

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JANUARY 17, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

Motion to appoint Lisa Gerlach as Acting Clerk. Voted and approved.

The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Voted and approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Newton St. at Taylor/Oak Sts. – Study Intersection for Safety Improvements

Councillor Logan was present to discuss his request for a study of this intersection due to the large number of accidents over the last 5 years. The Councillor request we explore a possible solution including, but not limited to full signalization or installation of flashers. This intersection was signalized in the past, but the signal was relocated to the Newton/Pine Sts. Intersection due to higher traffic volumes. **Voted to approve this request and direct the T.E. to conduct a study and report back with his findings.**

B. Calvary St. at Cedar St. – Study Intersection for Safety Improvements

Councillor Logan was present to discuss his request for a study of this intersection for a possible All-Way Stop, Flashers, etc. Mr Omer LeBlanc, # 83 Calvary St. mentioned vehicles parking on Calvary St. making it difficult for motorist to turn from Cedar St. This includes trash truck and school buses. He suggested a possible speed hump on Calvary St. and maybe No Parking in that section of Calvary St. Ms. Marlyn Savage, # 93 Calvary St. was present mentioned that the STOP sign is too far back from the corner and maybe the corner needs rebuilt. Mayor McCarthy was present of mentioned we should look into the layout of Cedar St. at Calvary St. **Voted to approve this request and direct the T.E. to conduct a study and report back with his findings.**

C. Farwell St. Bridge – River Walk Connection – Proposed Bicycle Lane

Councillors Logan and LaCava are requesting a study to determine if a bicycle lane should be installed. Councillor Logan was present to discuss this item and mentioned how the sidewalk is too narrow to accommodate both bicycle and pedestrian traffic. He suggested that a study be completed to determine if a bicycle lane or lanes across the Farwell St. bridge is feasible to provide a safe connection. The Councillor stated that a ramp will need to be installed on the south side. Mr. John Allen of Waltham agreed with Councillor Logan request. Mayor McCarthy was present a mentioned that the sidewalk is not compliant with ADA width from the Stop & Shop driveway going up to the River St. intersection. **Voted to approve this request and direct the T.E. to conduct a study and report back with his findings.**

D. 140 Fourth Ave. – Proposed Research & Development Bldg.

Giles Ham with VAI presented the traffic study for this Special Permit. The proposed development is for a 228,775 square foot Research & Development Center. The proposed development will generate 96 vehicle trips in the AM peak hour (72 entering and 24 exiting) and 112 vehicles trips in the PM peak hour (17 entering and 95 exiting). This increase in additional vehicles as a result of the development will cause a degradation in operations at the signalized intersection of Totten Pond Rd./Winter St./Third Ave./Wyman St.. Almost all of the vehicles will travel through this intersection which operates under a failing condition today in the AM and PM peak hours. These additional vehicle trips will incrementally make conditions worse. The petitioner will have bicycle parking and electric charging stations on site. They will also be contributing \$400,000 to the Traffic Safety and Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. Mayor McCarthy was present and asked the petitioner about the amount of contribution for improvements at the Third Ave. intersection at Totten Pond Rd. and that the MEPA guidelines will require developers to contribute. At this time there is no cost estimate for the Third Ave./Winter St. improvements which are estimated to be completed in 2020. Mr. Doug Waybright, President of 128 Business Council asked if the developer will be required to join the 128 Business Council and support the shuttle services. Mr. Ham said they will be supporting both of those. T.E. Mike Garvin states that the traffic study is complete and accurate and should be accepted by the Traffic Commission. He also recommends that Traffic Commission direct him to prepare a memorandum detailing the reservations Traffic Commission

has regarding this amount of additional traffic on Third Ave. The memorandum should include a recommendation that the proposed Research & Development should only be permitted to be occupied once the new northbound Rt. 128 on-ramp opens at the intersection of Third Ave. and Prospect Hill Ln., with the new traffic signal. **Voted to accept the traffic study and direct our T.E. to send a memorandum to the City Council stating our concerns.**

E. Modification to Signal Design Policy for Bicycle Detection

Mr. John Allen, # 7 University Park was present to discuss his concerns. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Traffic Commission was not the venue and he should bring his concerns to Director of Wires Tim Kelly and CPW Director Mike Chiasson, along with T.E. Mike Garvin.
Information only.

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. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)(11/18) Voted to remove from table. Councillors Logan and Harris were present to discuss this item. There seems to be a number of business vehicles in the neighborhoods to people are bringing home rather than their personal vehicles. These vehicles in some cases are over the Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). Councillor Logan's original request was to reduce the limit from our current 10,000 pound limit to 8,500 pounds. The intent was to prohibit any vehicle larger than a Ford F-150 or Chevy 1500 from parking overnight on the street. T.E. Garvin conducted an overnight parking study on the South Side on Thursday, December 13 between the hours of 3:00 am and 5:00 am. The study results showed there were a total of 717 vehicles parked on the street in the study area overnight. Of those vehicles 41 (5.7%) had commercial plates and 6 (0.8%) were a class 2B (Ford F-250 or Chevy Silverado 2500) but without commercial plates. And there was one vehicle with a trailer attached. With the existing regulations, each of the 41 vehicles with commercial plates could be subject to penalty (a warning for the first offense, and a \$25 fine and a tow for the second and each subsequent offense). These vehicles do not take up any more space than a single vehicle would if a resident parked their own vehicle. T.E. Garvin does not recommend amending Art. 5, Sec. 18. Mayor McCarthy was also present and mentioned that she has heard complaints from Bolton St. about not enough parking for residents and their tenants. This is due to the zoning which does not allow enough parking. The Mayor request that we include reviewing the zoning as part of our review. Member Waddick stated that based on the T.E. study Police enforcement with ticketing and possible towing could change the behavior. Police Chief McPherson stated that they have several problems with the current regulations and that we may need an opinion from the Law Dept. in order to properly enforce. Enforcing Art. 7, Sec. 15 which is not allowing any commercial vehicles or trailer to park on any street for a period of longer than 2 hrs. is a large burden for the Police Dept. to monitor. Councillor Harris commented that we should find out if what we have is enforceable and have our Law Dept. come up with a tiering system. Maybe even have the Police Cadets program help enforce. Councillor Logan suggest that we can still enforce Art. 5, Sec. 18 which is the overnight parking restriction. Mayor McCarthy stated we need to define what is clearly allowed and not allowed. In Cambridge they have resident stickers. If we remove commercial vehicles from parking where will they be relocated. What part of the City can we recommend these vehicles be allowed. The Mayor suggest a sub-committee to review these ideas. The sub-committee to include Mayor, Law Dept., Building Dept., T.E., Councillors and review the zoning map. Mayor suggest that the Police issue flyers to the vehicles in violation.

Councillor Harris is in favor of the flyers and to discuss any changes before more development comes into the area. **Voted and approved to seek an opinion from the Law Dept. on Art. 7, Sec. 15. Voted and approved to have Traffic Engineer Garvin be part of the Sub-Committee.**

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

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

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

F. Waverley Oaks Rd. at Wilson Rd. – Proposed RRFB (6/18)(9/18)

- G. Main St. from Church/Elm St. to Newton St. – Parking spaces (9/18)(11/18)
- H. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)
- I. River St. at Jackson St. – Proposed RRFB (10/18)
- J. Lincoln St. at Curve St. – Proposed All-Way Stop (12/18)

K. Dale St. entire length – Proposal to Reduce Speed Limit to 20 MPH (12/18) Voted to remove from table. Councillor Romard was unable to attend, but submitted correspondence which was read into the minutes. The Councillor stated that the traffic study completed in June/July 2018 was during the summer months when speed is typically less and school is out and many on vacation. Dale St. is very long and he believes falls within the Plympton School Zone. Dale St. is very dense with many narrow driveways which makes it difficult to get out with speeding traffic. There is a lack of designated crosswalks outside of the signalized intersection. The Councillor does agree with T.E. Garvin in that reducing the speed limit will not solve all of these issues. New signs posted for 25 MPH could be installed to see if speeding is reduced. Ms. Koor, # 157 Dale St. was present and handed in additional signatures from Dale St. Ms. Koor states that vehicles are going 60 MPH and you cannot cross the street and she would like to see the speed limit reduced. She states that school buses are speeding as well whether full or empty. As part of this study Mayor McCarthy requested, we include all other traffic studies that we conducted, not only on Dale St., but also Prospect Hill Rd. and Prentice St. Traffic Commission did vote to allow a raised crosswalk crossing Prospect Hill Rd. where it will intersect with the Wayside Rail Trail. This will serve as a traffic calming measure on this one section of street with higher speeds. T.E. does not recommend any further traffic calming measures, since they are not necessary. T.E. Garvin reports that Dale St. is a borderline candidate for a reduced speed limit, due to the density of driveways on the north side of the street. If the Commission wishes, we can install 25 MPH speed limit signs even though the current 85% percentile is 28 MPH. Member Kelly suggested we install the 25 MPH signs for 30 days and restudy and determine if they reduced the speeding. Police Chief stated that they can do a study with a blank screen. Member Magno suggested that until we will actively enforce and ticket the 25 MPH he does not support. Voted on the request to install 25 MPH speed limit signs on Dale St. **Voted in favor: Waddick, Fire Chief, Kelly. Voted to oppose: Chiasson, Magno, Police Chief. Motion failed.** Mayor stated that Dale St. is a cut through and that a study of all traffic patterns be studied and not during the summer months. Discuss possible city wide 25 MPH. The Mayor will go to the School Dept. with Safety Officer Anne Frassica and work with the T.E. and also check into the amount of school children walking. Member Magno suggest we look at our Master Plan to determine which streets should have posted speed limits and that our cut through streets. **Voted and approved to re-table.**

L. Moody/Maple/High – Study Intersection for Exclusive Ped. Phase (12/18) Voted to remove from table. Councillors Harris and Logan were present for this item. There were two neighborhood meeting with residents requesting this signal have an exclusive ped. Phase. T.E. Garvin completed his evaluation of the signal and recommends approval of this request an introduce an Exclusive Pedestrian Phase to the signal with a new timing of 7 seconds Walk / 20 seconds Flashing Don't Walk / 1 second Don't Walk. The Wires Dept. should implement this phasing change and install detection (either loop detectors or cameras) to allow the signal to operate with actuation (green times will vary based on traffic volumes). Member Kelly stated that detection was in each approach but was never reinstalled after the streets were repaved. Mr. Kelly thinks that 20 seconds is too long and that a contractor will need to come in to reprogram the controller. **Voted and approve T.E. recommendations.**

- M. Woerd Ave./Crescent St. – Study for Pedestrian Safety Improvements (12/18)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – Update

- B. Piety Corner – Update - BSC Group preliminary design meeting with immediate abutters on Jan. 17th. Send plan to Eversource ASAP with utility poles relocations to get them moved. Mayor stated that a wall is no longer needed & sewer relocations. They Mayor will hold a larger meeting with neighborhood group. Will be working on demolition of the building once other items are in place.
- C. Beaver St./Warren St. – Request to advertise for design work – **Voted to approve T.E. meet with Purchasing Agent to advertise.**
- D. Main St./Warren St./Barbara Rd./Gore St. – Request to advertise for design work – **Voted to approve T.E. meet with Purchasing Agent to advertise.**
- E. Lexington St. Safety Study – Update – Mayor was present and discussed that MWRA wants to do a big sewer project on Lexington St. She mentioned to them the new High School planned for Stigmatines. Mayor mentioned High School meeting to discuss what is going to be done before new school comes and that the traffic study is completed and will meet with our Mr. Garvin. Mayor also discussed an off-road bicycle trail from Beaver St. to Trapelo Rd. using existing bike paths.
- F. River/Farwell/Seyon – Update – Contractor ran into problems prior to construction. Mayor noted many permits were issued but not clear who did the damage. She will approve our request for funding to fix the damage so the project can proceed, but in the future she would like the following: 1), Permit must be issued. 2). City crew must inspect afterwards (CPW, Wires, TE, Engineering). 3). Before and after pictures.
- G. Main St. and Moody St. Sign Authorization – The Mayor indicated that Wires Inspector Kelly will be working with T.E. to select light poles for installation of banners, which may affect sign locations.
- H. Central St. – Change No Parking Monday Only to Tuesday Only - **Voted to approve and make the following changed to Schedule 1:**
- Delete: Central St. S, 650' E. of Elm St. to 700' E. of Elm St. 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi. No Parking Monday Only.**
- Add: Central St. S, 650' E. of Elm St. to 700' E. of Elm St. 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi. No Parking Tuesday Only.**

Meeting adjourned @ 1:00 PM

Attendance: All members present except Catherine Cagle. Clerk Frank Lombardo was absent.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa Gerlach, Acting Clerk

Off Committee Speakers

Name of Speaker	Address, Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney, Abutter, Interested Party, Traffic Engineer, Petitioner
Giles Ham	VAI	140 Fourth Ave.	Traffic Engineer
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St., Waltham, MA 02453	1A, 1B, 1C, 2B, 2L	City Councillor Ward 9
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main St., Waltham	1C, 1D, 2K, 3B, 3E, 3F 3G	Mayor
Judith Koor	157 Dale St., Waltham	Dale St..	Resident
Omer LeBlanc	83 Calvary St., Waltham	Cedar & Calvary	Resident
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Rd., Waltham	Moody/Maple	Councillor
Marlyn Savage	93 Calvary St., Waltham	Ceder & Calvary	Resident
Doug Waybright	75 Third Ave., Waltham	140 Fourth Ave.	President 128 Business Council
John S. Allen	7 University Park, Waltham	Vehicle Detection	Waltham Bicycle Committee