

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**Held: THURSDAY JULY 16, 2020 @ 10:00 AM**  
**Held at Government Center 119 School Street in the Arthur Clark Auditorium**

**Chairperson, Chief Keith MacPherson, has called a Special Meeting of the Traffic Commission to discuss the following:**

**A: New High School Traffic Signal** - The architects for the new high school on Lexington Street have requested a special meeting for a decision that cannot wait until September. The designer presented several design options, and is looking for guidance from Traffic Commission for the preferred option. A final design will then be completed and presented for approval at a future date.

Ms. Lorraine Finnegan, Architect from SMMA and Mr. Todd Brayton, Traffic Consultant from Bryant Associates for the new high school presented two options for installation of a traffic signal at the entrance/exit located at 554 Lexington Street.

**Option One – Two Signals:** There will be two driveways, a north driveway and a south driveway. The north driveway, the location of the Stigmatine's driveway, is proposed to be aligned with Stanley Road. The south driveway will be located about 150 feet south of the north driveway. The north driveway will be an "Enter Only" controlled by a traffic signal. Exit vehicles must turn left (northbound) onto Lexington Street. The south driveway, controlled by a traffic signal, will be "Exit Only" and vehicles must turn right (southbound) onto Lexington Street. The critical time, the AM peak hour, overlaps commuter peak hour on Lexington Street. The PM peak hour for the school is well before the PM commuter peak hour.

**Option Two – One Signal:** The same design plan, except the south driveway would have a "Yield or a Stop Sign".

Two Signals      Level of Service  
**Lexington St. NB    LOS- B**  
**Lexington St. SB    LOS-E**

Single Signal Level of Service  
**Lexington St. NB LOS-C**  
**Lexington St. SB    LOS-D**

Also, under Option One (Two Signals) the Level of Service exiting the High School is expected to be LOS-E. The close proximity of two signals may have a spillover effect that may block the upstream intersection. A single signal (Option Two) will operate with better ques.

Between the two options, Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended the single signal (Option Two) operation at the north driveway. The south driveway will be wide so that emergency vehicles could gain entry to the school property.

Fire Chief MacInnis stated he prefers a signal at the south driveway with a right turn only green arrow and supported the single traffic signal option at the north driveway. Police Chief MacPherson expressed concern with the two lanes exiting the high school turning left onto Lexington Street. Mr. Kelly stated a single controller could be used for a two signal operation. Mr. Magno stated the "Access Road" located at the present high school must be open. Mr. Waddick spoke of Police Officers doing traffic duty when necessary. Some of the residents in attendance, stated there was improper notification for the Special Meeting, resulting in poor attendance. The meeting was posted by the City Clerk's Office on July 7, 2020. In addition, it was posted on the City Web Site under the "Daily Calendar" section. Member City Clerk, Mr. Waddick stated notification explained proper notification

and posting was appropriate. **However, in the interest of transparency, the Commission voted Five to One (Fire Chief MacInnis) to table and hold a second Special Meeting for this item on Tuesday August 4, 2020 at 10:00AM. It will be a Zoom Meeting.**

**B: Waltham Farmers' Market** – Mike Rudnick requested to relocate the Waltham Farmers' Market to the small surface lot in the Embassy Parking Facility located behind 200-230 Moody Street. If approved, the Market would run from Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, October 31. Mr. Rudnick and Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of this request. The Market is presently located at Government Center on School Street and is heavily restricted in part due to the pandemic. They have requested the following:

1. Approve use of the open surface parking lot on the western end of the Embassy Parking Facility, each Saturday between 7:30am and 3:30pm for the exclusive use of the Waltham Farmers' Market.
2. Approve the blocking of the stairway from the ramp leading from the Embassy Pocket Park to the surface parking lot.
3. Approve the blocking of the northern exit from underneath the Embassy Parking Deck, while leaving the southern exit open, for left turn exits only.
4. Approve oversize vendor vehicles to access the Farmers' Market area by driving down the wrong way along the egress drive to the lot, in the early morning hours only.
5. Approve free parking for 25 market vendor vehicles on the upper level of the Embassy Parking Deck only, and 2 market vehicles in the surface parking lot area accessible by Cooper Street.
6. Approve the placement of one port-a-potty in one of the numbered parking spaces in the Farmers' Market area (to remain in place until October 31).
7. Approve the placement of an equipment shed in two numbered spaces in the lower level of the Embassy Parking Deck (to remain in place until October 31).

**Voted to approve the Farmers' Market relocation to the Embassy Parking Facility surface lot, behind 200-230 Moody Street, and all seven of the requests listed above. The free parking for market vendor vehicles must display approved placards and park only on the Upper level of the Parking Deck.**

**C: Van Pool Parking – Downtown Moody Street**

Ms. Sirenas Ramirez requested permission to park a van on Moody Street (blocked area for dining) to recruit drivers for their vans that serve special needs children in the Waltham Area. She requested a spot on the west side of Moody Street at Spruce Street. T.E. Mr. Garvin recommended the local restaurant owner be contacted for permission. Fire Chief MacInnis objected to the proposal because the closure is for "outdoor dining" due to the pandemic. Councillor Harris also expressed concerns that this request was inappropriate.

**Voted to Place on File and have the petitioner seek permission from restaurant owner.**

Attendance: All members except Ms. Cagle. Mayor McCarthy, and Councillors Harris and Dunn. Lorraine Finnegan, SMMA and Todd Brayton, Bryant Associates.  
Adjourned @ 11:43 AM

Respectfully Submitted  
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk