

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: FEBRUARY 21, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 2019 meeting was approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Hazel St. – Review of Parking Restrictions

Mayor McCarthy is requesting review of the existing parking restrictions on both sides of Hazel St. Hazel Street is a one-way northbound street from Farnsworth Street to Dale Street and is approximately 18 feet wide. Presently there is No Parking on one side of the street and 2 hour parking is allowed from Farnsworth Street to Marion Street. The street is scheduled sometime in the future for reconstruction and the parking will need to be revised at that time. **Voted to deny and not amend the regulation at this time.**

B. Ellison Park – Restrict Parking

Councillor Nabulime is requesting on behalf of MaryAnn Pescatore and Nancy Stanton to restrict unlawful parking by school buses and cars belonging to people other than Ellison Park residents. Currently the only way to restrict parking of cars owned by people not living on that street is our Resident Parking Permit program. The Traffic Engineer recommended not to restrict parking at this time. The Police Dept. was to contact the bus company and request them to voluntarily refrain from parking on the street. In addition, it was explained that if the residents want Residential Parking Only then a neighborhood meeting should be scheduled and the Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin will attend to describe the program. Then, after the neighborhood meeting, Traffic Commission would vote on whether to implement Resident Parking. **Voted not to impose any parking restrictions at this time.**

C. Prentice St. at Plympton St. – Traffic Improvements

Councillor Nabulime is forwarding a request from Adam Maher and other residents regarding safety at this intersection. This item was discussed in conjunction with item 1J, City-wide Speed Regulation consideration of a 25 MPH speed limit within the City. **Voted to approve to have the Traffic Engineer review the area and determine what forms of action should be taken, if any.**

D. 185 Willow St. – Special Permit

Attorney Phil McCourt presented the revised layout for this development. In March 2017 the proposal for a Special Permit was discussed and the Commission recommended the traffic study be forwarded to the City Council for deliberations. The proponent is requesting consideration to redesign the entrance site access from Parkers Lane to Willow Street. The newly proposed entrance location will be a safer design. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact Memorandum and Revised Site Access Plan from WSP and forward this recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations.**

E. 790 Main St. – Watch City Petro redevelopment – Special Permit

Heather Monticup with GPI presented the traffic study for this development. The proposal is to remove the existing two-bay service area and expand the convenience store from 600 square feet to about 1,200 square feet. Traffic engineer Mr. Garvin concurred the slight increase in traffic volumes will be imperceptible. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact Assessment from GPI and forward this recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations.**

F. 1560 Trapelo Rd. – Special Permit

Giles Ham with VAI and Paul Finger presented the traffic study for this development. The proposed is to change the current permitted 65,000 sq. ft. of general office space to either office or

Research & Development. Research & Development generates less traffic per square foot than does general office space. Such a change will slightly improve traffic over the current permitted use. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact Assessment from VAI and forward this recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations. Member Catherine Cagle recused herself from this item.**

G. Home Depot Parking Supply Reduction

Kathleen Keen with VHB presented the traffic study and revised plan for this project. Home Depot is seeking to reduce the required number of parking spaces in their lot in order to provide outdoor storage and display space. VHB conducted a study during a peak demand weekend Saturday August 11 and Sunday August 12 (tax free weekend) and determined only 30% of the existing 785 spaces were in use. The request asks for a reduction of 169 spaces. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated it is reasonable for the City to allow a reduction in the required number of parking spaces in this instance. **Voted to accept the parking occupancy study from VHB and recommend the parking reduction be approved by the Building Department.**

H. 140 Fourth Ave. – Special Permit Revision to Mitigation amount

Giles Ham with VAI has submitted a letter correcting the amount the developer will be contributing to the Traffic Safety and Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. At the January meeting they indicated they would contribute approximately \$400,000 based on \$3.00 per square foot for office space. This number was based on a miscalculation of the formula and they should have been using the \$1.00 per square foot for Research and Development/Lab space. The corrected amount is \$137,253. **Voted to accept the letter from VAI that corrects the amount that will be contributed to the Traffic Safety & Infrastructure Fund**

I. 103 Fourth Ave. – Special Permit

Rob Nagi with VHB presented this request to use this site as a construction laydown facility in order to construct the 180 Third Ave. site. This use will only be during construction of a building that has already received a Special Permit. This will relocate storage of large construction vehicles and equipment that will be less disruptive than at 180 Third Ave. Mr. Nagi said it will take 18-24 months to construct the building. **Voted to accept the study from VHB documenting the traffic impacts of using 103 Third Avenue for construction storage during the construction of the new building at 180 Third Avenue.**

J. Citywide Reduced Speed Limit

Member Tom Mango request a traffic study be done to review if this should be approved. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended that a Speed Study should be conducted on at least six(6) (Bear Hill Rd./Second Ave; Beaver St.; Forest St.; Lexington St.; Main St.;& South St.) streets before committing to a vote for a City-Wide Speed Limit of 25 MPH. Mayor McCarthy gave her support for this study along with Councillor Logan who was present. The Traffic Engineer believes that 20 signs will be needed to cover the whole city. Any current Thickly Settled signs will need to be removed. Possibly look into posting Moody Street as a 20 MPH Safety Zone. Voted to conduct a standard speed limit study on the six streets listed and submit the results to MassDOT for approval before approving a Citywide 25 MPH speed limit. As part of that member Cagle asked that the Traffic Engineer reach out to surrounding communities and see how they implemented their 25 MPH regulations. Also see if anything needs to be done after the studies such as complete streets or traffic calming measures.

K. 10th Annual JB5K Blastoff

Margaret McCullough is requesting permission to hold this event on Sun., April 7, 2019 at 10:30 AM. Lt. Cavallaro reviewed and recommended approval. **Voted to forward to the Mayor's Office this recommendation**

L. St. Jude's Annual Family 5K Road Race

Norma Newell is requesting permission to hold this event on Sat., May 18, 2019 at 9:00 AM

Lt. Cavallaro reviewed and recommended approval. **Voted to forward to the Mayor's Office this recommendation**

M. Boston Brain Tumor Ride

Rachel Schultz is requesting permission to hold this event on Sun., May 19, 2019 at 7:00 AM

Lt. Cavallaro reviewed and recommended approval. **Voted to forward to the Mayor's Office this recommendation**

N. Waltham 5th Annual YMCA Five to Thrive 5K Road Race

Amanda Cleary is requesting permission to hold this event on Sat., July 27, 2019 at 9:00 AM

Lt. Cavallaro reviewed and recommended approval. **Voted to forward to the Mayor's Office this recommendation**

O. Watch City Steampunk Festival

Melissa Honig is requesting permission to hold this event on Sat., May 11, 2019 from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Ms. Honig was present to discuss this event. They are requesting Carter St. be closed at both ends on Saturday May 11 during the hours of 6:00 am–6:30 PM. They are also requesting free parking in the Carter St. Lot for Festival Staff, Volunteers, Performers and Exhibitors. Also the use of parking spaces on the upper deck only of Central Square Deck for free for Festival Staff, Volunteers, Performers and Exhibitors. **Voted to accept this recommendation and close Carter Street on Saturday May 11, 2019 from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Voted to remove Items J (Lincoln St); M (Newton @ Taylor); N (Calvary St. @ Cedar St.); and O (Farwell St. Bridge); 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)(11/18)

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)

According to MassDOT, Multi-way stop signs must meet the warrant criteria outlined in Section 2B.07 of the 2009 MUTCD. The criteria is any of the following must be met: (1) As an interim measure where a full traffic signal is warranted. (2) Accident history indicates a safety concern that can be addressed by multi-way stop (5 accidents per year). (3) Minimum traffic volumes (300 vph on major street and 200 vph on minor street). (4) Left turning vehicle conflicts. (5) Pedestrian safety concerns. (6) Sight distance concerns. Minimum stopping distance of 200 feet for 30 mph speed. And (7) Traffic operations of an intersection of two residential collector streets. A review

of these conditions indicated no accidents in the past three years. Sight distance is limited for vehicles exiting Sanderson Road. These vehicles need to inch forward into the intersection to see approaching cars on Lincoln St due to a row of planted trees on private property on the southwest corner of the intersection. Given the results of this analysis this intersection does not meet the warrants for an All-Way STOP. Another option, would be to convert Sanderson Road to one-way southbound; however, this is not recommended at this time. **Voted to deny this request. Suggest to the property owner on the corner of Lincoln Street and Sanderson Road to remove the line of trees that block visibility**

K. Dale St. entire length – Proposal to Reduce Speed Limit to 20 MPH (12/18)

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

M. Newton St. at Taylor/Oak Sts. – Study Intersection for Safety Improvements (1/19)

Traffic engineer Mr. Garvin reported 11 accidents over the past five years for a 2.2 accidents per year which is not a particularly high accident rate. Furthermore, there were only three accidents that were angle collisions, the type that a flashing light is suitable for. On street parked vehicles were involved in seven of the accidents either pulling out into traffic or “side swiped”. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer review the parking conditions to see if parking should be restricted back 50’ and possible hatch marks painted on street to define the no parking area more. Report back if changes should be made, particularly near the corners.**

N. Calvary St. at Cedar St. – Study Intersection for Safety Improvements (1/19)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin that there has been one accident at this location in the past three years. The Stop sign on Cedar Street should be moved closer to the intersection. Additionally some parking should be removed on Calvary Street to improve right turning vehicles movements. Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Logan are in support of these findings. **Voted to move the Stop Sign closer to Calvary Street and prohibit some of the parking on the north side of Calvary Street opposite Cedar Street as follows:**

Calvary St, North side, from 70’ east of Cedar St to 70’ west of Cedar St., No Parking

O. Farwell St. Bridge – River Walk Connection – Proposed Bicycle Lane (1/19)

Councillor Logan was present to discuss his concerns. The Riverwalk in this area enters/exits Farwell Street in two locations. One south of the Charles River and the other north of the Charles River. There is a crosswalk with ADA ramp located at the south egress/entrance; no crosswalk at the north egress/entrance. Farwell Street is 40 feet wide and has sharrows for bicycle accommodation. At the north Riverwalk egress/entrance there is a 14 foot northbound lane and a 14 foot southbound lane. In addition, there is a 12 foot wide painted island (required for the Special Permit at 36 River Street). A proper bicycle lane requires 5 feet. If this was added, then the north/south bound lanes would be limited to 9 feet wide. This is not an acceptable lane width. The present use of sharrows is the appropriate lane accommodation. Councillor Logan would like to see CPW make the curb cut happen on the bridge area if we can’t have the bike lane. Member Cagle asked you could reduce the left turn lane so the center island can be reduced as well or possible widen the sidewalks on the bridge. **Voted to deny this request and not install bicycle lanes on Farwell Street in this area.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – Revenue for January is down about \$2,000 compared to the same time last year.

B. Piety Corner – Update Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated that BSC Group is nearing the 25% design completion. Mr. Garvin also requested a Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday March 13, 2019, 6:00 PM at the Government Center for a public meeting with abutters and residents to discuss the 25% plan for re-construction. We will go back to ConCom when plans are at 90% complete. **Voted to hold a Special Meeting**

C. Beaver St./Warren St. – Update – Sent funding request to Mayor and she denied due to the amount of open projects we have at this time. This project was listed on our Master Plan goals.

D. Main St./Warren St./Barbara Rd./Gore St. – Update - Sent funding request to Mayor and she denied due to the amount of open projects we have at this time. This project was listed on our Master Plan goals.

E. River/Farwell/Seyon – Update – funding was approved. Once PO is approved the project can proceed and looking for completion by end of Spring.

F. Main St. and Moody St. Sign Authorization – no updates

G. Washington St. # 18 – Removal of HP sign – **Voted to remove this HP parking space from Schedule 6- Disabled Parking in our Rules and Regulations.**

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

4A: 94 Russell Street Special Permit

Giles Ham with VAI was present to discuss this project. VAI conducted a traffic assessment of a proposed residential development located at 94 Russell Street. The site includes two residential units on the second floor and third floor with the 1,800 square foot first floor proposed to be converted from commercial/office space to a single unit residential unit. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed with the conclusion that the proposed use will generate fewer trips than the existing (office/commercial). **Voted to accept the Preliminary Traffic Impact Assessment from VAI and forward this recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations.**

Adjourned@ 11:50 AM

Attendance: All members

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission**Date of the Meeting: February 21, 2019**

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Melissa Honig	985 Trapelo Rd #15 Waltham, MA	Steampunk Festival	Petitioner
Robert Nagi	101 Walnut St Watertown, MA	103 Fourth Ave	VHB Consultant
Kathleen Keen	101 Walnut St Watertown, MA	Home Depot	VHB Consultant
Giles Ham	V A I Andover MA	1560 Trapelo Rd 140 Fourth Ave	Consultant
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main St	Hazel St - City wide Speed Limit	Mayor of Waltham
Phillip McCourt	15 Church St	185 Willow St	Attorney
Shaline Nabulime	161 Hammond St	Prentice @ Plympton Ellison Park	City Councillor
Heather Monticup	GPI Wilmington, MA	790 Main St	Traffic Consultant
Michael R. Connors	24 Lexington St	1560 Trapelo Rd	Attorney
Paul Finger	14 Spring St	1560 Trapelo Rd	Consultant
Robert G Logan	109 Taylor St	City Wide Speed Limit Newton/TaylorOak Calvary St Farwell St. Bridge	City Councillor