

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 16, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Milestones, 410 Totten Pond Road – Directional Signage

Ms. Doreen Colegrove, Assistant to Executive Director is requesting directional signage to their school. **The request was approved for three (3) signs** which will be purchased by Milestones and installed by the City at the following locations: Winter St. exiting Rt.128 NB; Winter St. exiting Rt.128 SB, and Lexington Street at Totten Pond Road.

B. 831 Main Street – Proposed Development

Attorney Richard Dacey is seeking approval to meet with our traffic consultant and staff on the proposed development. **Voted to approve Attorney Dacey and his client Mr. Stephen Hixson to meet with GPI to discuss a Special Permit for a fast food restaurant at this location. Place on Table.**

C. 850 & 920 Winter Street – Proposed Development

Attorney Michael Connors is seeking approval to meet with our traffic consultant and staff on the proposed development. **Voted to approve this request and have GPI discuss with Attorney Connors a development at 850 – 920 Winter Street. Place on Table.**

D. Grove Street at Gore Street – Proposed Traffic Signal

Joseph & Karen Linitz, 16 Gilbert Street are requesting a traffic signal at this location. They feel the existing four (4) way Stop is not adequate at this location. The 4-way Stop was installed in November 1987 due to the heavy traffic conditions that existed from Raytheon and Standard Thompson; both companies are no longer at this location. A three year accident history shows one accident in 2008; two in 2009; one in 2010 and one in 2011. This history indicates that the four-way intersection appears to be working. A site visit indicates that the Stop line and legends are faded and should be repainted. There are some hedges on the corners that need to cut back. **It was voted to deny this request. The Stop lines and legends will be repainted and the Building Dept. will be requested to notify the property owners to clear the hedges. In addition, GPI will conduct traffic counts to determine if a full signal or red flashing light should be installed.**

E. Oak Street – One Way

Councilor Robert Logan has submitted signatures from residents requesting this be made one way from Cedar Street to Newton Street. Approximately 65% of the residents signed this petition to have Oak Street made one-way westbound. The street is 21 feet wide with overnight and daytime parking limited to the south side. **Voted to approve this request and add to Schedule #2 One-Way Streets the following:**

Schedule #2 One-Way Streets

Oak Street, westbound from Cedar Street to Newton Street.

F. Revise Rules & Regulation

Traffic Engineering is requesting that Article 1 – Section 11 Penalty be modified. In March 2009, the Commission voted and approved increasing fines for violations other than parking to a maximum of \$300. Due to an oversight, Article 1, Section 11 Penalty a sentence was not changed. **Voted to amend this section.**

G. 266 & 275 Second Avenue – Revise Pedestrian Signal

Mr. Paul Joyce with AstraZeneca is requesting that the existing push-button pedestrian blinking yellow signal (approved in October 1997 & ownership accepted by the City in 2005) be revised to a rapid strobe flashing red. There parking facility is located across the street at 275 Second Avenue. This change would require full traffic study to determine if a “fully” actuated signal is warranted. As a viable alternative that would enhance motorists’ awareness of pedestrians in the crosswalk, AstraZeneca agreed to seek installation of a hi-intensity “rapid – flashing” yellow. **Voted to approve the “rapid–strobe flashing yellow” alternative.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

A. Barbara Rd./ Chaffee Ave. – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/09)

B. Brookfield Rd. at Upton Rd. – Stop Sign (2/10) Voted to remove from Table

Ms. Gerlach reported the following to be done;

1: Crosswalk on Waverley Oaks Rd @ Wilson Road – to be repainted

2: Parkview Rd. / Upton Rd – a supplemental Stop sign will be installed

3: Children playing symbols will be painted on the street area of #95 Upton; Upton @ Trapelo; Brookfield @ Waverley Oaks Rd; 2 at Upton & Shirley

4: Upton Rd @ Parkview Rd. – Paint a Stop Line

The following items were tabled for further review;

1: Parking regulations on Upton Road

2: Stop Sign on Upton at Brookfield (traffic counts)

3: Westbound Trapelo Road @ Waverley Oaks Road – amend and remove red arrow; allow left turns after the exclusive left turn arrow is off, but must yield to through eastbound Trapelo Road traffic. (GPI to review)

4: NO Left Turn from Upton Road onto Trapelo Road – traffic counts needed

Voted to re-table

C. #306 Lexington St. – Driveway Opening (4/10)

D. Lincoln St. at Sanderson Rd./Curve St. – Traffic Improvements (6/10)

E. Spruce St. Parking Lot – Stone Wall (6/10) – Voted to remove from Table

\$4,000. is needed to repair the wall. **Traffic Engineering is seeking funding.**

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

G. Zone Change Request – Change in Policy (6/10)

H. 200 Moody Street – Proposed Development (9/10) Voted to remove from Table

Attorney Joseph Connors and Mr. Brian Beisel (Connolly Asso.) addressed the Commission concerning this development. GPI reviewed the proposal from May 25, 2011 and it addressed the analysis of the signalized intersections as well as the Saturday traffic data and analysis. Based on the updated it was **voted to accept the Traffic Impact Report and forward the recommendations to the Council for their deliberations.**

I. Traffic Commission Policies (9/10)

J. 110 Bear Hill Road – Proposed Development (11/10)

K. Traffic Commission Policy – Revised Petition Policy (11/10) – In Law Dept.

L. Four-Way Stop Review (11/10) – In Law Dept.

M. Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement Procedure – Letter to Law Dept. (2/11)

N. Required Parking Spaces (2/11) – Review Law Dept. Opinion

- O. South Street at Highland Street – Proposed Traffic Signal (3/11)
- P. **Ellison Pk & Summer St. Area – Traffic Calming (Sp. 3/11) Voted to remove from Table**
Councilor Waddick and several residents attended and spoke about the proposals that GPI had made at a neighborhood meeting on June 8. Councilor Waddick, concurred that there was significant opposition to the proposed one-way pattern presented. The proposal to widen Summer Street (move the sidewalk back five (5) feet on the north side was positive because this could allow for on-street overnight parking. The “bump-out” at the corners and the possibility of a “raised” intersections received positive support. Mr. Casey, resident, stated that enforcement alone by the police, is not working. Other calming measures are needed. Mr. Passaretti, resident, agreed with Mr. Casey that additional measures are needed because the Police can not be there all the time. Mr. McCarthy, resident, was concerned that a “raised” island intersection will have detrimental affect to the historic value of the neighborhood. Member Mr. Vokey, concluded that lack of support for a one-way pattern was not an option that the Commission should consider. Garden Crest Apts. should be contacted for an opinion on widening Summer Street. Chief Cardillo stated that he favored the “bump-outs”. It was voted to seek engineering design and funding for construction at the following locations:

- A: Ellison Pk @ Ellison Pk (mid-section)
- B: Ellison Pk @ Ellison Pk (east-section)
- C: Ellison Pk @ Ellison Pk (north-section)

This item was re-tabled with the above recommendation.

- Q. Albemarle Road – Pedestrian Safety (4/11)
- R. 468 Main Street – Proposed Development (5/11)
- S. 110 Lexington Street – Proposed Development (5/11)
- T. **475 Winter Street – Proposed Development (5/11) Voted to remove from Table**
Attorney McCourt appeared on behalf of the proponent. Mr. John Noyes, GPI, stated that all concerns have been addressed. The reconfiguration of the parking is helpful to the Fire Department but based on the study the midday demand does not have adequate parking. Patrons currently use the access road and the proponent should continue to work with the land owner and the Cities of Waltham and Cambridge to explore potential areas that will address the parking demand. The Winter Street corridor and nearby intersections have been, or are in the process of being upgraded to improve safety and capacity. It is therefore not expected that this project will significantly impact the surrounding roadways and/or intersections. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact Report and forward the recommendations to the Council for their deliberations.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – revenues continue to rise
- B. Forest Street at Trapelo Road – Update – RFP hopefully Spring 2012
- C. 36 River Street – Additional information requested by Board of Survey – **Information only**
- D. Traffic Engineer name change approved by City Council. **Need to proceed with advertising position.**
- E. Part-Time cleaning position for two parking garages. **Need to proceed with advertising position.**

- F: ZBA has requested a traffic impact opinion regarding the possible effects on traffic if a Church Group moves into the Moose Lodge on 17 Spruce Street. **Voted to have GPI respond as soon as possible.**

The following is Mr. Diaz's, our consultant, response:

"June 21, 2011
City of Waltham Traffic Commission
155 Lexington Street
Waltham, MA 02451
SUBJECT: 17 Spruce Street

Dear Commission:

In response to the request by the Zoning Board of Appeals, GPI has reviewed the conversion of the existing Moose Lodge at 17 Spruce Street to a Church (New River Church). Unfortunately there is no standardized information available through the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) on land uses similar to the Moose Lodge that relate to traffic demand or parking demand. There is a land use for a Lodge but the data is based on the number of employees and/or members, not square footage. In addition, it is only one site in California with 3,200 members, 246 parking spaces, with a clubhouse, 3 dining rooms, 2 bars, swimming pool, tennis courts, etc. and is not comparable to the current site in Waltham.

Intuitively it is expected that the lodge use and church use would have similar trip generation and parking characteristics as the lodge likely hosted events (dances, private parties, etc.) and was capable of accommodating similar size groups as would be expected from the church.

However, if the City has reservations about the potential impact of changing from the lodge to a church use, they may wish to have the proponent provide an analysis of the potential parking impacts.

John W. Diaz, P.E., P.T.O.E. Vice President/Director of Traffic Engineering"

G: 4th of July Fireworks Street Closing and Parking Restrictions

Mr. Bernard Mullin, Chairman Fourth of July celebration requests approval of parking and street closures for this annual event. **Voted to approve.**

Attendance: All members present; Mr. James Noyes (G.P.I.) Consultant.
Adjourned @ 11:05 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: June 16, 2011

Please Print

Name of Speaker	# Street, City	Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party – Petitioner	For/Against Item No:
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St	Councilor Ward 9	1E Oak St
Tom Casey	115 Ellison Pk.	Resident	2P Ellison Pk. Summer St
Vincent Passaretti	50 Pleasant St	Resident	2P Ellison Pk. Summer St
Robert Waddick	129 Church St	Councilor ward 6	2P Ellison Pk. Summer St
Richard Dacey	707 Main St	Attorney	1B - 831 Main St
Robert C. Connors	6 Lexington St	Attorney	1C 850 – 920 Winter St
Paul Joyce	266 Second Ave	Petitioner	1G 266 – 275 Second Ave
Brian Conray	266 Second Ave	Petitioner	1G 266 – 275 Second Ave
Mary T. Early (SWNA)	21 Flood St	Neighborhood Representative	1E Oak St
Wayne Mccarthy	28 Ellison Pk.	resident	2P Ellison Pk. Summer St
Joe Connors	404 Main St	Attorney	2H – 200 Moody Street
Brian Biesel	Conley Asso.	Traffic Consultant	2H – 200 Moody Street
Philip McCourt	15 Church St	Attorney	2T – 475 Winter Street
Jeffrey Heidelberg	366 Winter St	Representative for Boloco Restaurant	2T – 475 Winter Street
Ron Muller	56 Teresa Rd Hopkinton	Representative for Boloco Restaurant	2T – 475 Winter Street