

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: OCTOBER 19, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Voted to approve

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Cabot Street area – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor Marchese was present and is requesting the Cabot Street area be studied due to the concerns of cut through traffic and speeding in the area. Councillor Marchese spoke of a neighborhood meeting that resulted in a request for “traffic calming measures” in the immediate area. He specifically requested a study of Bedford St., Cabot St., Eddy St., Everett St, Winthrop St., Fairmont Ave. and the intersections with these streets. These side streets are used by “cut through” traffic from Weston Street to South Street. Mayor McCarthy also spoke in favor to study the area. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a comprehensive study is needed. Member Ms. Cagle suggested the T.E. check into apps and how they detour traffic into neighborhoods. **Voted to table and have T.E. conduct a study.**

B. Warren Street – Proposed Crosswalk

Ms. Cheriann Demeo O'Donnell, # 20 Bowker St. is requesting a crosswalk on Warren St. between Bowker St. and Waverley St. A site visit showed there are updated ADA compliant ramps and available street lighting. This area of Warren Street has no sight issues for pedestrians or motorists. The Traffic Engineer recommended approval. **Voted to install a crosswalk and appropriate signage on Warren Street at Wayne/Waverley Sts.**

C. Waltham Mills Artists Open Studios – Event Parking

Ms. Wendy Wolf with Waltham Mills Artists Association was present and is requesting 100 free parking spaces for Artists and 300 free parking spaces for visitors for this event held on Saturday, November 4, 2017. The Traffic Engineer recommended 100 pre-paid (\$2.00/day per vehicle) permits be purchased for vendors, artists, organizers and volunteers only. **Voted to approve the issuance of 100 free permits for the vendors, artists, organizers and volunteers only. No visitor free parking permits will be allowed. Parking will be limited to the Carter Street Lot and the Upper Level of the Embassy only.**

D. Saint Jude Family 5K Road Race Saturday June 2, 2018 @ 9:00 AM

Ms. Norma Newell is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 9:00 AM. No streets will be closed and 400-600 participants are expected. **Voted to approve this annual event.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Voted to remove items C: Forest St., F: Grove St., I: Fiske Ave, Trapelo Rd, 48 Pine St, off the table

A. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)(5/16)(6/16)

B. Valet Parking in Downtown Area (11/15)

C. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15)(5/16)(9/17)

Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Romard spoke of the immediate need for a design to install the “RRFB” crosswalk signal. The question is whether an overhead signal or side post signal should

be the one installed immediately. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated that the high speed problem must be addressed which would require a speed study, prior to an RRFB signal being installed. A pedestrian count was conducted and the numbers were very low. The count showed most of the users of the Veteran's Field arrived by vehicle. Member Ms. Cagle agreed that the signal should be installed quickly. There are two options to install the RRFB, either overhead or standard side poles. **Voted to design the pedestrian RRFB signal with standard side poles and install the signal as soon as possible.**

D. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)

E. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16)

F. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)

Councillor Marchese spoke of the need for speed control on Grove Street. The Traffic Speed Study for the entire length of Grove Street showed the 85th percentile to be 30-34 MPH. T.E. suggested that the Police could rotate the use of their speed signs on Grove St. **Voted to deny a posted speed limit.**

G. Trapelo Road at Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)

H. Main Street at Newton Street – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)

I. Fiske Ave. at Weston St. – Turning Restriction (9/17)

Mayor McCarthy spoke on recommending this be temporary if approved due to the Cabot Street item 1A. **Voted to have this item tabled and be included in the Cabot Street study.**

J. Trapelo Rd. at Pine Vale Rd. – Proposed Intersection Improvements (9/17)

Mayor McCarthy spoke of the need to have something done at this intersection. A recent study showed the warrants for a fully actuated signal have not been met and this intersection does not qualify. The present 85th percentile speed on Trapelo Road showed eastbound (downhill) to be 44 MPH and westbound (uphill) to be 39 MPH. The existing RRFB will be relocated from this intersection to the new Graverson Playground entrance once completed. **Voted to table and to have the Mayor, Councillor Darcy and Mr. Garvin meet with the residents to discuss what traffic calming measures can be taken.**

K. 48 Pine St. – Crosswalk Safety Improvements (9/17)

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin was requested to review and study the area for a 20 MPH Safety Zone and a RRFB crosswalk signal. The speed study showed the 85th percentile in both directions to be 30 MPH; speeding is not an issue. The pedestrian study showed a majority of the people crossing the street are not crossing at the existing crosswalk. An advance warning sign could be placed 200 feet in advance that will alert drivers to the fact that they are entering a zone where they may encounter people crossing the street. Councillor Logan agreed that "advance" pedestrian crosswalk signs be installed. **Voted to go ahead and install the advance warning signs, but table this item until the Traffic Engineer and Councillor Logan can meet with the residents of 48 Pine Street to hear their concerns.**

L. Harris St. – Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Concerns (9/17)

Councillor Waddick requested this remain on the table until next month.

M. Linden St. from Waverley Oaks Rd. to Beaver St. – Traffic Issues (9/17)

Councillor Waddick requested this remain on the table until next month.

N. Massasoit St. at Main St. – Existing Restriction (9/17)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – Annual revenues are down approximately \$19K; use of PayByPhone app shows increase since starting the program.

B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update – The Mayor has requested that no new signs be installed along Main Street or Moody Street. T.E. has submitted a list of missing signs. Mr. Kelly is reviewing.

C. Piety Corner – Update The Design Bid opening was held on September 28th at which nine bids were received. This project is being handled by the Engineering Department, Mr. Cassazza. Mr. Garvin was asked to continue updating the Commission on project.

D. Church St. Parking Lot – Update – The reconstruction of this lot will be going out to bid soon.

E. River / Farwell / Seyon Update – Bid opening was on September 27th with Dagle Electric being the low bidder at \$287,314. We are requesting funding from the Mayor.

F. Lexington Street Pavement Markings – Update - Signal timing has been completed, a speed study will be done shortly. The Traffic Engineer was asked to continue monitoring Lexington Street and report his findings on traffic operations. A speed study comparison (before & after) is needed. A complete analysis should be done for Lexington Street evaluation.

G. Transportation Master Plan – Update – The Commission asked Mr. Garvin to include in his reports details to implement the TMP; estimated event schedules and costs for anticipated projects.

AND ANY LATE FILED ITEM(S) THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

4A: Small Business Saturday November 25, 2017

Councillor Logan recommended the Traffic Commission accept the Council Resolution to allow free parking on Small Business Saturday, November 25. **It was voted to approve this request for the off-street parking lots only. The on-street time limits will still be enforced.**

4B: Executive Session item withdrawn.

Attendance: All members except Mr. Kelly. Mayor McCarthy; Councillors Logan, Romard, and Marchese. Mr. Bill Doyle and Ms. Wendy Wolf petitioners

Adjourned @ 11:44 AM

Respectfully Submitted

**Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk**

Date of the Meeting: October 19, 2017

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St.	Pine St Crosswalk Small Business	City Councillor
Jeannette A. McCarthy	91 Hamilton Rd	1A – 2C – 2I – 2J	Mayor of Waltham
Daniel Romard	291 Dale St	2C Forest St	City Councillor
Gary Marchese	79 Bright St	Cabot St	City Councillor
Bill Doyle	25 Cabot St	Cabot St	Resident
Wendy Wolf	144 Moody St	Mills Artists	Petitioner