

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: MAY 17, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Moody Street at Carter St./Felton St. – Exclusive Pedestrian Phase

Mayor McCarthy is requesting we review the pedestrian phases at this location. Our traffic consultant GPI along with Wires Dept. changed settings in the field, however due to the age of the equipment; additional modifications are required to implement the exclusive pedestrian phase. It was suggested that Ocean State Signal be contacted to undertake the additional work. However, the pedestrian crossing time crossing Carter Street was adjusted by GPI and the Wires Dept. to provide additional clearance time.

Voted to table and have Ocean State Signal conduct timing changes. If changes are possible, conduct a 30 day trial to determine if changes should be made permanent.

B. 1265 Main Street (Border Road) – New Traffic Signal

Attorney Phil McCourt has been instructed by the City Council to receive approval of the signal location. Mr. Kevin Dandrade with TEC was present to discuss the traffic improvements at this location. He stated minor changes were made to the plans dated Jan. 31, 2012 and resubmitted on Feb. 22, 2012. Clarification was needed to verify what the Traffic Commission actually accepted at that time. GPI determined that the former site drive (Tower Road) which provided southbound access to the Stow Street intersection is proposed to be restricted to northbound flow with the exiting traffic being relocated to the proposed Border Road. Due to this relocation of exiting traffic as well as projections of new site traffic, the proposed traffic signal at Main Street and new Border Road is warranted. **Voted to approve the proposed roadway cross-section, lane usage, pavement markings, warning and regulatory signs, traffic signals and conduit, including the installation at the new site driveway as shown on the above referenced plans. The Traffic Commission also voted to still accept the traffic study as originally submitted on January 31, 2012.**

C. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal study

Councillor Waddick is requesting a field and accident study be conducted to determine what if any improvements can be made at this intersection. Councillor Waddick along with numerous residents were present to discuss the ongoing issues with this intersection. Police records show 21 accidents from January 2009 to December 2011, with a few additional ones this year. Councillor Waddick has received consistent reports of motorist racing through the intersection as if no signal is present. He also mentions the possibility that branches are blocking the signal for motorist travelling southbound on Lyman Street or that they are seeing the Main Street traffic signal. The Councillor suggested installing a mast arm with traffic signal or have the red signals with strobe light installed. There is concern for school children crossing to/from McDevitt Jr. High School. The Councillor suggested if traffic accidents continue that the Police Dept. should add a crossing guard at this intersection. Our traffic consultant GPI, and Wires Dept. added a three (3) second delay to this signal weeks before this meeting. They did observe motorist speeding southbound, but that trees did not seem to be an issue. CPW Director Mike Chiasson directed his staff to trim any branches that could be causing any problems. Other residents in attendance spoke on the matter: Ms. Fiona Pilett indicated that the signal delay change has made an improvement with no one running the signal

now. Mr. Richard Caplice suggested to make Lyman St. a school zone since many cars are going 40 MPH and post Lyman St at 25 MPH. Paul Grady indicated that speeding is biggest issue and suggested posting a lower speed limit and have more Police presence. Tom Casey agreed that a crossing guard should be added, post speed limits and add three way stop at Summer/Harris. GPI stated that in the short term a speed study could be done along with adding "signal ahead" signs. A School zone is only allowed where the school fronts the roadway in question, that is not the case for Lyman Street. The installation of a mast arm may be difficult due to right-of-way issues at that location.

Voted to table and direct GPI to further review this intersection and report back to the Commission.

D. Five Guys Burgers & Fries Restaurant – 1030 Main Street (Ford/Bickford site)

Mr. Kevin Dandrade with TEC is requesting acceptance of the Special Permit for this establishment. Attorney Joe Connors was present regarding the request. This establishment will be a middle unit tenant and will not utilize a drive thru window. They used ITE Land Use Code 820 which accounts for restaurant uses such as the proposed restaurant in larger multi-use shopping centers. GPI concurs that this is accurate and acceptable. Additional trip generation analysis and calculations are not required as a result of the proposed restaurant occupying the site. Nothing has changed since the original traffic study for the entire development was submitted except for a small change at Banks Square to use hardwire rather than wireless for traffic signal. Our traffic consultant GPI has reviewed and approved the signal item list as shown on the drawings. There is some concern with NStar utility pole locations; the Wires Dept. has met with them to resolve the issues. **Voted to accept the traffic study and approve the off-site improvements, pavement markings, warning and regulatory signage and traffic signal work.**

E. Children's Hospital Boston at Waltham – Proposed Special Permit

Children's Hospital is requesting discussions with our traffic consultant and staff. Attorney Robert Connors was present and mentioned that as of today their new name is Boston Children Hospital (BCH). Traffic Engineer Sean Manning from VHB representing BCH discussed the 10 year Master Plan for this location. They will be removing 90,000 square feet and replacing with 200,000 square feet. They will create a better drop-off area for shuttle buses, wheelchairs, etc. The new building will have its own driveway and entrance off Highland Street. Our traffic consultant GPI mentioned that plans for a traffic signal for South/Highland Streets have been submitted by another developer per their Special Permit requirements, but they will not operate properly without roadway widening for southbound traffic. **Voted to table and allow petitioner to speak with our traffic engineering staff regarding this project. It is hoped that our new Traffic Engineer will be working by July 1st.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Barbara Rd./ Chaffee Ave. – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/09)
- B. #306 Lexington St. – Driveway Opening (4/10)
- C. Lincoln St. at Sanderson Rd./Curve St. – Traffic Improvements (6/10)

D. Connors Pool # 148 Newton St. – Proposed revision to vehicle access to site (6/10)

Ms. Cordelia Daloson representing GMI Architects was present to discuss our past concerns regarding delivery of the chlorine. There will be 1-2 deliveries per season with the first delivery coming prior to the opening. AquaPure will be the vendor and a DCR

person will be on-site during these deliveries. They will pull into adjacent site and meet with DCR employee before unloading. There will be double doors to the storage filter which is using a ultra-violet system They anticipate 450 people using the facility from 11:30 am - 6:30 pm, with parking for 15 vehicles allowed on-site. Additional parking will be available at Sacred Heart Church across the street. They are expecting a June 23 opening date. Our traffic consultant GPI still has concerns with traffic for this project. We had asked previously how much traffic will the site generate; signal queuing; site drive impact to the traffic signal; pedestrian safety for persons crossing intersection from church lot to pool property. Ms. Daloson could not answer those questions related to traffic, but was advised to relay our concerns to the proper people and have that information available to the Traffic Commission. **Voted to re-table until comments have been addressed.**

- E. 110 Bear Hill Road – Proposed Development (11/10)
- F. Traffic Commission Policy – Revised Petition Policy (11/10) Law Dept. Opinion Received
- G. Four-Way Stop Review (11/10) – Law Dept. Opinion Received
- H. Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement Procedure – (2/11)
- I. Required Parking Spaces (2/11) – Review of Law Dept. Opinion Received
- J. South Street at Highland Street – Proposed Traffic Signal (3/11)(4/12)
- K. Ellison Park & Summer Street Area – Traffic Calming (Sp. 3/11)(6/11)
- L. Albemarle Road – Pedestrian Safety (4/11)
- M. 831 Main Street – Proposed Development (6/11)
- N. Smith Street at Trapelo Road – Change in Lane Use (9/11)(11/11)
- O. Relocation of Sign and Paint Division (9/11)
- P. Princeton Ave. – Speed Limit/Speed Hump (12/11)

- Q. 275 Wyman St. – Proposed Development (1/12) Member Tom Magno who voted in the affirmative to reconsider the vote in Jan. 2012. Vote approved to have no further discussion regarding the Zone Change for 275 Wyman Street. Also voted and approved to withdraw this item from the agenda per petitioners request.**

- R. Forest St. at Harrington Rd. – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Signal (1/12) Write letter to Bentley University. GPI to review & study
- S. 475 Winter St. – Traffic Issues (3/12)
- T. High St. at Newton St. – Traffic Signal Changes (3/12)
- U. Crescent St. at Orange St. – No Parking Issue (3/12)

- V. Upton Rd. at Trapelo Rd. – Reconsider Turn Restriction (3/12)(4/12)** Our traffic consultant GPI changed the signal timings at Trapelo Rd./Waverley Oaks Rd. which has shown improvement with the traffic flow on Trapelo Road. The Wires Dept. still needs to cut loops and will do this when Trapelo Road has been repaved. GPI recommends the existing turn restriction signs remain even though the signals are working better to eliminate cut through traffic in the neighborhood. **Voted to approve new timings and keep turn restrictions.**

- W. Yearly Merchant Sticker (3/12)(4/12)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – Meter collections are up \$5,138 from the same time last year.

- B. Pay Stations - Form sub-committee – New sub-committee was chosen to determine whether to stay with Pay-by-Space or switch to Pay & Display Pay Stations. Sub Committee is Tom Magno (Chair), Mike Chiasson and Chief LaCroix.
- C. Traffic Engineer position – Candidates interviewed on May 10th. A candidate was chosen and a final background check is being completed before submitting name onto City Council for approval.
- D. Traffic Consultant – Funding - We currently have \$5,000 remaining until July 1st at which time our funding will end.
- E. Traffic Impact Accounts – Request unused money for various traffic improvements. Member Tim Kelly had some intersections that he could use funding for which include: Main/Lyman, School/Bacon and Prospect/Russell. **Voted to have Traffic Engineering proceed with checking into all Traffic Impact Accounts to determine what money can be used for projects or to purchase equipment.**
- F. MassDOT Pedestrian Crossing submittals for Lowell/Brown Sts. and Bacon/Plympton/Athletic Field - Information only. GPI submitted drawings and quantities as required by MassDOT for 2 of the 3 intersections that MassDOT identified. Not included is South/Highland where a future traffic signal may be installed.
- G. Forest Street at Trapelo Road – Update. GPI anticipates borings will be done next week with plans and specifications ready by mid-July.
- H. Maple Street at Adams Street – Opticom Work. Member Tim Kelly states the signal is working but not working properly. Wires Dept. needs Republic Electric to come out and fix the Opticom since all 4 approaches freeze rather than just 2 approaches.
- I. Totten Pond Rd./Lexington St./Bacon St. reflective lane markings – no update at this time.
- J. Main Street at Lyman./Heard Sts. Signal Issues. Still needing funding to fix the signal.
- K. Winter Street Bridge Punch List – Member Tim Kelly stated the permanent power has not been connected yet and Second Avenue green light is not working properly.
- L. Totten Pond Road Ice Rink Pedestrian Signal – Update. All work has now been completed and everything is in working order.

4. LATE FILED ITEMS:

- A. Riverfest 2012 – Ms. Sarah Hankins was present representing the Riverfest Planning Board. On Saturday, June 16th from 12-6 pm they are anticipating four (4) food trucks at this event. The Board is seeking permission to have this trucks park in the parking spaces on the west side of Moody Street from # 240 to # 210. They request that these spaces be reserved from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm on Saturday, June 16th. They state that the sidewalks will not be blocked and that each unit is self-contained and will not need electrical power. Traffic Commission request that they work with Sgt. Gallant in Police Dept. and Deputy Richardson in Fire Dept. The Fire Dept. will also need to know if they will be using propane tanks over 42 lbs. **Voted to approve this request.**

Attendance: All members present except Commission Clerk Mr. Lombardo (vacation).
 Mr. Diaz, GPI; Councillor Robert Waddick (1C); Attorneys Robert Connors (1E) and Joe Connors (1D); Mr. Kevin Dandrade (1B & 1D); Ms. Sarah Hankins (4A); Ms. Cordelia Daloson (2D); Mr. Sean Manning (1E) and Ms. Fiona Pilett, Mr. Richard Caplice, Mr. Paul Grady and Mr. Tom Casey (1C).

Adjourned at 11: 10 AM

Acting Clerk
 Lisa Gerlach

**Off Committee Speakers
 Waltham Traffic Commission**

Name of Speaker	# Street, City	Affiliation, i.e. Attorney Abutter, Interested Party, Petitioner	For/Against Item No.
Sarah Hankins	103 Seminole Ave.	Downtown Waltham Partnership	4A
Bob Connors	6 Lexington St.	Children's Hospital	1E
Fiona Pilett	62 Lyman St.	Resident	1C
Sean Manning	99 High St., Boston	VHB-Children's Hospital	1E
Kevin Dandrade	65 Glenn St., Lawrence	TEC	1B & 1D
Joe Connors	404 Main St.	Waltham Ventures	1D
Cordelia Daloson		GMI Architects	2D
Richard Caplice	90 Lyman St.	Resident	1C
Paul Grady	84 Lyman St.	Resident	1C
Tom Casey	115 Ellison Park	Resident	1C
Sue Clark	56 Harris St.	Resident	1C
Robert Waddick	129 Church St.	Councillor	1C