

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: MARCH 18, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Chair accepted a motion, and the February 2021 minutes were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Ellison Pk, Harris St., Summer St., Pleasant St. & Faneuil Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor Sean Durkee and resident Ms. Deborah Schreiber spoke about the traffic concerns in this neighborhood. There are numerous residents who signed petitions requesting safety improvements. Councillor Durkee and Ms. Schreiber spoke in favor of this petition. Their concerns are lack of crosswalks, Stop sign violations, parking on both side of the street (narrowing the street for emergency vehicles), trespassers on residential property, need for speed humps to reduce the speed of vehicles, and restrictions to Commercial Vehicle through traffic. In addition, they requested restricted parking for non-residents such as a resident parking permit requirement. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated an evening neighborhood meeting should be convened so that all the residents are informed that any restrictions enacted would apply to all, there can be no exceptions for "Resident Only".

Councillor Durkee requested the commission vote on the requests summarized in the petition.

The following votes were taken:

- 1: Institute a 2 hr./24 hr. a day limit for non-residents --- **Tabled**
- 2: Speed Humps – in general this is opposed, however **a speed study will be conducted.**
- 3: Pleasant St. remove parking from east side of the street - - **table for parking study.**
- 4: Reduced Speed Limit – **Denied** (This will be reviewed as part of the city-wide speed limit in progress)
- 5: Restrict Commercial Vehicle; **Denied** - area to be checked for proper signage.
- 6: Change sequence of traffic signal at Lyman St. -- **Wires Dept and TE to investigate**
- 7: Restrict Left Turns on Lyman St: **Denied** - such a restriction must apply to all vehicles, cannot exempt Residents.

B. Waltham Farmers Market – Embassy Lot

Marc Rudnick is requesting this be located again at the Embassy Lot. The use of the Embassy Lot will be from Saturday, June 5 through Saturday, October 30 from 7:30am to 3:30 pm. **It was voted to approve this request and have Waltham Farmers Market utilized the Embassy Lot open area behind 200-230 Moody St. The vendors vehicles will be allowed to park on the upper level or the for free with a approved placard supplied by the Farmers' Market on their dash. Also allow 3 open parking spaces in the lot entrance from Cooper St. for large vendor trucks. In addition, the request to allow signage at Piety Corner was approved and musicians may perform on the sidewalk plaza between 2 west side garage exits. A noise permit must be issued by the Police Dept. The storage shed will be relocated to the same to parking spaces as last year on May 22 – Nov. 14.**

C. 255 Wyman St. – Proposed Right Turn Lane easement and lane taking per Special Permit

James White, Sr. Project Manager, H.W. Moore has submitted a plan showing the right turn lane. Attorney Michael Connors and Mr. James White attended this meeting and explained the condition of the Special Permit that required some land to be given to the City at the southeast corner of the intersection. The Traffic Commission can not accept land giving, but the Commission did approve the design concept so the project can move forward. **Voted to approve the concept of the street**

widening at the intersection of Wyman Street/Lincoln Street, and direct the Traffic Engineer to seek funding for the design.

D. 1841 Trapelo Rd. Carroll School – School Zone & Speed Humps

John Flynn, Building and Grounds at Carroll School is requesting 20 MPH School Zone signs each direction and Speed Humps on Trapelo Rd.

Voted to deny the speed humps, but approve to add to Schedule 16: School Zones Trapelo Rd., Carroll School, 7:30-8:30 AM; 2:30-3:30 PM

In addition, we will install two Advance School Zone signs facing each direction.

E. 196 Bear Hill Rd. Uma Flowers - Special Permit

Bret Francis, Attorney is requesting this item be placed on the agenda. A marijuana dispensary is proposed at this location and it requires a Special Permit to be issued by the City Council. The building will incorporate 3,036 square feet of office floor area and 3,872 square feet of retail floor area. It is expected to generate 93 vehicle trips in the weekday PM peak hour and 143 vehicle trips in the Saturday peak hour, the proposed location will have 25 parking spaces which may not be adequate to handle the expected number of vehicles arriving at the site. That is certainly true for the initial period of time after the store opens. It is suggested that appointments be required for the first two weeks after opening and that appointments be limited to no more than 40 per hour. Also, the proponent should work with the Waltham Police Department to manage traffic flow during the first two weeks, including securing off-site parking locations for employees. The site plan is also required to indicate bicycle parking locations. **Voted to accept the traffic study submitted by TEPP for the proposed recreational marijuana facility at 196 Bear Hill Road, with the suggestions that customer visits be by appointment only, 40 per hour, for first two months.**

2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)

- A. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18) – Councillor Harris
- B. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19) – Councillor McLaughlin
- C. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councillor Durkee
- D. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councillor Harris

E. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)(11/20)(12/20)(1/21)

Councilor McLaughlin requested this item be table so he could review. **Voted to Table.**

- F. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20) – Councillor Mackin
- G. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20) - Mayor
- H. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20) – Councillor Harris
- I. Main St./Lafayette St. and Gore St./Lawndale Ave. – Proposed RRFB's (5/20) – Councillor LaCava
- J. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)

K. 560 Moody St. – Coldwell Banker Business All Day Parking 90 Day Trial (9/20)(12/20)

Councilor Harris and Ms. Maryellen DiSchino (Coldwell Banker) spoke in favor of this proposal. The trial period has been extended twice and the Commission expressed its reluctance to rescind the “return-to-block” regulation. **Voted to extend the trial period another 90 days and requested the proponent continue to seek alternatives to the parking for employees.**

- L. Main St. at Exchange St. – Bus Stop issue (11/20)
- M. Highland St. Spur – Traffic Calming Measures (12/20)

N. MBTA Bus Stop Accessibility and Safety Improvement Program (1/21)(2/21)

Ms. Sandra Cleary, McMahon Asso., and Ms. Natasha Vance MBTA spoke of moving the eastside northbound South Street bus stop to the north driveway of Brandeis University. The proposal includes a crosswalk and installation of a RRFB. **Voted to approve the relocation of this bus stop.**

O. Moody St. – Closing Street for Outside Dining (2/21)

Mr. Ben Delaney with the City Planning Dept. summarized the report they compiled. Their response showed from Pine/Crescent Street south to Maple/High Street (lower Moody Street) there were 228 in favor of closing Moody Street and 147 opposed. From Maple/High south to Derby/Crescent Street (upper Moody Street) the number was 161 in favor and 266 opposed. Mr. Wayne Brasco, Chairman Waltham Licensing Commission, City Councillor Harris and numerous business owners expressed desire for a closure. Councilor Paz stated that all concerned parties must be heard. Mayor McCarthy spoke of the need to find compromise and the middle ground. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin requested a Special Meeting to be called so all interested parties could be heard. A decision needs to be made quickly. **Voted to have a Special Meeting to discuss the closing of Moody Street on Friday March 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report - - meter collections are down approximately \$35K from the same time last year.
- B. Piety Corner – Update – final design for bid is at Purchasing
- C. Trapelo Rd. / Waverley Oaks Rd. – Update – Additional funding request for the retaining wall has been sent to the Mayor's office.
- D. Proposed FY2022 Budget – Voted to approved the proposed budget.

Adjourned @ 1:33 pm

Attendance: All members (Chief O'Connell left meeting at 12:45); Mayor McCarthy; Councillors Durkee, Harris, McMenimen, McLaughlin, Paz, LeBlanc and Vidal. There were 115 attendees.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk