9/18)
- M. Main St. from Church/Elm St. to Newton St. – Parking spaces (9/18)

N. Curtis St. – Parking Issue (9/18)

Councillor Logan was present to discuss this item. Upon review a non-approved sign was found to have been installed. This sign will be removed and replaced with an approved sign. The Traffic Engineer agreed that parking should be restricted in this area. **Voted to place a No parking Here To Corner 86 feet east of Bedford Street on the east side of Curtis.**

Add to schedule #1 the following:

Curtis Street east side, from Bedford Street to a point 86 feet south, No Parking

- O. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report: parking meter receipts are up approximately \$34,000.
- B. Piety Corner – Update the design for the intersection will commence once the State Historical is submitted and approved. A funding request for a hazardous study was submitted to the Mayor and we are awaiting approval.
- C. High/Hamblin/Joyce – Request \$8,500 for survey - Councillor Logan is in support of this along with Councillor Harris.
- D. Church and Parking Way Finding Signs on Main St. and Moody St. – **Approved to remove Immanuel United Methodist Church sign. Approved to replace Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Mary Parish and Saint Charles Church signs on Main St. and Moody St. Also voted to install three Parking Lot signs on Moody Street. Voted all in favor with Tim Kelly opposed.**
- E. On-Street Parking – Main St. @ Grant St. Voted to add two parking spaces on Main Street, south side just west of Grant Street. **Voted to approve.**
- F. Church Street Lot - Update – new machines are expected to be installed in November 2018
- G. Embassy Lot Pay Stations – A request for funding was submitted to the Mayor. We are awaiting approval.

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

4: Late Filed Items

A: Banks Square Lane paintings. Voted to have additional street markings painted on Main Street for westbound traffic at Banks Square in the spring 2019

B: Purchase of new plotter Sign Department Voted to approve the request to replace the existing “Plotter” in the amount of \$6,995.

Adjourned @ 1:35pm

Attendance: All members. Mayor McCarthy; Councillors Robert Logan, Joey Lacava, Kristine Mackin, Kathy McMenimen, & George Darcy and Mr. Robert Nagi.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: October 18, 2018

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Robert Nagi	VHB 101 Walnut St Watertown, MA	Rt.128 Plan	Traffic Engineer
Jeannette McCarthy	610 Main St	1A – 2E – 2I – 2J – 2K	Mayor of Waltham
Joey LaCava	11 Kenmore Ter.	2K – 1G – 1H	Councillor Ward 5
Stephen Remillard	14 Amory Rd.	1G – 1H	Resident
Shirley Sanchez	40 central St	1G _ 1H	Resident
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St	Multiple 2B-1B-2E-2N- 3C	Councillor
Kathy McMenimen	147 Trapelo Rd	Mallard Way & Porter Road	Councillor
Megan Conneely	12 Briarwood	Mallard Way	Resident
Chad Wheaton	27 Colburn St	Stow St Bike path	Resident
Kristine Mackin	12 Wheelock Ter.	Rt.128 Plan	Councillor
Paulette Jenner	86 Stow St	Rt.128 Plan	Resident

Waltham Traffic Commission

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Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
John Allen	7 University Park	Rt.128 Plan	Resident
Leo Keightley	731 South St	Rt.128 Plan	Resident
Paul Umbrello	102 Stow St	Rt.128 Plan	Resident
Jeremy Liveston	92 Stow St	Rt.128 Plan	Resident
Kief Evans	34 Mosher Ave Cambridge, MA	Rt.128 Plan	Boston Properties
Maureen Solano	14 Cross St	Cross & Central Sts	Resident
Linda Knapp Sinkow	28 Cross St	Cross & Central Sts	Resident
Martha Creedon	731 South St	2I & 2J	