

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: DECEMBER 19, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion and the minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. 10th Annual Moody St. 5K

Reid Lyons is requesting permission to hold this event on Sunday, May 3, 2020. The Police Department reviewed and recommended the race be approved. It is estimated there will be 1200-1500 participants; there will be Police presence and some streets will be temporarily closed. **Voted to recommend to the Mayor a permit be issued.**

B. Boston Brain Tumor Ride

Clare Stevens is requesting permission to hold this event on Sunday, May 17, 2020. The Police Department reviewed and recommended the race be approved. It is estimated there will be 800 participants; there will be Police presence and no streets will be closed. **Voted to recommend to the Mayor a permit be issued.**

C. Trapelo Rd. at Our Lady's Church – Crosswalk Options

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this issue be placed on the agenda. Mayor McCarthy attended this meeting and spoke of the increased speeding concerns and the need to have the westerly crosswalk be made more visible. She asked for a second RRFB and consideration for a 'raised table'. (also consideration for a raised table crosswalk at Graverson Field). City Councillor McMenimen agreed that Speeding on Trapelo Road is a major concern. Trapelo Road has developed into a "major thoroughfare". She also favored "raised tabled crosswalks". Ms. Sharon Micco, from Our Lady's Church raised these same concerns. She cited the need for the crosswalk at the rectory (west crosswalk) to have increased visibility. Members Ms. Cagle and Mr. Waddick expressed concerns with two crosswalks located so close together. Consideration should be given to one crosswalk, possibly with a "raised table" and one RRFB which could be relocated. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, review the locations of the crosswalks to one site, with the possibility of moving the existing RRFB and include a possible "raised table". In addition, review Trapelo Road at Graverson Playground for a possible "raised table".**

D. Floyd St. – Restrict Parking on One Side or Make One-Way

Councillors McMenimen and LaCava are supporting this request from Michele Cammisaro. It was stated that due to the narrowness of the street (25 feet wide) parking on both sides of the street is a safety concern. It creates a serious problem for Fire and First Responders to render assistance. The area has seen an increase in transient residents which has changed the quiet residential street and created parking issues. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, recommended a neighborhood meeting to discuss options particularly if a one-way street is to be considered. Member Fire Chief McInnis, stated this is becoming a greater issue in recent years and he is having problems getting through these narrow 25 foot wide streets with parking allowed on both sides. Member Mr. Magno stated all the narrow streets in the entire city should be reviewed. Member Ms. Cagle asked that new reconstructed streets be considered to have a wider travel lane since most houses do not have driveways. Councillor McMenimen, stated she is considering bringing this situation to the attention of the City Council for review of the Zoning rules which is a contributing factor in on street parking of these densely populated areas. **Voted to table and to have the Traffic Engineer set a neighborhood meeting to discuss alternatives, and to separately evaluate all City streets that are 25 feet or less in width.**

E. Lexington St. – Dedicated Bicycle Lane

Councillor Darcy along with other Councillors have submitted a Resolution to investigate creating new dedicated bicycle lanes and restore vehicle travel lanes on Lexington St. Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of a pedestrian and bike path through City controlled property (in a different alignment than what is proposed by the Councillor) and stated this would come under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Most of the construction would be off the public way. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated the creation of a new bicycle facility to connect Trapelo Road and the Wayside Rail Trail would be highly beneficial. He is opposed to reversing the safety benefits of the traffic calming that was approved on Lexington Street for vehicles. Restoring this street to four lanes will encourage higher vehicle speeds and increase frequencies of accidents. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to assist in evaluating whether an off-road bicycle facility can be constructed parallel to Lexington Street between Trapelo Road and the Wayside Rail Trail. Make no changes to the existing Lexington Street pavement markings, to preserve the safety benefits realized from the traffic calming project from 2017.**

F. 260-262 Crescent St. - Blind Person Sign and Audible Detection

Kelly Bemis is requesting signage on Crescent St. and audible detection at Crescent/Prospect/Maple intersection. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated the client is an adult blind male, and a Blind Person sign will have little or no effect on the traffic in this area. He did recommend an audible signal for the intersection of Crescent/Maple/Prospect. **Voted to approve the request for a Audible Pedestrian Signal at the intersection of Crescent/Maple/Prospect Streets. Deny the request to install a “Blind Person” sign on Crescent Street.**

G. Whitney Ave. Private Way – Loading Zone

Jeffrey Vecchio, 1051 Beacon St. # 512 Brookline, MA is requesting a loading zone at the rear half of the building on the left side. At the request of the proponent, Mr. Vecchio, who could not attend this meeting, it was **voted to Table**

H. High School Traffic Report Revision – INFORMATION ONLY

Lorraine Finnegan with SMMA is requesting a revision to the traffic analysis based on current High School enrollment. The revision was the result of the estimated 1,474 students, September 2019 being increased to 1,682. The increased enrollment did not change Mr. Garvin’s conclusions that Bryant Associates assigned too much school traffic (40%) to use Woodcliff Drive/Jacks Way. Bryant Associates is estimating a 22% overall increase in project traffic, and Mr. Garvin had estimated a 35% increase. His recommendation remains unchanged since September. Reservations should boil down to the fact that without a second access drive, a High School at the proposed location will significantly increase traffic on Lexington Street, to a point where it is likely the existing street can not accommodate the increased traffic. Another recommendation is for the architect to reconsider having two traffic signals for the High School (one for entering traffic and one for exiting traffic). From a traffic flow perspective, a single traffic signal will work better.

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. **Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)(11/18)** Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin requested this item be Placed on File. **Voted to place on file**

C. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)

D. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)

- E. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)
- F. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19)(10/19)
- H. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19)
- I. Oakley Lane near Beaver Street – No Parking (10/19)
- J. School St. – Proposed Speed Hump between Lyman St. and Lexington St. (11/19)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report - Receipts are down approximately \$27K over last year

B. Piety Corner – Update – Utility pole meeting with Wires Director Tim Kelly. Conservation Comm. Meeting on Dec. 19th regarding landscaping. Discussion still be made for removal of the remaining debris from house.

C. Bedford St. – Remove 2 Hr. Parking restriction and Loading Zone – Obsolete Rule
The 2-hour parking restrictions and the loading zone are no longer needed. They were implemented for a business that no longer exists. Signs were not replaced and all day parking now exists.

Voted to approve this request and delete the 2-Hour parking and loading zone on Bedford Street

Delete Schedule 1: Bedford St., south side, 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm Exc. Sun & Holi from 75' east of South St. to 50' west of Curtis St.

Delete Schedule 1: Bedford St., south side, 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi from Curtis St. to 100' west of Prospect St.

Delete Schedule 5: Bedford St., south side, in front of # 24

D. Woerd Ave. – Remove 2 Hr. Parking restriction – At the request of the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin it was **voted to delete this restriction on Woerd Avenue.**

Delete in Schedule 1: Woerd Ave., east side, from Rumford Ave. to 200' south of Cove St., 2 Hr. Parking from 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi.

Delete in Schedule 1: Woerd Ave., west side, from 200' south of Cove St. to Riverview Ave., 2 Hr. Parking 7am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holi.

E. Sun St. – Remove 2 Hr. Parking restriction – Old and faded signs are routinely ignored on both sides of the street. The restrictions are obsolete, and the parked cars do not seem to interfere with travel on the street. **Voted to delete these restrictions**

Delete Schedule 1: Sun Street, north side, from Fern St. to Prospect St., No Parking

Delete Schedule 1: Sun Street south side, from 100' east of Prospect St to Fern St., 2 Hour Parking

F. Authority to Traffic Engineer on Special Request – The discussion concerned giving authority to the Traffic Engineer for “last minute” requests that need Traffic Commission approval and allow the Traffic Engineer to make a decision on behalf of the entire Commission. Chief McInnis favored granting authority to the Traffic Engineer, but members Mr. Kelly and Mr. Magno opposed. Ms. Cagle stated all items should be on a Commission agenda. The policy that is in place, now, requires proponents to have a request placed on the monthly agenda. Appropriate notice and review is the standard procedure that should be followed and only the rare exception should be made. The

Chairman or any two members can call a "Special Meeting" when it is necessary. **Voted to inform proponents items must be placed on the monthly agenda.**

Late Filed Items

4A C.I.P. Budget Voted to accept the CIP budget present by the Traffic Engineer

4B: Member Fire Chief McInnis asked for the Traffic Engineer, review City wide, streets that have a minimum of 25 feet in width and consider parking restrictions. Voted

Adj: 11:42AM

Attendance: All members. Mayor Mccarthy, Councillor McMenimen, LaCava
Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

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Date of the Meeting: December 19,2019

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Michele Cammisaro	8-10 Floyd St	Parking	Petitioner
Sharon Micco	Our Lady's Trapelo Road	Crosswalks	Petitioner
Reid Lyons	32 Intervale Rd	Moody St 5K	Petitioner
Kathy McMenimen	147 Trapelo Rd	Floyd St	City Councillor
Joey LaCava	11 Kenwood Terr	Floyd St	City Councillor
Victoria Maffeo	260 Crescent St	Crescent St	Petitioner
Jeannett A. Mccarthy	610 Main St	1C – 1E – 1H	Mayor of Waltham

John S. Allen	7 University Park	Lexington St	Waltham Bicycle Committee
Kelly Bemis	262 Crescent St	Crescent St	Petitioner