

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M.**

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Warren Street at Wilmot Road – NO JAKE BRAKING

Councilor Curtin is requesting this sign for northbound traffic on Warren Street. Councilor Curtin attended the meeting and stated that he has received complaints of the “jake braking” occurring in the early morning hours. He specifically requested a sign in the area of Wilmot Road.

Voted to install a “No Jake Braking” sign on Warren Street facing northbound traffic near Wilmot Road.

B. Library Parking Lot – Proposal for Two 15 Minute Free Parking Spaces

Library Director Kate Tranquada is requesting these spaces for Library customers. Ms. Tranquada appeared on behalf of this request. She noted that two short term spaces would be helpful for the patron who makes a quick “pick-up” or “drop-off”. The previous meter system allowed for free 10 minutes. **Voted to approve this request and add two 15 minute free parking spaces.**

C. 275 Wyman Street – Proposed Traffic Study for Zone Change

Attorney Robert Connors is seeking approval to meet with our Traffic Consultant. **Voted to table and have our consultant G.P.I. (Mr. Diaz) review this proposal and report to the Commission at a future meeting.**

D. Lake Street area near Nutting Road – Proposed Traffic Study for Zone Change

Attorney Phil McCourt is seeking approval to meet with our Traffic Consultant. The proposal concerns a Zone Change. The Commission does not discuss Zone Changes, as that is totally within the purview of the City Council. If the Council approves a zone change or if a proposal is presented that does not involve a zone change (a Special Permit etc.) the Commission will review the project at that time. **Voted to take no action at this time and remove this item from the agenda.**

E. Forest Street at Harrington Road – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Signal

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Hache, # 75 Hillcroft Road are requesting a Pedestrian Crossing Signal at this location. Councilor Curtin appeared on behalf of this request. He spoke of the heavy use of the soccer fields and the many children in the area. He stated that the “warrant” requirements for a cross-walk signal may not be met but there are other extenuating circumstances that should be considered. Both members Mr. Malone and Mr. Vokey, stated that a traffic study should be conducted to determine if a signal is warranted. Mr. Diaz stated that this study could be done as part of the Forest/Trapelo project. In October 2004, Bentley College concurred that “. . . future growth on Forest Street needs to be monitored on a yearly basis to determine if any future signalization is necessary”. **Voted to table this request and send a letter to Bentley University where they agreed to monitor the situation along Forest Street. In addition, G.P.I. is asked to review and study the area for possible signalization.**

F. Moody Street at Crescent St./Pine St. – Approve Revised Signal Timing

Our consultant GPI made signal timing changes on Oct. 20, 2011 for a trial period. The trial period is over and no comments or complaints have been received. Traffic Engineering recommended the revision be made permanent. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

G. Shifter’s 5k Road Race – Saturday, March 31, 2012

The race will benefit Dana Farber Cancer Institute and will be held at 1:00 PM

H. 5th Annual Tailgate Trot – Saturday, June 16, 2012

The race will benefit the late Michael A. Martin and will be held at 9:00 AM

I. JB 5K Blastoff for Brain Tumors in Memory of Joseph D. Basile – Saturday, September 8, 2012. The race will benefit the American Brain Tumor Association and will be held at 10:30 AM

J. St. Jude School 5K Road Race – Saturday, June 2, 2012

The race will benefit St. Jude School and will be held at 9:00 AM

K. Piggy's Run 5K Road Race – Saturday, November 17, 2012

The race is to endow a scholarship and create an enrichment program fund in memory of her late husband Paul J. Logue.

The above five items (1G-1H-1I-1J- & 1K) Road Races were tabled. The Commission is requesting the Police Department be consulted first, and report to the Traffic Commission on all safety issues, and/or street closures. Some races will require travel lanes to be closed; intersections must have traffic enforcement, and it must be clear that there are no conflicting race days. In addition, "rain dates" should not be made during the mid work week. (Note with the exception of St. Jude's race 1J, no race officials attended this meeting). **Voted to forward these concerns to the Mayor's Office and request adoption of procedures to assist in making a recommendation.**

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)
- 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)
- K. Ellison Park & Summer Street Area – Traffic Calming (Sp. 3/11)
- L. Albemarle Road – Pedestrian Safety (4/11)
- M. 831 Main Street – Proposed Development (6/11)
- N. 850 & 920 Winter Street (Reservoir Woods) – Proposed Development (6/11) Voted to remove from the table.

The proposed project entails the construction of 371,707 square feet of office space. A parking garage will be constructed to accommodate parking on site. A Traffic Demand Management program to reduce SOV's will be implemented and some restriping of Winter Street to help improve the traffic flow will be discussed. GPI reviewed the TIAS as prepared for January 2012. The report addresses all concerns and comments as outlined in the August 2012 review. The study has been prepared in accordance with standard Traffic Engineering procedures and in compliance with the City's Guidelines for a Traffic Impact Assessment. The proposed mitigation is sufficient and the project will have minimal impact on traffic operations along Winter Street. **Voted to accept and forward this report and recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations concerning issuing a Special Permit.**

- O. Warren Street – Truck Restriction (9/11)
- P. Smith Street at Trapelo Road – Change in Lane Use (9/11)
- Q. Relocation of Sign and Paint Division (9/11)
- R. Plympton St. at Hammond St. – Four Way STOP (9/11) (12/11) Need response from Building Dept.

- S. 511 Totten Pond Road (Shell Gas Station) – Proposed Traffic Study (10/11) Voted to remove from the table

The proposal is to construct an eighteen foot by twenty-five foot convenience store addition to the existing Shell gasoline station located at the northeast intersection of Totten Pond Road and Winter/Wyman Street. The proponent has offered to either provide funding or cause to be erected a “No Left Turn” sign on Wyman Street southbound traffic, to inform motorists that the movement is not allowed. (Vehicles must to the signal and make a u-turn). GPI reported the TIAS complies with Traffic engineering procedures and complies with the City’s Traffic Impact Assessment. The mitigation is sufficient and the project will have minimal impacts on traffic operations along Totten pond Road. **Voted to accept and forward this report and recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations concerning issuing a Special Permit.**

- T. Princeton Ave. – Speed Limit/Speed Hump (12/11)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. **Parking Meter Report** : Annual receipts for 2011 were down slightly (\$11,000) this is due to major snow storms in January and February where we couldn’t reach the meters.
- B. **Part-Time cleaning position** for two parking garages – Update – Person has been chosen with hiring dependant on CORI check & health exam
- C. **Full-Time MEO position** – Update – Peron has been chosen with hiring dependant on CORI check & health exam.
- D. **Traffic Engineer position** – Voted to continue to accept applications and review all applicants with a P.E. degree; a letter to be sent to the Law Department for procedures to move forward. Additionally, a request has been forwarded by the Mayor to the Council to transfer funding for the consultant, while efforts continue to hire a T.E.
- E. **Ice Rink Pedestrian Signal** – Update Mr. Kelley reported that temporary “arms” have been installed but no electric power from NSTAR; the Commission expressed its dissatisfaction with Boston Properties and will invite Mr. Monopli to the next meeting.
- F. **Graverson Playground Pedestrian Signal** – Update – Mr. Kelley reported that signal timing has been set to 40 seconds. Mr. Diaz believed the timing is to long and might encourage the motorist to totally disregard the signals intent. The signal is a “flashing Yellow’ which is a warning signal to the motorist and not a signal to stop. The intent is for the motorist to realize someone may want or is crossing the street. Mr. Kelley agreed to reduce the timing of the signal to 30 seconds and continue to monitor its progress.
- G. **Winter Street Bridge** – Update – tweaking the signals is continuing as is the ‘punch” list work.
- H. **Forest Street at Trapelo Road – Update -**
GPI has forwarded a Scope of Services to provide construction plans and bid documents for at a minimum, reconstruction of the and sidewalks along south side of Trapelo Road, as well

as the east/west sides of Forest St. from Trapelo Road to Alderwood / Hillcroft Road. A total \$74,072 is the associated fee for the major tasks associated with this reconstruction.

The Commission voted to approve this proposal.

I. Private Ways– Installation of Handicap and other signage

A memorandum from the Law Department addressed to the Building Department states that the Traffic Commission has jurisdiction over the installation of traffic related signs on Private ways. (MGLA Ch.90s18). In general the Commission has taken jurisdiction, enacting a regulation and posted private ways when a majority of the residents have petitioned for the regulation. Without such a request, the Police Department has no authority to enforce parking on Private Ways (there are some exceptions such as abandoned motor vehicles). Based on this opinion, it is logical for the Commission to have the traffic signs removed. The Sign Department will be requested to remove the sign.

J. MassDOT – Our response on Low Cost Safety Improvements at STOP Controlled Intersections. Three intersections were identified as having nine or more accidents in the past three years.

1: Athletic Field Road at Bacon/Plympton no improvements recommended

2: Lowell St. @ Brown St. – no improvements recommended (Brown St. is one-way EB)

3: Highland @ South Street – The City is reviewing safety and capacity of this intersection and is exploring installing traffic signals. However, without geometric improvements at this location which require additional right of way to provide a southbound left turn lane from South Street to Highland Street, long traffic queues are projected which could impact operations at the South Street/Bedford Street intersection to the north. Currently the City has not committed to any modifications at this intersection.

K. CIP Request – Update – The Commission received a copy of the Mayor's recommendations.

Adjourned @ 11:23 AM

Attendance: All members present; see attached Off Committee

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting:

Please Print

Name of Speaker	# Street, City	Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner	For/Against Item No:
Mr. Robert Connors	Waltham	Attorney	275 Wyman St
Mr. Robert Connors	Waltham	Attorney	850-920 Winter Street
Mr. Joe Connors	Waltham	Attorney	511 Totten Pond Road
Mr. Jack Gillon,	Jack Gillon Associates	Engineer	511 Totten Pond Road
Ms. Kate Tranquada	Waltham	Petitioner	Waltham Public Library
Mr. Phillip McCourt	Waltham	Attorney	Lake Street
Mr. Giles Ham VAI	Andover Ma	Engineer	850-920 Winter St.
Mr. Jan Machnik, MP	Boston	Petitioner	St.Judes Road Race
Mr. Tom Curtin	Ward 4 City Councilor	for Petitioner	Warren St & Forest Street