

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: NOVEMBER 21, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Longfellow Road at Fairfax Road – Removal of 4-Way Stop**

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this item be placed on the agenda for discussion due to complaints from the neighborhood. In October 2012 this 4-way stop was reviewed and at that time it did not meet MUTCD warrants for a 4-way stop. The signs were removed on October 29, 2013 for not being in compliance. Shortly, thereafter a speed study was conducted and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of speed eastbound was found to be 34mph and westbound was 36mph. Mayor McCarthy spoke of the concerns residents have and requested further review. **Voted to table and have Traffic Engineering conduct additional traffic counts to determine if the warrants for a 4-way stop sign could be satisfied at this time.**

**B. Lake Street at Princeton Street – Pedestrian Flashing Light**

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this item from Mr. Bill Fowler be placed on the agenda for a pedestrian flashing light for the park on Lake Street. Mayor McCarthy and Councilor Elect Fowler spoke in favor of this request. Lake Street is very busy with unattended children crossing the street going to Lazarro Playground and consideration should be given for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin opposed the use of RRFB stating there is sufficient sight distance and excessive use of the RRFB's will have a negative impact on their effectiveness. A recent Police speed survey found the existing 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed to be 33mph eastbound and there is adequate pedestrian crossing signage. Mayor McCarthy asked for further review, when the playground would be more in use; Spring time. **Voted to table this item and have the Traffic Engineer conduct a usage study when the playground is operating at a higher capacity.**

**C. Moody Street Sidewalk Project**

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. Mayor McCarthy, and representatives from Downtown Waltham Partnership (DWP) spoke in favor of "bump outs" along Moody Street to make Moody Street more pedestrian friendly. Mayor McCarthy's concerns for truck turning ability and not losing any on-street parking resulted in Traffic Engineering recommending seven locations for installation. In addition, the MBTA bus stops at Walnut and Cushing Streets were recommended to be removed. The MBTA have recommended guidelines for bus stops to be 800 to 1000 feet apart. The seven locations are

Northeast corner Moody/Gordon St	Southwest corner Moody/Whitney Ave
Southeast corner Moody/Taylor St.	Northeast corner Moody/Cushing St.
Southwest corner Moody/Walnut St.	Southeast corner Moody/Chestnut St.
Southwest corner Moody/Chestnut St.	

**Voted to table this item and have the Traffic Engineer, speak with the MBTA to have the bus stops on Moody Street at Walnut and Cushing Streets, removed before making a final decision. Also have DWP verify that all fire apparatus will be able to turn onto Taylor Street and Chestnut Street.**

**D. Farmers Market Relocation to Central Square Parking Deck**

Mr. Dan Taylor on behalf of the Waltham Farmers Market Committee is requesting the Farmers Market be relocated due to the construction of One Moody Street. A Special Permit for redevelopment has been approved and construction is expected to begin at One Moody Street in

the Spring of 2014. Mr. Taylor forwarded three proposals, Arthur Clark Government Center, Waltham City Hall Common, and Central Square Parking Deck. The Market runs from Mid-June through November on Saturdays, 8am-3pm. It must have access to outdoor electrical receptacles, storage space and bathroom facilities desirable. The Farmer's Market favors the use of the Parking Deck and the lot is about 5% utilized on Saturdays. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin opposed the use of the Central Square Parking Deck, since it is not desirable to remove that many public parking spaces each Saturday. Construction workers at One Moody Street may also need the area for parking. Additionally, the Upper Deck has a height and weight restriction which could be a problem for trucks. Special events on the Common increase the demand for off-street parking. In addition, maintenance on the deck is scheduled to begin in the Spring 2014. This option comes under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission and Mr. Garvin recommended denial.

The use of the Common (City Hall) would have a very high visibility factor but is problematic for vender and patron parking. On street parking is limited around the Common. Special Events during the summer could cause conflicts. Negotiations would have to include R.T.N. and the use of that private parking facility. The Mayor's Office has jurisdiction of this option.

The Arthur J. Clark Government Center located at School and Lexington Streets may be a viable option. The use of the lot comes under the jurisdiction of the Building Department. Use of Saint Mary's lot and The Elks lot may provide an option for parking that would need agreements to be made by the Farmer's Market.

**It was voted to table this item, so that further discussions could be addressed at a future date.**

**E. 266-275 Second Avenue – Pedestrian Crosswalk / Signal Relocation**

Waltham Place is requesting the relocation of the existing pedestrian crosswalk and flashing signal. At the present location, people tend to cross the street without pushing the crosswalk button. The proposed new crosswalk will be a six foot wide Texturized Synthetic Pavement crosswalk which is aesthetically pleasing. The proponent will be responsible for installation and relocation of the RRFB's and any future re-installation of crosswalk in the case of roadway improvements. **Voted to approve this request and allow relocation (by the proponent) of the crosswalk and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's) to the proponent's requested location.**

**F. Summer Street at Lyman Street – No Turn on Red**

Police Captain Don Russo is requesting a No Turn on Red sign facing east and west bound traffic. A review of reported accidents indicated that vehicles entering the intersection from Summer Street had the majority of conflicts; red light violators on Lyman St. Restricting No Turn on Red (east-west) on Summer Street would not have a significant impact on reducing accidents. Northbound Lyman Street, has utility poles blocking the view of the traffic signal. The installation of a mast arm signal on Lyman St. at Summer St. will enhance the visibility of the signal. Prohibiting right turns on red will add delays without solving any apparent safety issue. Traffic Engineering is in the process of having a mast arm and signal installed at this location. **It was voted to deny this request and continue support for the proposed mast arm.**

**G. Shifter's 5K for Dana Farber**

Mr. Rich Horgan is seeking approval for this road race to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 1:00 PM. Lt. Cavallaro recommended approval. No street will be closed and there will be Police presence. **Voted to recommend a permit to issue.**

#### **H. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Moody Street 5K**

Ms. Colette Casey-Brenner is seeking approval for this road race to be held on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 12:00 PM. Lt. Cavallaro recommended approval. No street will be closed and there will be Police presence. **Voted to recommend a permit to issue**

#### **I. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual JB5K Blastoff**

Ms. Kathy Irving is seeking approval for this road race to be held on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 11:30 AM. Lt. Cavallaro recommended approval. No street will be closed and there will be Police presence. **Voted to recommend a permit to issue**

#### **2. TABLED ITEMS:**

##### **A. Smith Street at Trapelo Road - Change in Lane Use (9/11)(9/13) Removed from the Table**

In general, the eastbound left turn lane is the critical lane in the eastbound direction. During the peak hours, it often takes more than one signal cycle for the left turning vehicles to make it through the signal. The left turn storage length is about 250 feet long. The maximum queues during peak hours exceed 400 feet for these left turns. When the queue exceeds the storage length, those vehicles block eastbound through vehicles (either Trapelo Road or the I-95 Northbound off ramp) from getting to the middle lane. Likewise, when the queue in the middle lane exceeds 250 feet, it blocks access to the left lane. An eastbound right turning lane would improve conditions for those turning onto Smith St. however, it comes at the expense of the left turn and through vehicles, whose conditions would worsen considerably. **Voted to deny the request.**

- B. High St. at Newton St. – Traffic Signal Changes (3/12)
- C. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)  
Waiting for Law Dept. opinion
- D. 60 Turner Street – Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalk (11/12)
- E. Ellison Park traffic issues (9/13)(10/13)
- F. Lexington Street from Indian Ridge to Trapelo Road Signal Timing (9/13)
- G. Warren Street at Beaver Street – Proposed Traffic Signal Study (9/13)
- H. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)

##### **I. Restriction of Work During Certain Hours Revise (10/13) Removed from the Table**

Traffic Engineering was requested to revise language to Article IV – Offenses, Section 4 Restriction of Work During Certain Hours so as to allow for non-emergency work to be accomplished with an approval or permit. The following was recommended

#### **Article IV, Sec. 4 Restriction of Work During Certain Hours**

No work shall be performed on the entire length of any street or roadway listed below during the hours of 7am to 9am and from 4pm to 6pm. Also no construction vehicles shall be parked waiting to perform work during these hours. In case of emergency, exceptions to this rule can be made by the Consolidated Public Works Director or his designee. ***Any non-emergency work would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and approval may be issued by the Consolidated Public Works Director or his/her designee.***

Street or roadways restricted are as follows: Bacon St., Bear Hill Rd., Beaver St., High St., Lexington St., Linden St., Main St., Maple St., Moody St., Newton St., Pine St., Prospect St., River St., Second Ave., Smith St., South St., Stow St., Totten Pond Rd., Trapelo Rd.,

Waverley Oaks Rd., Weston St., Winter St., Wyman St. **Voted to accept this recommendation.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report . . revenues are comparable to last year
- B. Forest Street at Trapelo Road Update – Information Only. Wires on Pole#58 being moved and should be completed shortly
- C. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. Update– Information Only  
Design and coordination near completion
- D. Lyman Street at Summer Street – Traffic Signal Study (5/12)(12/12)  
Waiting for report from Wires Dept.
- E. Transportation Master Plan (12/12) – 91 Intersection Turning Counts Update  
City wide traffic counts completed (91 intersections) computer model being developed
- F. Update of the rules part of the Rules and Regulations  
Submitted for review and comments
- G. Main Street Parking Limits  
Traffic Engineering proposed the following

Generally, between Banks Square and Newton Street, where there are parking spaces, the parking will be limited to **two hours**

**No parking** on either side of Main Street, **east of Newton Street to Watertown Line**

**Exceptions:**

**30 Minute** parking Main St., south side near Everett Street

**15 Minute** parking Main St., north side between Prospect Hill Ave. and Prospect Hill Rd.

**30 Minute** parking Main St., south side in front of Post Office (Grant St. east)

**30 Minute** parking Main St., north side (between 7am and 3pm) near St. Jude School (west of Bowker Road)

**Voted to accept and amend Schedule 1 of the Traffic Rules & Regulations with these changes, when the Main Street parking meters are actually removed. Further discussions needed relative to side-streets parking and amending penalties**

**H. Revision to Traffic Impact Guidelines for copies required under Section M**

Section M (Revised November 2013)

Traffic Engineering is recommending the guideline for Traffic Impacts be amended with the following:

Submit 2 full copies of the report and 10 copies of the Executive Summary to Traffic Engineering. And one copy of the full report on PDF emailed to the Traffic Engineer

Submit one (1) set of plans to the Clerk of the Traffic Commission for Police Department review

Submit one (1) set plans to the Fire Chief for review

Submit 2 sets of full size plans and 8 sets of half size plans to Traffic Engineering

Submit one set of the disk data as described in these guidelines to Traffic Engineering

In order to have consideration of the traffic impact report placed on the agenda of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting usually scheduled for the third Thursday of a month, (except July & August) the above materials shall be delivered to all the listed parties on or before 4:00 pm of the last business day of the preceding month. Before requesting a special meeting of the Traffic Commission to consider the traffic impact report, the petitioner shall deliver the above materials at least three weeks before the date of the requested special meeting.

**Voted to approve this request and make the modifications to the Traffic Impact Guidelines**

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

**4: C.I.P. Budget**

**Voted to approve a request for FY2019 for a Ford 550 Crew Cab Utility Truck with Air Compressor and Lift gate; Graco Line driver HD Attachment; Atlas-Copco BBD 15 ET Rock Drill. (Estimated at \$8,800.) In addition, approved to request Main St. @ Barbara Gore/Warren Design & Engineering be moved from FY2018 to FY2015 (\$200,000.)**

**Attendance: All members present.**

**Adjourned @ 11:45 am**

## Waltham Traffic Commission

**Date of the Meeting:**

**Please Print**

<b>Name of Speaker</b>	<b># Street, City</b>	<b>Affiliation i.e. Attorney - Abutter Interested party - Petitioner</b>	<b>For/Against Item No:</b>
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main Street	Mayor	1 A – 1B 1C
Doug Waybright	75 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	DWP	1 C
Charnan Bray	39 Taylor St	DWP	1C
Bill Boyle	25 Cabot St	DWP/DEI	1C
Greg Carbone	50 Bear Hill Rd	DWP/DEI	1C
Marc Rudnick	144 Hardy Pond Rd	Waltham Farmers Mkt	1D
Stephen Rourke	36 Riverview Ave	Waltham City Council	
Colette Casey-Brenner	89 Florence Rd.	Petitioner	1H
Leo Keightley	731 South St	Petitioner	1D
Martha Creedon	731 South St	Petitioner	1D
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	Councilor Elect	1A
John Mannix	266-275 Second Ave	Petitioner	1E
Justin Dufresne	266-275 Second Ave	Petitioner	1E