

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Proposed 5K Road Race - National Brain Tumor Society

Ms. Aly Morrissey, # 5 Woodworth St., Unit 3, Dorchester, MA is requesting permission to hold a 5K Road Race on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM. The race will start at 411 Waverley Oaks Road Athletic Club (Rt.60), and proceed eastbound to Linden Street turning right onto Linden Street, north to Beaver Street, turning right, turning left onto Waverley Oaks Road and end at #411 Waverley Oaks Road. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 100 – 200 runners. Auxiliary Police will be requested to assist so that no street closings will be necessary. In addition, Ms. Morrissey will work with Lt. Brooks, Police Department, with further details. **Voted to approve and recommend that the Mayor issue a Road Race Permit.**

B. Proposed 5 Mile Road Race – Old Colony Running

Mr. John Childs is requesting permission to hold a 5 Mile Road Race on Saturday, October 20, 2012. The race will start at Waltham Woods, and circle the reservoir (Winter Street, Old Colony, Trapelo Road, Wyman Street back onto Winter Street. It is anticipated that there could be 500 runners. Permission will be needed from the Town of Lincoln, and possibly representatives of the Cambridge Watershed. Waltham Auxiliary Police will be requested. Mr. Childs will work with Lt. Brooks of the Police Department with traffic related issues. **Voted to approve and recommend that the Mayor issue a Road Race Permit.**

C. Proposed 2nd Annual Moody Street 5K Road Race – Benefits Waltham Schools

Ms. Colette Casey-Brenner is requesting permission to hold their 2nd Annual 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 12 Noon. The race will stage at the River Walk (DCR Landry Park) Moody Street and proceed south to Crescent Street (south junction) turning right onto Crescent St, left onto Woerd Ave, around Riverview Ave and back onto Woerd Ave; left onto Crescent Street; left onto Prospect Street and right onto the Riverwalk and return to the staging area at Landry Park Moody Street. Last year there were minor problems due to Brandeis University Graduation on the same day. This year's race will not interfere with that event. Lt. Brooks of the Police Department will work to coordinate public safety issues. **Voted to approve and recommend that the Mayor issue a Road Race Permit.**

D. Crescent Street at Spruce Street – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Ms. Sharon Peled, # 85 Crescent St. is requesting a pedestrian crosswalk at this location. This location is a School Bus Stop where a large number of children cross. The area has existing ramps and street lighting. However, one location the northbound approach of Adams Street at Spruce will need a HP ramp. **The Commission voted to have five crosswalks painted (two on Adams Street , (one at Spruce, 1 at Crescent); 2 on Spruce Street (1 at Adams St. & 1 at Crescent St.); one on Crescent Street at Spruce Street) at this intersection.**

E. Pavement Markings – City Wide

Ms. Shari Herman is concerned with pavement markings not being repainted in the city, especially the crosswalks. Ms. Gerlach explained that the Schools receive priority for crosswalks, (Mr. Chiasson concurred); the Sign and Paint Division consists of a two man crew. There is a need for increased painting. Mr. Magno suggested to seek funding through the Capital Improvement Program, and outsource the painting to 'catch-up'. Further, a management program should be enacted; a project for the new Traffic Engineer. **Voted to send a letter of explanation to Ms. Herman and seek funding for "out-source" work with C.I.P. money .**

F. Main Street at Lyman Street – Traffic Signal issue

Commission member Tom Magno requested this traffic signal be checked. GPI Mr. Diaz (our consultant) explained that when there is a electrical “outage” the signals are effected and do not “reset” properly. Observation, showed that this is an equipment problem. Mr. Diaz will work with the Wires Department and consider alternatives, such as a battery backup. **Referred to Wires Department**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Barbara Rd./ Chaffee Ave. – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/09)
- B. Brookfield Rd. at Upton Rd. – Stop Sign (2/10)
- C. #306 Lexington St. – Driveway Opening (4/10)
- D. Lincoln St. at Sanderson Rd./Curve St. – Traffic Improvements (6/10)
- E. Connors Pool # 148 Newton St. – Proposed revision to vehicle access to site (6/10)
- F. Zone Change Request – Change in Policy (6/10)
- G. Traffic Commission Policies (9/10)
- H. 110 Bear Hill Road – Proposed Development (11/10)
- I. Traffic Commission Policy – Revised Petition Policy (11/10) Law Dept. Opinion received
- J. Four-Way Stop Review (11/10) – In Law Dept.
- K. Review of Overnight Parking Enforcement Procedure – (2/11)
- L. Required Parking Spaces (2/11) – Review of Law Dept. Opinion Received
- N. Ellison Park & Summer Street Area – Traffic Calming (Sp. 3/11)
- O. Albemarle Road – Pedestrian Safety (4/11)
- P. 831 Main Street – Proposed Development (6/11)
- Q. 850 & 920 Winter Street – Proposed Development (6/11)
- W. Relocation of Sign and Paint Division (9/11)
- X. Plympton Street at Hammond Street – Four-Way Stop (9/11)
- Z. 511 Totten Pond Road – Proposed Traffic Study (10/11)

Items 2 M thru R through 2V, and 2Y were voted removed from the table for further action

M South Street at Highland Street – Proposed Traffic Signal (3/11)

GPI Consultant Mr. John Diaz reported on the Design Reviewed technical memorandum dated August 17, 2011 and the preliminary design of August 2011 rev October 2011. (Sheet4) The mast arm foundations are to be designed in accordance with new MassDOT guidelines. The design engineers should specify the type of arm (light, medium, heavy) based on signal loading. The base must maintain the necessary ADA clearances and the pedestrian push button location must be in compliance ADA requirements. The City should consider reconstruction of the sidewalks and utilization of the City's land so that the roadway could be reconfigured to provide a designated southbound left turn lane. **It is recommended the City consider accepting the design plan as mitigation, and strongly consider a full reconstruction of the intersection. Voted to accept this recommendation.**

R. Warren Street – Truck Restriction (9/11)

GPI reported on their review of traffic operations and conditions on Warren Street from Main Street to Beaver Street that occurred on October 4 &5. The review showed a spike in heavy trucks (14%) between the hours of 4:00 – 5:00 AM. The truck volume at other times was less than 4.5% and would not meet the warrants for a restriction. It was recommended that additional data is needed to determine if the increased volume (14%) was a random occurrence or a regular occurrence. If it is regular occurrence, than a restriction of 7:00 pm to 7:00 am may be warranted. Through Member Mr. Malone, Councilor Curtin requested the additional study. **Voted to seek the additional data and tabled this request.**

S. Smith Street at Trapelo Road – Change in Lane Use (9/11)

GPI reviewed roadway operations for eastbound Trapelo Road traffic at Smith Street. The road has an exclusive left turn lane and two general purpose lanes that merge to a single lane east of the intersection. Reducing to a single through lane and making the right lane a right turn only, would create significantly longer queues and potentially impact the Route 128 NB interchange. A preliminary review of the traffic operations indicates that converting to a dedicated eastbound right turn lane could result in decreased levels of service. Councilor Tarallo, through Commission member Mr. Malone, requested a trial period. Member Mr. Chiasson requested accident data before voting on this item. **Voted to table and seek additional information.**

T. Beaver Street between 784 & 796 – Left Turn Restriction (9/11)

After discussions with the CFO of the Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School it was discovered that the school recently purchased the property at 379 Lexington Street for use as a student center and drop off/pick up location. The school plans to have the facility operational by September 2012. **It was voted to deny the request to prohibit left turns in the driveway at 784-796 Beaver Street.**

U. Trapelo Road near Waverley Oaks Road – Speed and Curve Signs (9/11)

GPI reported that the horizontal curve through this area is approximately 800' which is suitable for a design speed of 40 mph. The legal posted speed through the curve is 35 mph, therefore an advisory speed is not required or recommended. The double yellow line is offset in the area between Manning Road and Upton Road to approximately 12 feet. It is recommended that an 8' parking lane be stripped with a gored transition area from Manning Road to Upton Road to better define the parking and create a narrower eastbound travel lane to reduce speeds. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

V. 1265 Main Street – Redevelopment of Polaroid Site (9/11)

GPI generated a series of minor comments and TEC responded that the concerns will be incorporated into the final construction plans. The proposed improvements along Main Street will require some parking adjustments. Other improvements will be at the following locations and include lane markings, installation of signal conduit beneath the sidewalk; provide time-space diagram plans for signal coordination, along Main Street, Route 117. The following intersections will be included:

A: Main Street at Jones Road

B: Main St. at Bear Hill Road . . provide new countdown pedestrian signal heads

C: Main St. (Rt.117) at Stow St. provide payment markings to the east;

D: Main St. at Hill Road/Cutting Lane . .provide a wheelchair ramp on the east side

E: Main St. at Border Road (New Traffic Signals)

F: Painting Parking Stalls 150' east of new Border Road to Sheridan Road

Voted to accept GPI's review and recommendations.

Amend Schedule 1 Parking as follows:

Main Street, north side, from Hill Road to 300'west of Jones Road; No Parking

Main Street, south side from 475' east of Cutting Lane to 300' west of Jones Road; No Parking

Y. 193 Hammond Street – Limited Handicap Parking Space (10/11)

The request is to provide adequate access for transportation to and from needed appointments. Hammond Street in this area, does not have approved All Night Parking. A letter of support has

been filed by Mr. Mark Johnson, Chairperson of Waltham Disability Services Commission for a 90 day trial period 8am through 8pm. **The Commission voted to approve a 90-day trial period.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report . . . October receipts were down from September; total annual collections may be lower than last year; some complaints concerning the fees for the Library minimum \$.50, have been received.
- B. Traffic Engineer job postings – Approved Subcommittee . . Chief LaCroix appointed a Subcommittee consisting of Mr. Malone (Commission Member), Mr. Chiasson (Commission member), Ms. Gerlach (Assistant to Traffic Engineer), GPI Mr. Diaz (GPI Consultant), Ms. Kristin Murphy (Director of Personnel) and Mr. Magno (Commission member) named Subcommittee Chairman; this committee will meet and review the applications. A report will be made to the full Commission and a recommendation for interviews as soon as possible.
- C. Part-Time cleaning position for two parking garages – Update – re-posted
- D. Ice Rink Pedestrian Signal – Update – installation is in final stages
- E. Graverson Playground Pedestrian Signal – Update – completion expected shortly (2-3 weeks)
- F. Winter Street Bridge – Update – GPI addressed signal concerns (tweaks) to MassDOT; GPI will continue to monitor
- G. Traffic Consultant Funding – Project Priorities . . The Commission chooses not to set priorities at this time, so new members (Mr. Chiasson and Chief Quinn) would have an opportunity to review reports that have been received. A summary will be made available to all members.

Added item

4: Lafayette Street - Parking Issues

The Police Department through Capt. Feeney, Community Services Division, requested a parking issue could be resolved on this street, because the need for the present 2hr parking restriction is no longer valid. Parking on Lafayette Street, from Main Street 400 feet south has a 2hr restriction. The restriction was due to the parking from St. Judes School. St. Judes has since obtained additional parking and the need for the restriction no longer exists. It was recommended to amend the regulation to restrict parking on one side of Lafayette Street. No Parking on the east side and allowed parking on the West Side entire length. **Voted as follows:**

Delete	Side	From	To
Lafayette Street,	east side	Main Street	400' south of Main St. 2hr parking
Lafayette Street ,	west side	Main Street	400' south of Main St. No Parking

	Side	From	To
Add:			
Lafayette Street	east side	Main Street	Grove Street, No Parking

Attendance: All members except Mr. Vokey and Mr. Kelly.
Ms. Brennen McDevitte PTO – Road Race; Ms. Beech HP parking space 193 Hammond St., Mr. Conrad, Chapel Hill School and Mr. Dandraoe TEC. 1265 main Street.

Adjourned @ 11:04 am
Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk

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