

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Held: Thursday September 24, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

The Traffic Commission meeting via Zoom was limited to the following:

- 1: Whether to extend the ending date of November 1, 2020
- 2: Plans needed for winter weather (snow plowing and/or snow removal)
- 3: Future of Moody Street

Mayor McCarthy was first to speak in favor of continuing the closure of Moody Street until December 1. She said that she would arrange a meeting of all the merchants on both Main and Moody Street to discuss the possibility of a permanent closure. In addition, consideration for the use of golf carts to transport patrons from the parking lot to their destination along the route will be discussed. Councillors Cathyann Harris and Jonathan Paz also supported closing Moody Street to December 1.

There were 67 attendees and most spoke in favor to continuing the closure. One merchant spoke of the problems with trucks unloading their supplies; another spoke of the inconvenience to senior citizens and two merchants spoke of loss of business. One spoke of a concern with handicapped patrons.

Member Mr. Chiasson expressed his concerns for snow plowing and the need for cooperation from the merchants. Members Fire Chief MacInnis and Wires Inspector Mr. Kelly spoke of the equipment being used to heat patrons, while they are dining. The use of propane has strict requirements (requires a permit from the Fire Department), such as not to be operated under a tent, and the tanks must be stored in a secure location; not inside the front door of the restaurant. Electric heaters require a permit from the Wires Department and the use of heavy commercial electrical cords and separate circuit breaker is mandatory.

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin summarized the closure affects 85 businesses, has eliminated 60 on street parking spaces, re-routed the MBTA buses, and temporarily made Chestnut Street and Walnut Street two-way. Chief MacPherson, spoke of the dangers to keep changing these streets from one-way to two-way. Mr. Garvin further stated there is a need to have a plan in place for a minor snow fall as well and a major storm. A contact in CPW's office (Mr. Chiasson) is needed.

Voted to continue the Moody Street closure until December 1, 2020 and table. Mr. Chiasson, Director of CPW will work with the merchants and compile a plan for snow plowing. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin will review the possibility of having Chestnut Street and Walnut Street made two-way permanently.

Adjourned@ 11:48 AM

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk