

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: APRIL 25, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. The National Brain Tumor Society “Boston Brain Tumor Ride”

Ms. Sammarye Lewis is requesting permission to host this ride on Sunday, May 19, 2012 from 7:45 AM – 10:00 AM. Lt. Cavallaro reviewed and reported to the Commission that no streets would be closed, anticipated 500 bicycle riders and that there would be police presence. The event will consist of a 10, 25 and 50 mile ride. The routes will exit from 200 West St. in Waltham, turning right onto West St and the left on Winter St. to Old County Rd. All riders returning to the finish at 200 West St. will travel from Rt. 117 onto Lexington St. to the 200 West St. Lt. Cavallaro recommended the event be approved. **Voted to approve and forward this recommendation to the Mayor’s Office for a permit to issue.**

B. Crescent St. between Adams St. and Cronin’s Landing – Proposed Crosswalk

Mr. Gregg Leppo, # 29 Spruce St., Unit 32 is requesting a crosswalk on Crescent Street to access the Riverwalk path. A site review showed concerns that a motorist may not see a pedestrian in the crosswalk, because they are looking to the left while making a right turn. In addition, there are no handicap ramps and a fire hydrant would have to be relocated. At the November meeting approval was given to install a crosswalk just south of Spruce Street. Traffic Engineering recommended the request be denied due to vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, fire hydrant and sidewalk work that must be done to create the crosswalk. **Voted to deny this request.**

C. Adams St. at Spruce St. – Remove 2 Hr. Parking and replace with No Parking

Mr. Gregg Leppo, # 29 Spruce St., Unit 32 is requesting that the existing 2 Hr. Parking be removed on the west side from Spruce St. to Bird Precision driveway. Presently, a vehicle parks in the area that is within 37 feet of the intersection. (Parking is prohibited for 30 feet; the remaining seven feet is not sufficient for a standard parking spot.) Traffic Engineering recommended extending the corner restriction on the west side of Adams Street, to 67 feet south of Spruce Street. **Voted to approve this recommendation and amend Parking as follows:**

**Delete: Adams Street, both sides from Spruce St. to 80’ N of Maple St., 2 Hr. Parking
7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi**

**Add: Adams St., west side from Spruce St. to a point 67’ S., No Parking
Adams St., west side from 67’ S. of Spruce St. to a point 80’ N. of Maple St., 2
Hr Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi
Adams St., east side from Spruce St. to a point 80’N of Maple St., 2Hr Parking
7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi**

D. 2013 Riverfest to be held on June 14th and 15th.

Ms. Sarah Hankins is seeking approval for reducing the lanes on Moody Street Bridge. The parties have met with Lt. Cavallaro of the Police Department and discussed this item. The two southbound lanes will be closed on Saturday, June 15 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. to allow for vendors to set up stations. The two northbound lanes will remain open for northbound and southbound traffic. The street will not be closed. There will be Police presence. The T.E. and Lt. Cavallaro recommended approval. **Voted to approve this recommendation for a permit to issue.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

A. Traffic Commission Policy – Revised Petition Policy (11/10) (5/11) – Voted to Remove from the Table

Traffic Engineering recommended the following procedure be accepted for the presenting of petitions to be heard

- 1: Petitions for the installation, removal or alteration of intersectional controls/regulations (traffic signals, stop signs, yield signs, no turn on red, etc.) require a total of sixty-five percent (65%) signatures (including the petitioner's) from owners or tenants whose building or lot of land is located within five-hundred (500) feet of the affected intersection (one signature per household or business)**
- 2: Petitions for installation, removal or alteration of parking restrictions, truck exclusions, speed limits, bus stops, and all other traffic regulations must be signed by sixty-five percent (65%) of the residential, commercial and/or non-profit units which abut the affected street or way, (including petitioner's) be required ((one signature per household or business)**
- 3: The following petitions shall be exempt from such signature requirements:**
 - 1: Petitions submitted by the Mayor and/or City Councilor;**
 - 2: Petitions submitted by the Chief of Police and/or Fire Chief for safety reasons;**
 - 3. Petitions submitted by one or more members of the Traffic Commission;**
 - 4: Petitions submitted by the Clerk upon his/her determination that there is an inconsistency between a prior vote of the Commission due to a clerical oversight;**
 - 5: Petitions for the installation, removal or alteration of handicap parking which shall be subject to the provisions adopted by the Traffic Commission.**

Voted to approve and adopt this policy.

- B** Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement & Policy – (2/11)(10/12)(12/12)
- C.** Smith Street at Trapelo Road – Change in Lane Use (9/11)
- D.** High St. at Newton St. – Traffic Signal Changes (3/12)
- E.** Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12) – Waiting for Law Dept. opinion
- F.** 60 Turner Street – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/12)
- G** Taxi Stands – Additional Spaces (3/13)

H. 36 River St. – Removal of Farwell St. on-street parking (3/13) - Voted to remove from the Table. TC Saracen LLC has a proposal for 200 residential units with access provided off of Farwell Street, where the existing Stop & Shop easement is today. The request, which is part of the Special Permit is to construct a left turn lane on Farwell Street southbound at the site driveway and requires parking along the west side of Farwell Street between River Street and the Farwell Street Bridge to be removed. Observations of the existing parking were made at various times of the day, evening and on a Saturday to get an accurate sense of the existing parking demand. It was found that one vehicle parked in this location, and violated the existing two hour parking limitation. Based on the limited demand, Traffic Engineering recommended parking be removed from the

west side of Farwell Street. **Voted to approve this recommendation and amend Schedule 1 parking Restrictions as follows:**

Delete: Farwell St. West side, from 125' south of River Street to Charles River, 2 Hr. parking
Add: Farwell St. West side. From River Street to Charles River, No Parking

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A Parking Meter Report . receipts are down slightly from last year
- B Forest Street at Trapelo Road Update – Information Only
Construction has started and weekly meetings are being held
- C. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. Update– Information Only
Design is ready to be awarded, awaiting completion of signatures
- D. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal Study (5/12)(12/12)
Working with Engineering to complete survey
- E Transportation Master Plan (12/12)
Initial inventory is underway
- F **Zoning Opinion – Development Prospectus from Law Dept. –**

The Traffic Commission is required to vote whether to accept the traffic study included in the prospectus prior to the zone change actually being approved. When a zone change is being sought, the traffic study required by the prospectus is not and should not be for a particular project – the traffic study to be submitted must be specifically for the zone change, i.e. for the highest traffic generating use as of right should the zone change be authorized. If a zone change prospectus is accompanied by a prospectus for a particular (special permit) project, it should not be accepted and the Traffic Commission is authorized to act upon in a zone change situation is the one relating to the maximum traffic that can be generated by as-of-right use in the new zone.

The Traffic Commission, in a zone change process, is simply providing advice and recommendations to the City Council for the proposed zone change. The language of the zone change that the Traffic Commission sees, may not actually be the language voted upon by the City Council which could change and prevent the proposed project. Any vote on the proposed project would be premature.

It is inappropriate to accept a project-specific zone change as part of a zone change review. The Traffic Engineer identifies to the proponent the type of traffic study to be presented and it should deal with the highest as-of-right traffic generating use under the proposed zoning amendment. If the applicant submits a project-specific traffic study it should be rejected and the Traffic Commission should only consider the zone change traffic study.

- G. Updating of Traffic Commission Rules & Regulations - Traffic Engineering will be updating the book with new information and reviewing old sign regulations to see if they need to be removed.

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

4. Added Items

A. Watch City Festival May 10 – 12

Ms. Elln Hagney, Charles River Museum, reported on the planned event which will include the use of a horse drawn carriage ride. Ms. Hagney reported on the event that will take place May 10-11 & 12, 2013. A horse-drawn carriage rides will be provided by Blue Star Equiculture, with a licensed operator, and will ride around the Common. The route was recommended by the Police Department. They will load/unload on Elm Street (southwest corner of the Common). Three parking spaces have been approved in this area. Armstrong will provide EMS and will be located on the Common. It is expected that there will be 17,000 visitors. **Voted to approve the carriage rides and ban some parking on Elm Street.**

B. Central Square Parking Deck – Parking Waiver

Ms. Barbara Rhines, of the Arc of Mass, 217 South Street is requesting permission for a parking fee waiver to use the Central Square Parking Deck for an event that will take place Saturday, May 18, with a rally on the Waltham Common, then a bus trip to the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. **Voted to approve the request and have the vehicle parked in the upper deck Lexington Street side. In addition the vehicle will have “Arc of Mass” logo placards on their dashboards.**

C. Walk Home – Parking Consideration

RTN Federal Credit Union will hold a 5K “Walk Home” on Saturday, June 1 and is seeking permission to use the Central Square Parking Deck for any possible excess parking. **Voted to approve the request and use the Central Square Parking Upper Deck, Lexington Street side and to have the appropriate placards.**

Adjourned: @ 10:55 am

Attendance: All members. T.E. Mr. Garvin; Ms. Gerlach

Respectfully Submitted:

**Off. Frank S. Lombardo (Ret.)
Clerk**

