

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD ON: May 20, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.  
GOVERNMENT CENTER AUDITORIUM**

**The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the April 9 and April 15 meetings with amendment to Item 1C. change Middle St. to Mechanic St. Motion made to appoint Lisa Gerlach as Acting Clerk**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. 481 Main St. – Return of Funds**

Mayor McCarthy has submitted a request to City Council to rescind the \$36,000 that was requested in February 2021. This money was to be used for the 5% deposit for the property. The Mayor has informed us that the land acquisition did not finalize and the funds will be returned to the Parking Meter account once approved by City Council. **Information Only.**

**B. Trapelo Rd. at Pine Vale Rd. – Safety Issues for Bicyclist and Pedestrians**

Councillor Darcy was present to discuss this intersection. Since 2016 there have been three bicycle accidents involving collision with a vehicle. In all cases the bicyclists were traveling eastbound down the hill and the vehicles was turning left into Pine Vale Rd. Councillor Darcy request that a traffic study of the intersection be completed and the possibility of a traffic signal with a dedicated left turn lane for westbound traffic be reviewed. The Fire Chief would like to know the causes of each of these accidents. **Voted to approve this request to have Traffic Engineering study and report back with their findings when available.**

**C. Trapelo Rd. at Christopher Rd. – Proposed Crosswalk & Signage**

Councillor Darcy was present to discuss this item. The residents of Christopher Rd. have no place to cross from the south side of Trapelo Rd. to the north side of Trapelo Rd. There is an asphalt sidewalk on Christopher Rd. which then turns into a new ADA compliant ramp at the corner with Trapelo Rd. Though there is no sidewalk on the south side of Trapelo Rd., there is an asphalt sidewalk on the north side. If this is approved a new ADA ramp will need to be installed on the north side of Trapelo Rd. We also request that the Wires Dept. install two overhead lights on the existing utility pole on the north side of Trapelo Rd. an on the utility pole located on Christopher Rd. to illuminate the crosswalk at night. Appropriate pedestrian signage will also be installed if approved. **Voted to approve the installation of a crosswalk and pedestrian signage. Will request CPW to install an ADA ramp on the north side of Trapelo Rd. and have Wires Dept. install two overhead lights to illuminate the new crosswalk. Traffic Engineering will apply crosswalk and install signs once CPW and Wires Dept. work is completed.**

**D. Bennett St. at Hastings St. – Proposed All-Way STOP**

Councillor LaCava was present to discuss this request. Ms. Gianna Scaltreto-Saran a resident of Bennett St. along with numerous residents are requesting an All-Way STOP at this location. Currently this is a two way STOP intersection. They state that now that traffic is picking up there seems to be more speeding in the neighborhood. **Voted to approve this request and direct Traffic Engineering to study the intersection and report back with their findings when available.**

**E. 850 Lexington St. – Additional Signal and Pavement Markings**

Councillor Dunn was present to discuss this request which is additional safety measures exiting the TJMAXX Plaza near Burger King. There has been a single No Left Turn sign opposite the southern driveway for years to discourage vehicles from taking a left turn. Last year, at the

request of Councillor Dunn we installed another No Left Turn sign on the near side of the street at this driveway. The Councillor would like to see if the property owner would paint pavement markings at the southern driveway to indicate left turn only. The Police need to enforce this regulation and possibly look into the signal timing at the intersections to see if any modifications can be made. Prior to this meeting new pavement markings showing a left turn arrow, but not the ONLY were seen on the property. **Information Only.**

**F. Wampum Ave. – Revise recent No Parking restriction**

Councillor Dunn was present to discuss this item. At the January 2021 meeting it was voted to have No Parking on the north side and south side of the streets in certain sections. Upon marking out the locations for the sign post the neighbors called Councillor Dunn about what the signs are for with their concerns. The neighbors what to remove sign clutter and restrict parking just to one side of the street. **Voted to approve this request to rescind the vote from the January meeting and approve these modifications in Schedule 1 – Parking Restrictions in the Rules and Regulations.**

**Delete – Wampum Ave., north side, 220’ west of Indian Rd. to 185’ east of Amherst Ave., No Parking**

**Parking south side, Amherst Ave. to 185’ east of Amherst Ave., No**

**Parking south side, 220’ west of Indian Rd. to Indian Rd., No Parking**

**Add - Wampum Ave., south side, Amherst Ave. to Indian Rd., No Parking**

**G. Elson Rd. – Proposed One-Way**

Councillor Durkee was present to discuss this item. Numerous residents are requesting that Elson Rd. be studied to see if it can be made into a one-way for southbound traffic. Councillor Durkee would like to keep this request and Item 2C separate. For this item a traffic study will need to be conducted to determine if this will be justified. **Voted to approve this request and direct Traffic Engineering to study and report back with the findings when available.**

**H. 80-86 Trapelo Rd. – Review of Parking Restriction Time Limit**

Councillor McLaughlin and Ms. Erin Connell, of # 80 Trapelo Rd., Glow Skincare Studio were present to discuss this item. At the February 2021 meeting it was voted to remove one parking space on the south side of Trapelo Rd. to improve the sight distance towards the west for vehicles exiting Upton Rd. The space that was removed was a one hour parking space. Most of the remaining spaces in this section up to Manning Rd. are 15 minutes except for a couple of spaces close to Manning Rd. which are one hour. Customers to Glow Skincare Studio usually stay more than one hour. The other two businesses in the block are Watertown Watch & Clock and Beaver Brook Bottles. Most of their customers park for 30 minutes or less. After discussion with all the businesses they all agree with the time limit changes. **Voted to approve this request and make the following modifications to Schedule 1 – Parking Restrictions.**

**Delete – Trapelo Rd., south side, Manning Rd. to 75’ E. of Manning Rd. 1 Hr. Parking**  
**Trapelo Rd., south side, 75’ E. of Manning Rd. to 226’ E. of Manning Rd. 15 Min.**

**Parking Trapelo Rd., south side, 226’ E. of Manning Rd. to Belmont Town Line, No**  
**Parking**

**Add - Trapelo Rd., south side, Manning Rd. to 110' W. of Upton Rd., 30 Min. Parking**  
**Trapelo Rd., south side, 110' W. of Upton Rd. to 50' W. of Upton Rd., 2 Hr.**  
**Parking**  
**Trapelo Rd., 50' W. of Upton Rd. to Belmont Town Line, No Parking**

**I. ALS Tri-State TREK**

Laura Felix is requesting permission to hold this 100-mile Bicycle event on Saturday, June 26, 2021. This event will start at 6:00 AM. **Voted to approve this request.**

**J. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB**

Attorney Mike Connors was present to discuss this request for a new RRFB on Wyman St. In 2016 the Traffic Commission approved the installation of a RRFB at the crosswalk between the driveways of #404 and #275-303 Wyman St. Hobbs Brook Management paid for the equipment and installation for the RRFB. Hobbs Brook Management is now requesting permission to install and additional RRFB to the south on Wyman St. at the driveway to # 225-235-275 Wyman St. A crosswalk already exist at this location and Hobbs Brook Management has again offered to pay for the equipment and installation. Before this can be installed a study will need to be conducted to determine if an RRFB is warranted at this location. **Voted to approve to direct Traffic Engineering to conduct a study and report back with their findings when available. This study will be conducted after Labor Day.**

**K. 840 Winter St. – Traffic Impact Study**

Matthew Kealey, Traffic Engineer with VHB was present to discuss this study. A renovation of the property is being proposed. Currently, the approximately 142,000 square foot building consists of medical office space and a gym. The proposal is to expand the space to approximately 171,000 square feet, consisting of medical office, general office, laboratory, and manufacturing space. No modifications are being proposed to the site driveway, on an access road off of Winter St., north of Gatehouse Dr. Due to the gym being removed, the total number of vehicle trips generated will be reduced over the typical weekday, and during PM peak hour. There is a slight increase (+27) in the number of vehicle trips in the AM peak hour. The existing parking lot contains 477 spaces and will be reduced to 443 spaces. This is still greater than the 404 parking spaces required by zoning standards. The proponent will make a contribution in the amount of approximately \$89,000 to the Traffic Safety and Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. In addition, they are committed to maintaining their membership in the 128 Business Council and implement a transportation demand management strategy. **Voted to accept this traffic study.**

**L. 510 Moody St. Dual Language School – Traffic Safety Study**

Police School Safety Officer Ann Frassica is requesting a review of the traffic patterns and student drop off/pick up times. Officer Frassica has safety concerns with the current student arrival and dismissal traffic patterns. **Voted to direct Traffic Engineering study and report back with their findings when available.**

**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. at Chaffee St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)(4/21) – Councillor McLaughlin

**C. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councillor Durkee – Voted to keep on the table to study.**

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)(2/21)(3/21)**

Upon review of the **Ward 5** narrow streets, Traffic Engineering has reviewed 14 streets that fall under that category. Of those 14 only 2 of those streets should have No Parking restrictions implemented. One of those streets is a private way and should not be enacted until the City Council passes the proposed ordinance giving Traffic Commission jurisdiction to regulate parking on private ways. Ward 5 Councillor LaCava was present during this discussion. Voted to approve the following Ward 5 streets and add to Schedule 1 – Parking Restrictions.

**Add- Centre St., east side, entire length, No Parking**

**Evergreen St., west side, entire length, No Parking (Private way. Only enact once ordinance approved by City Council.)**

Upon review of the **Ward 6** narrow streets, Traffic Engineering has reviewed 6 streets that fall under that category. Of those 6 only 1 of those streets should have No Parking restrictions implemented, but 2 of those streets are recommended to be converted to One-Way. Ward 6 Councillor Durkee was present during this discussion. The Councillor would like a written description of why this is being done so that he can distribute to the neighborhoods. **Voted to approve the following to Ward 5 streets and make to following modifications to Schedule 1 – Parking Restrictions, but Table the converting of Liberty St. and Middle St. into one-way until a traffic study has been conducted.**

**Delete – Oak Hill Rd., north side, Irving St. to Sunset Rd., No Parking**

**Add - Oak Hill Rd., north side, entire length, No Parking**

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**

Councillor LaCava was present to discuss the RRFB request for Gore St./Lawndale Ave. A crosswalk was installed at this location in the Fall of 2017. A request for an RRFB was brought before the Traffic Commission in May 2020. At that time the Councillor stated that people are crossing here but have difficulty especially during events at the Gore Estate. Since that request in May the traffic and pedestrian traffic has been reduced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Traffic Engineering has been waiting for the traffic to increase before conducting a study. Traffic Engineering was directed at the April meeting to have a study done for the May meeting. A study was conducted on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> between the hours of noon until 2:00 PM. The weather was sunny and about 60 degrees. The mid-day peak hour occurred between 12:15 and 1:15 PM. During that hour Gore Street generated 739 vehicles and 5 pedestrians crossed the street. The number of pedestrians crossing the street do not meet the warrants for an RRFB and recommend this be denied. Councillor LaCava still wants to request this RRFB even though the numbers are low. The Fire Chief stated that northbound traffic is not an issue in seeing the pedestrians, but the southbound traffic does due to trees, and bushes in the median. **Voted to table and study again in the summer for the September meeting.**

J. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)

K. 560 Moody St. – Coldwell Banker Business All Day Parking 90 Day Trial (9/20)(12/20)(3/21)

L. Highland St. Spur – Traffic Calming Measurers (12/20)

M. Ellison Pk, Harris St., Summer St., Pleasant St. & Faneuil Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures – Councillor Durkee (3/21)

**N. Shade St. Neighborhood Traffic Issues – Councillor McLaughlin (4/21)**

Councillor McLaughlin was present to discuss this request. The residents state that traffic is cutting through the neighborhood to avoid the traffic signal on Trapelo Rd. at Forest St.. Based on traffic volumes, the use of Shade St. is primarily a concern in the morning peak hour. Traffic Engineering recommends the installed of a STOP sign on Shade St. at Alderwood Rd., Prohibit left turns from Trapelo Rd. onto Shade St. between 7:00 AM-9:00 AM and Prohibit left turns from Trapelo Rd. onto Alderwood Rd. between 7:00 AM-9:00 AM. All of these restrictions will apply to the residents in the neighborhood as well. **Voted to approve this request and add the following to the Rules and Regulations.**

**Add to Schedule 11- STOP signs: Shade St. at Alderwood Rd., facing southbound traffic**

**Add to Schedule 18 – Turns Only As Designated:**

**Trapelo Rd.: All vehicles travelling westbound at Alderwood Rd. – NO LEFT TURN 7AM-9AM**

**Trapelo Rd.: All vehicles travelling westbound at Shade St.- NO LEFT TURN 7AM-9AM**

**O. Gale, Ripley and Pierce Sts. Review of Parking Restrictions – Councillor LaCava (4/21)**

Councillor LaCava request this stay tabled until the June meeting. **Voted to keep on table.**

**P. # 25 Lexington St. – Relocation of MBTA Stop for RRFB – (4/21)**

Ms. Colette Casey-Brenner was present from # 25 Lexington Street. At the November 2020 meeting, Traffic Commission approved a new crosswalk, with an RRFB, mid-block on Lexington Street between School Street and Main Street. This was contingent on a review by the MBTA, due to a relocation of a bus stop. The MBTA has completed its review of the request to relocate the bus stop and had the following comments or concerns:

- The new bus stop location in front of 24 Lexington Street does not meet the MBTA standards for the length of a bus stop, particularly at times when multiple buses arrive. Buses may block the exits from the parking deck.
- MBTA does not believe the proposed location of a crosswalk is as safe as it should be, even with the benefit of narrowing Lexington Street to one lane. A driver exiting the top level of the parking deck is accustomed to only looking left for approaching vehicles, and is not expecting to see pedestrians in the street towards their right.

If the bus stop is relocated, in spite of these concerns, then MBTA would require that the stump in the sidewalk be removed, and the area filled with concrete.

The Traffic Engineer does share his concerns about the safety of the proposed crosswalk. As discussed previously, traffic engineering standards discourage mid-block crosswalks with multiple lanes in one direction. Before the RRFB can be installed a few improvements need to be done to meet ADA compliance. The following items are needed: CPW to remove stump and fill hole in sidewalk; relocate bus stop; install ADA ramp on the east side; layout thermoplastic crosswalk; install new 2 hr. parking signs and request funding for the new RRFB.

**Voted to approve the installation of the RRFB and relocation of bus stop.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report – Parking revenue is reduced by roughly \$26,000 compared to same time last year.
- B. Piety Corner – Update – Working with Purchasing Dept. to finalize bid documents.
- C. Trapelo Rd. / Waverley Oaks Rd. – Update – Need funding approval sent to Mayor
- D. Remove #119 School St. Right Turn Restriction from Schedule 18 – Upon review of our

regulations this restriction was found. We recommend it be removed from the regulations since it has not been posted or enforced. **Voted to approve this request and remove the following from Schedule 18 – Turn Restrictions:**

**School St.: All vehicles exiting # 119 School St. (Government Center) driveway MUST TURN RIGHT**

**4. LATE FILED ITEMS:**

- A. Federal Railroad Administration – Quiet Zone Designation
- Mayor McCarthy and Councillors McLaughlin and Harris present. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has notified Waltham that the Railroad Quiet Zone is no longer in compliance. On May 3rd the City was notified that the City is no longer in compliance with the requirements to maintain the Quiet Zone status for the at-grade crossings. FRA also notified the MBTA to begin sounding the train horns as they approach the crossings. The four at-grade crossings are: Beaver St., Elm St., Moody St., and South St. The FRA presented a letter that was dated August 25, 2008, which was sent to the Waltham Transportation Director at that time, stating that the pre-existing Quiet Zone was no longer in compliance, based on the Risk Review that was conducted that year. The horns will continue until safety measures are addressed. If improvements can be installed in 30 days, then the horns can be stopped. CPW will be in charge of construction of any islands if approved. Traffic Engineer Garvin suggest the following:

Discuss the interim design concept of installing medians approaching each of the four at-grade crossings in each direction, to decide whether CPW should proceed to install them.

1. Beaver Street: 60 foot medians on each side, lanes as narrow as eight feet wide, no left turns out of the three driveways
2. Elm Street: 76 foot median on north side, 88 foot median on south side, lanes as narrow as ten feet wide, no trucks on Carter Street eastbound
3. Moody Street: 60 foot median on north side, 71 foot median on south side, lanes as narrow as eleven feet wide, no left turns into Railroad Parking Lot, no left turns in or out of 123 Moody Street or Enterprise Rental Car, remove on-street parking on west side of Moody Street
4. South Street: 100 foot median on north side, 72 foot median on south side, 20-foot wide lanes, Sawyer Rd right-in/right-out, Aggregate Industries driveway right-in/right-out

**Voted to approve to direct the Traffic Engineer to seek funding in the amount of \$25,000 to hire VHB to conduct the review of the four crossings, develop conceptual design plans, conduct the Diagnostic Team Review for the Quiet Zone Application.**

Adjourned at: 12:46

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Gerlach  
Acting Clerk