

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: NOVEMBER 20, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Voted to accept October's Minutes

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Prospect Hill Road – Additional parking

Councillor Romard is requesting additional parking on the south side of Prospect Hill Road. Through a written statement Councilor Romard advocated for restoration of parking along the south side of Prospect Hill Road from Prentice Street to Hansen Road. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that the street is wide, about 30 feet in width. Additionally, he met with School Safety Officer Frassica and it was agreed that school bus operations would not be impeded. **Voted to accept his recommendation and approved parking on the south side of the street as follows:**

Delete Prospect Hill Road west and south sides from 160' north of Lunda Street to Main Street – No Parking

**Add: Prospect Hill Road south side from 160" north of Lunda Street to Hansen Road
NO PARKING**

Add: Prospect Hill Road – west side from Main Street to Elson Road NO PARKING

B. Hall Street – Removal of No Parking Restriction

Councillor Logan is requesting the removal of the No Parking restriction on Hall Street near Chestnut Street. The restriction was needed as a bus stop for the Head Start Program which no longer exists. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended the restriction be removed.

Voted to accept this recommendation

Delete: Hall St., east side, 80' south of Chestnut St. to Chestnut St. – NO PARKING

C. 256 Second Avenue – Traffic Impact Report

Attorney Robert Connors and Traffic Engineer Giles Ham with Vanasse & Associate, Inc. presented the traffic impact report for a 100 room hotel project. Second Avenue Hotels LLC requires a Special Permit from the City Council. The hotel is expected to generate a net increase of 70 new vehicle trips in the weekday morning peak hour and 74 trips in the evening peak hour. This increase will have minimal impact to operations along Second Avenue. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, recommended provisions for the installation of wheelchair ramps and crosswalk across of Second Avenue. The developer committed to contributing funds for the future installation of ramps and a crosswalk at the appropriate location. He also recommended to accept the Traffic Impact Report. **Voted to accept the report of Vanasse & Associates and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations on the issuance of a Special Permit.**

D. 703 Main Street – Add Handicap Parking in front of business

Mr. Norman Neu, Jr. is requesting a space in front of his new business which will cater to the disabled. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin and Mr. Mark Johnson, Chair of the Waltham Disability Services Commission agreed that a HP space is needed. **Voted to approve and add to Schedule 6 the following:**

Add: Main Street, north side, 1 space. in front of #703

E. Third & Fourth Avenues – Proposed Sidewalk and Crosswalk Plans

Traffic Engineer Rob Nagi with VHB presented the proposed plans within the City Point development. As a requirement for obtaining a Special Permit, Boston Properties will construct new sidewalks along Third and Fourth Avenue. Located on the east side of Third Avenue, from the intersection of Fourth Avenue to Prospect Hill Lane and on the south side of Fourth Avenue from Third Avenue to a point 220 feet west. In addition, there will be three new crosswalks. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended acceptance. **Voted to approve the proposal with the new crosswalks.**

F. Moody Street 5K Road Race

Ms. Colette Casey-Brenner is requesting permission to hold this race on Sunday, May 3, 2015. The race will start at 12 Noon. Lieut Cavallaro after review recommended approval of this race. No streets will be closed, there will be Police presence and it is anticipated there will be 1200 – 1500 participants. **Voted to accept this recommendation and forward a request to Mayor McCarthy for a permit to issue.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

- A. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)
Waiting for Law Dept. opinion
- B. Ellison Park traffic issues (9/13)(10/13)
- C. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)
- E. Lake St. at Princeton St. – Pedestrian Flashing Light (11/13)(9/14)
- F. Lowell Street at Washington Avenue – Traffic Study (6/14)(9/14)(10/14)
- G. Appleton Street – Reinstallation of No Parking Except. Sunday & Holiday (6/14)

H. Villa Street between Summit and Cedarwood Aves. – Speeding Issues (9/14)
Voted off the Table

Additional Speed studies conducted from October 8 through November 6, 2014, showed the 85th percentile to be 22 miles per hour westbound and 23 miles per hour eastbound. Mr. Bill Bennett, VP of the Cedarwood Neighborhood Association, felt that something still must be done even it is for the small percentage of speeding going through the neighborhood. The area lacks sidewalks for the many children in the area. Ms. Amy Brown, resident, stated that the street has become a major cut-through from Weston Street traffic. Any calming measures taken, need to address volumes’ not just speeding. Mr. Kevin Delaney, resident, asked if measures were taken, would it affect residents? It was explained that any measures taken would apply to everyone, including residents. Member Mr. Kelly suggested an evening turning restriction to prevent Weston Street traffic from using Villa Street. Member Ms. Cagle agreed that the turn restriction sign should be reviewed and align with the school bus stop times. Concerns with vehicles making U-turns on Cedarwood Avenue could become an issue. Member Mr. Magno suggested they look at relocation of bus stop and installation of sidewalks as an Association. Chairman Chief MacPherson asked the data be submitted to the State for a possible posted Speed Limit of 25 miles per hour.

Voted to have the Traffic Engineer submit the speed data to MassDOT for a possible posted Speed Limit. The item was tabled pending results of this request.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – funds are down about \$71K from previous year.

- B. Main St. at Newton St. and Main St. at Lyman./Heard Sts. – Update – Charles Construction has the right lane of Newton Street near completion with a projected completion time of mid-December.
- C. South Street at Highland Street – Update – A design plan has been submitted and is under review with projected bid to go out end of 2014.
- D. Spruce Street and Walnut Street Parking Lot Reconstruction – Update – pre bid conference is scheduled for November 21st and bid opening of November 28th.
- E. Pay Stations – Update – City Council approved the funding for 14 stations. The Central Square Parking Deck will have 5 pay stations installed around the beginning of 2015.
- F. “Move from Block” defined in Rules and Regulations – The Commission after discussion **voted to table** and directed the Traffic Engineer to return with proposed signage for the streets.
- G. **Transportation Master Plan** – The Traffic Engineer requested a sub-Committee to make recommendations for a Master Plan. Chairman, Chief MacPherson appointed the following: Planning Director Ms. Cagle (Chairperson), CPWD Mr. Chiasson and Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin. Item was placed on the table.
- H. **Wires / ITS Dept. Parking Lot** – Voted to modify the existing signage on the building and pass out flyers notifying violators that they will be towed.
- I. **FY20 CIP Proposed Request** – The Commission approved the request for C.I.P. as follows:
 - 1: Beaver & Warren Street – Design & Construction of a traffic signal (\$550,000.)
 - 2: ADA Accessible Ramps – Citywide (\$100,000.)

4: Late Filed

A: 751 Main Street- Attorney Jack Mula requested a late filed item relative to a Special Permit requirement for two (2) No Left Turn Signs and the removal of one (1) parking space for the TD Bank at this location. The Traffic Engineer was authorized to clarify any misunderstanding relative to the parking(s). The exit from the Bank on Main Street will be required to have the appropriate signage for No Left Turns. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer respond.**

Adjourned @ 11:47 AM

Attendance; Mr. Mula and Chief Ciccone

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk