

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: OCTOBER 15, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**The Chair accepted a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. 380 Lexington Street – Potential for Traffic Improvements**

City Council Resolution request the Traffic Engineer to determine if this property should be acquired for traffic improvements.

The intersection is commonly referred to as Piety Corner and has some of the longest delays and queues in the City. It is about 275 feet wide, between the Lexington Street stop lines, due to the current alignment of Totten Pond Road located just north of the property line of #380 Lexington St. If the City were to acquire the property it would create potential opportunities for traffic improvements. T.E. Mr. Garvin gave two conceptual ideas for possible consideration. First was a Compact Intersection with new signalization and a second is a Roundabout. He explained some of the advantages of each concept. If the property becomes available, a complete analysis and study would be needed which could result in other possible solutions to be considered. **Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer’s report on whether it is advisable for the City to purchase the property at 380 Lexington Street, and direct the Traffic Engineer to forward the report to the City council**

**B. 570 South Street – Change in Land Use Special Permit**

Jennifer Conley with Conley Associates discussed this proposal for a yogurt shop.

The proposal is to change an existing 1,380 square foot automotive service shop into a yogurt shop. This requires a change in Land Use Special Permit. The auto body space is part of a commercial plaza that includes Village Market, Prime Deli, and a few other small retailers. The proposal will generate more traffic than the prior use (automotive service shop) during the peak hours however, the expected increase will not have any noticeable impact to traffic operations near the site. It was also recommended Bicycle stands be provided and sidewalk improvements be reviewed. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact Report and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations to issue a Change of Use Permit**

**C. Charles St. Avenue – Allow Parking on the West Side**

Ms. Maria Wentworth, # 12 Charles St. Ave. # 2 along with other residents are requesting parking be allowed on the west side. Residents have a considerable amount of off street parking but say additional on-street parking is needed. The street is two-way and measures 18.5 feet wide. Parking of any vehicle reduces the width of the street to one lane. Fire apparatus would have difficulty passing, and setting up the fire apparatus would be impossible. Snow banks would also add to the problem. **Voted to deny this request and install a “Dead End” sign to help prevent drivers from thinking there is an outlet.**

**D. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Tailgate Trot Road Race**

Mr. Frank Michienzi is requesting permission to hold this road race on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Lt. Cavallaro reported no streets to be blocked, there will be Police presence and it is anticipated to have 300 participants. **Voted to approve Lt. Cavallaro’s report and forward recommendation to the Mayor’s Office for a permit to issue.**

**E. 100 ½ Prospect St. – Proposed Disabled Parking Space**

Ms. Susana Chirinos is requesting a Disabled Parking Space in front of her home. Voted to approve one HP space.

Add to Schedule #6

Prospect street, east side, 1 space in front of #100 ½

**2. TABLED ITEMS:**

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

B. Ellison Park traffic issues (9/13)(10/13)

C. Main Street at Warren Street – Proposed Pedestrian Signal (10/13)

D. Lowell Street at Washington Avenue – Traffic Study (6/14)(9/14)(10/14)

**Voted to remove from the Table**

**E. Long Term Parking in City Lots (3/15)(4/15).** Traffic Engineering had recommended on a trial basis some long term parking (up to seven days) at the Embassy Deck. A review of the parking at the Embassy Parking Facility indicated that the upper level is heavily utilized in the evenings, especially on Fridays. Consequently, the TE no longer believes it is advisable to reserve spaces for long term parking. Additionally, from observations the area designated for Senior Parking Sticker Only is not being used. Senior Housing at 48 Pine Street appears to have adequate parking. It was recommended to file the item for long term parking and remove the seven Senior Parking spaces. **Voted to Place on File long term parking and approved the removal of designated Senior Parking Sticker Only from the upper level of the Embassy Parking Facility**

F. Prentice/Plympton/Tomlin/Irving – All Way Stop & Truck Exclusion (6/15)(9/15)

G. Plympton St. Entire Length – Truck Exclusion (9/15)

**Voted to remove from the Table**

**H. Winthrop St. – Speeding Issues (9/15)** Traffic Engineering reported on the study done by the Police Department, which was conducted from August 9, 2015 for 38 days. Speeds were collected in both directions. Eastbound average speed was 19.3 MPH (85% 22.7) and westbound was 18.1MPH (85% 21.9). There does not seem to be a speeding issue and it was recommended to deny posting a Speed Limit. **Voted to deny this request.**

**Voted to Remove from the Table**

**I. 336 Moody St. (Bistro 781) – Valet Parking (9/15)** Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin was requested to further review this request and make a recommendation. The removal of three or four parking spaces to be used exclusively by a business presents significant concerns. Moody Street is not wide enough for double parked vehicles that might be waiting to be parked; gridlock would present serious safety issues. Member Mr. Chiasson felt a trial period should be made. Fire Chief Ciccone expressed his concerns for apparatus to get through. Chief MacPherson expressed his concerns for double parking and agreed that gridlock was very possible. **Voted to deny this request. Mike Chiasson voted in favor of the request.**

J. 475 Winter St. Service Rd. – Parking Improvements (9/15)

**Voted to Remove from the Table**

**K. 287-289 Newton St. – No Parking (9/15)** Vehicles parking on Newton Street, west side in the vicinity of Chestnut Street present a sight problem and southbound vehicles can't see pedestrians trying to cross Newton Street. The section has numerous driveways and on street parking is not an

issue. The area in question is only large enough for a small vehicle. **Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer's recommendation as follows:**

**Delete** - Newton St, west side, from Pine St. to Fuller St, 2Hr. Parking 7am-6pm Exc. Sun & Holi

**Add: - Newton St.** west side, from Pine St. to 100' south of Chestnut St., 2Hr. Parking 7am-6pm Exc. Sun & Holi

**Add: Newton St,** west side, from 100' south of Chestnut St. to 200' south of Chestnut St. No Parking

**Add: Newton St.** west side, from 220' south of Chestnut St. to Fuller St., 2Hr. Parking 7am-6pm Exc. Sun & Holi

### **3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report - The monthly collections continue to rise over last year's monthly totals. The Year to Date (YTD) total is up slightly from last year.
- B. South Street at Highland Street – Update. Foundations are in and the installation is progressing. Thermoplastic pavement markings are still needing to be completed and the traffic signals are expected to be installed by end of 2015.
- C. Transportation Master Plan – Update. McMahon Associates is issuing a Transportation Master Plan Survey which is available for public input until November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Lexington Street at Beaver Street – Accident Update. Lasts year, the left turn arrow for southbound Lexington Street at Beaver Street changed from lagging (permissive/protected) to leading (protected/permissive). Accident rates have not appeared to decline after this change. **For information only.**
- E. Summer Street at Lyman Street – Accident Update. The intersection experienced 17 incidents in the three years prior to installing the mast arm (August 2014) or 6 per year. In the one year after installation there have been three. It seems, although limited data, the change has made a significant reduction in accident occurrences.
- F. # 3 Pearl Street – Removal of Disabled Parking Space. The original petitioner has passed away and the family has requested this be removed. **Voted to remove the HP parking space**
- G. Fairfax Rd. at Longfellow Rd. – Proposed Crosswalks. In Spring 2016 the CPW Department will install four HP ramps at this intersection. Traffic Engineering is requesting four crosswalks be installed. **Voted to approve four crosswalks at this intersection**

H. Villa St. at Rockridge Rd. – Proposed Yield Sign for Right Turns from Villa Street. Villa Street is scheduled to “milled” and thermoplastic marking installed. The existing painted island will be shortened and the right hand channel should have a Yield control and markings as it intersects Rockridge Rd.

**Voted to approve this recommendation**

**Add to Schedule 12 Yield Signs**

**Villa Street at Rockridge Road, facing northbound traffic**

I. **Parking Pay Stations – Pay By Phone** - Traffic Engineering proposed for patron convenience a program where cell phones can be used to make parking fee payments. The company, PayByPhone, is already in the greater Boston area and have installed this capability in the MBTA parking lot located at the Brandeis/Roberts commuter rail station. Parkers download the app onto their cellphone and select the parking location. There is a \$0.25 convenience fee paid by the user for each transaction for the service . The parking fee goes directly to the City minus the normal credit card fees that presently exist. Our Parkeon and VenTek equipment are capable of receiving the data that indicates the parking fee have been paid. There is a one-time setup fee of \$500. (our responsibility) and there is a minimum convenience fee required City-wide, of \$250. per/month. This means 1,000 patrons per month would need to pay by phone in order to meet the minimum. The City would be required to meet the difference if the minimum was not met. Mr. Scott Selig representing PayByPhone stated that this fee would be “waived” for six (6) months (Member Mr. Magno asked for one year) at which time the City would be responsible for any shortfall. All signage and marketing would be done at no additional expense to the City by PayByPhone.

**Voted to have the Traffic Engineer seek the \$500. set-up fee and to have a contract signed.**

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

**Attendance: All members except Mr. Kelly. Mr. Scott Selig PayByPhone; Ms. Maria Wentworth Charles St. Ave.; Ms. Jennifer Conley Traffic Engineer;, Mr. Burt Francis & Tasos Mitrousis for 570 South St.; and Mr. Jeffrey Abellard for Valet-Parking.**

**Adjourned @ 11:06 AM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk**

## Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: October 15, 2015

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Scott Selig	1 Arlen Way West Hartford, Ct.	Pay By Phone	Pay By Phone Tech
Maria Wentworth	12 Charles St. Ave	On Street Parking Charles St. Ave	Petitioner
Jennifer Conley	Conley Associates	570 South St	Traffic Engineer
Bert Francis	509 Waverley Oaks Rd #202 Waltham, MA	570 South St	Attorney
Tasos Mitrouses	477 Ridge Way Dedham, MA	570 South St	Petitioner
Jeffrey Abellord	336 Moody St	Valet Parking	Owner/Petitioner