

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meetings, June 2, July 16, and August 4 were accepted. .

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. 560 Moody St. – Revise Parking Restriction

Mayor McCarthy is sponsoring this request from Maryellen DiSchino, Branch Manager of Coldwell Banker. The Commission heard from Mayor McCarthy, Councillor Cathyanne Harris, and Ms. Maryellen DiSchino in favor of this request. Coldwell Banker has approximately 60 agents and about 30 agents are in and out of the office on a daily basis. The “No Return to Same Block” has resulted in multiple tickets being issued to their agents when they leave the parking space and return within the two hour parking limit to the same block. The Parking Control Officers do not know that the vehicle has been moved and returned to the same parking area.

Several options were discussed, such as removing the No Return to Same Block, remove the 2-hour parking limit, and to make use of the Chestnut Street Municipal Parking lot, with an annual city parking permit. Another alternative option considered is to allow Coldwell Banker issue an identifying parking sticker for their agents. Member Ms. Cagle proposed a 90-day trial period for a sticker program. **Voted, Member Mr. Magno opposed, a 90 day trial period sticker program, for one block (Myrtle St. to Alder St.) and to retain the existing signage.**

B. Woburn St. – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor Darcy is requesting a review of this roadway due to speeding and pedestrian use. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended a study. **Voted to conduct a study and report at a future meeting**

C. 812 Moody St. – No Idling Sign

Councillor Harris is requesting this sign in front of the residence. Presently Massachusetts Law prevents engine idling for more than five minutes. **Voted to request the Police Department patrol this section of Moody Street for violations.**

D. Lowell Street – Proposed All-Way STOP

Councillor Harris is requesting additional STOP signs between Derby Street and High Street. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, review traffic calming measures and determine if a four-way stops are warranted.**

E. Extension of Outdoor Dining and Keep Moody St. Closed after Nov. 1st.

Councillor Harris is requesting this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. Councillor Harris, supported by Councillor Paz, requested an extension until December 1 to retain the outdoor dining on Moody Street. Fire Chief MacInnis and Wires Inspector Mr. Kelly spoke of the required permits to have outside heating equipment to meet safety standards. Mayor McCarthy requested a Special Meeting. **It was voted to conduct a Special Meeting to consider extending the closing of Moody Street, plans for winter weather and the future of the downtown area. The meeting will be held on Thursday September 24, 2020 at 10:00 (Zoom Meeting).**

F. Rangely Rd. at Richgrain Ave. – Proposed STOP

Councillor LaCava is requesting a STOP sign at this location. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended this item be tabled for a study for Stop Sign on Rangely at Richgrain. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer, review.**

G. Hamilton Rd. near Cedarwood Park – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor O'Brien is requesting this be on the agenda to review speeding in the area. Councillor O'Brien requested this be tabled. **Voted to table**

H. Lake St. – Speed Study

Councillor Dunn is requesting a speed study be conducted on Lake St. from Lexington St. to Lincoln St. The street was recently repaved and is reported to have increased high speeds. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer conduct a Speed Study**

I. Councillor Paz – Bus Shelters Funding

Councillor Paz as part of the Economic & Community Development Committee is requesting funding for bus shelters. He specifically requested two shelters on Carter Street and four shelters on Moody St. The shelters on Moody Street are located within the downtown closure area (two at Maple/High/Moody Streets; and two at Pine/Crescent/Moody Streets). Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended two shelters for Carter Street, commuter rail station, be approved immediately. The remaining four shelters should await for a final decision on what will be done to the downtown closure of Moody Street. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin to inquire with the MBTA to see if they could provide modern bus shelters at their cost for Carter Street rail station. If that should fail then seek an appropriation in the amount of \$24,000 from the city. Shelters for Moody Street (\$48,000.) will wait for a final decision regarding an annual closure.**

J. Longfellow Rd. at Whitman Rd. – All-Way STOP

Gina DeRosa and Kevin Bullock along with numerous neighbors are requesting stop signs on Longfellow Rd. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer determine if the four-way stop warrants can be met.**

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. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)
- C. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)
- D. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)
- E. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19)
- F. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19)

G. Trapelo Rd. at Our Lady's Church – Crosswalk Options (12/19)

In October 2013, the Commission approved two crosswalks in the area. An eastside crosswalk with an RRFB and a second crosswalk to the west in front of the rectory. The Traffic Engineer was requested to review and determine if the crosswalks should be combined. If one crosswalk is to remain, then eastside RRFB crosswalk should stay in place. A raised crosswalk does not meet the guidelines needed for installation; particularly the large volumes of traffic, including trucks; the 85th percentile speed of 36 mph eastbound and 42 mph westbound, and a primary route for fire apparatus ½ mile to the east are reasons to deny a raised crosswalk. For the same reasons, the Traffic Engineer does not recommend a raised crosswalk at Graverson Playground. **Voted to deny raised crosswalks and leave two crosswalks at Our Lady's as they exist.**

H. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)

I. Trapelo Rd. at Graverson Playground – Possible Raised Table (12/19)

See Item 2G. **Voted to deny**

J. 25 Lexington St. – Mid-Block Crosswalk & RRFB (2/20)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated this was not an appropriate location for a Mid-Block crosswalk. A mid-block crosswalk would create a “Multiple Threat” situation where the vehicle operator and/or the pedestrian cannot see each other. A driver stopping in one lane of a multi-lane road to permit pedestrians to cross and on-coming vehicle driving in the same direction strikes the pedestrian who is crossing in front of the stopped vehicle creates an unsafe condition that should be avoided. Members Mr. Kelly and Ms. Cagle asked for consideration of a RRFB. Member Mr. Waddick, expressed caution stating the Traffic Engineer has serious safety concerns. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer, propose alternatives that would address safety issues for pedestrians crossing Lexington Street at the intersections of School/Lexington Street, and Main/Lexington Street.**

K. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20)

L. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20)

M. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20)

N. Hall St. & Lowell St. – Striping for Parking (5/20)

O. Lowell St. at Cushing St. – Proposed All-Way STOP (5/20)(6/20) –

To be included in item 1D for a four-way stop

P. Main St./Lafayette St. and Gore St./Lawndale Ave. – Proposed RRFB’s (5/20)

Q. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20) Mayor McCarthy requested the Commission move forward toward establishing a City Wide 25 MPH Speed Limit. Fire Chief MacInnis opposed this item on all streets as unrealistic. **It was voted 5-1 (Chief MacInnis opposed) to processed with the process of posting the Citywide speed limit. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin will forward the request that needs Mass DOT approval, with the data obtained concerning six streets (Bear Hill Rd./Second Ave; Beaver St., Forest St., portions of Lexington St., portions of Main St., and portions of South St.) that should be considered for a posted speed regulation.**

R. Lafayette Street – Truck Restriction (6/20)

Councillor Joseph LaCava spoke on behalf of the residents, along with Mr. John Arone and Ms. Jeanne McDonald. Heavy trucks are using Lafayette Street, which is a residential street with numerous families and children. They requested a study to prohibit heavy trucks on the street. Traffic engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a traffic study should needs to be done. **Voted to approve the study and tabled this item.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report . . . funds are down about 40%

B. Piety Corner – Update Eversource meeting shortly

C. Trapelo Rd. at Waverley Oaks Rd. – Design alternatives . still pending

D. Moody St./Main St./Common St. – Revised Signal Timing **voted to approval signal timings**

E. School St./ Common St. – Revised Signal Timing **voted to approval signal timings**

F. Beaver St./Waverley Oaks Rd. – Revised Signal Timing **voted to approval signal timings**

Adjourned@ 2:23 PM

Attendance: All members. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Darcy, Harris, LaCava, Dunn, Paz; and numerous interested parties on this Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk