

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: FEBRUARY 16, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

Voted to amend item 1A (1070-1110 Lexington Street) in the January 19th minutes relative to installation of bicycle parking and site plan. The amended minutes were accepted.

(The following paragraph was added as an amendment to the January minutes)

(Member Catherine Cagle requested the installation of bicycle parking meet the Commission's Bicycle Parking Standards and the site plan/bicycle parking proposed be reviewed with the Traffic Engineer.)

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Crescent Street – Posted Speed Limit

Councillor Rourke is requesting accident history and speed study information. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended to accept this request and conduct a speed study and accident review.

Voted to accept this recommendation.

B. 5 For 5 Pub Series – 5 K Road Races

Event will be held Thursday's on June 1,8,15,22 and 29, 2017 at 7:00 PM on Fernald property.

C. Piggy's Run 5K Road Race

Event to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 2:00 PM (Hobbs Brook Park area)

D. Race to the Rink – 5K Road Race

Event to be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 10:30 AM (Fernald Property)

E. Shifter's 5K for Dana Farber

Event to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 1:00 PM (Fernald Property)

F. 8th Annual JB5K Blastoff

Event to be held on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at 10:30 AM (Area of John Brewers)

G. RTN Walk Home 5K

Event to be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 9:00 AM (Common & Riverwalk)

H. Boston Brain Tumor Ride

Event to be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 7:30 AM (West St northwest into Lincoln)

All the races in items 1B thru 1H were approved as requested.

Voted to remove items 2K and 2M from the table

2. TABLED ITEMS:

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

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

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

D. Forest Street – Crosswalks and Bicycle Markings (11/15) (5/16)

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

F. Parking Near Driveways (4/16)

G. Massasoit Street – Proposed Truck Restriction (9/16)

- H. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16)
- I. Whittemore Elementary School – Student Drop-off and Pick-up (9/16)
- J. Grove Street – Speed Study (12/16)

K. John, Moore, Oak, Flood & Friend Sts. – Parking Issues (12/16)

Mr. Magno recused himself from deliberations on this item.

Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of this request and included homeowners of Calvary Street who are experiencing similar problems with the present parking arrangement. Removing on-street parking is an added burden for the residents and the commercial property owners shouldn't be using the public streets for employee parking.

Councillor Logan stated the situation is “severe” and is “affecting the quality of life” for the residents. Commercial property owners should have sufficient parking for their employees and not the use of public streets. Violations, such as littering, noise and disorderly conduct require the police to be present and witness the violation. A parking control measure such as a sticker program can be readily enforced. He asked for a “trial period” with a sticker program.

Mr. Steven Frank, an attorney for Marcou Transportation stated that off-street parking is made available and a “special off-street” parking permit has been issued for employees to park in special lots. Some confusion existed when it was thought to be an “on-street” parking permit. The off-street lot had unauthorized parking and the permit system was used to prevent parking by other area employees. Commercial operation in this area dates back to the 1800's. Marcou Transportation employees about 200 people on a daily basis and there are about 50 to 60 workers on shift. Any unacceptable behavior by employees will not be tolerated and the employee will face discipline when it is reported.

Mr. James Hutchings from Calvary Street spoke of some specific instances where abusive/foul language was used and there has been cases of open urinating.

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin stated that a permit program must be viewed from a parking demand versus parking supply. His site review showed on-street parking was available at all times of the day. He recommended the daytime restriction of No Parking 8am to 4pm on Flood Street and Friend Street be removed (at least on a trial basis) to see whether that distributes the parked cars on more streets.

Mr. Kelly suggested the south side of Calvary Street, along the cemetery, be approved for additional parking in the area.

Chief MacPherson, suggested another neighborhood meeting to discuss these proposals. Ms. Cagle recommended the other businesses on Calvary Street be involved.

Voted to table the item and seek a neighborhood meeting to discuss some of these alternatives. Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Logan stated they would help arrange this meeting.

- L. Elson Rd. at Prentice St. – Traffic Study (12/16)

M. Speed Limit Standards (12/16)

Councillor Logan was present to discuss this issue. When the Traffic Commission receives a request for 25 mph speed zone, or 20 mph safety zone, the following guidelines will apply:

- 1: A speed study is conducted on the road for a period sufficient to get a representative sample, of traffic on the roadway during typical conditions
- 2: The speed study will report what the 85th percentile speed is on that roadway
- 3: The default speed limit should start out being that 85th percentile speed rounded to the nearest 5 mile per hour. The traffic engineer shall apply engineering judgement to determine whether a reduction in speed limit, below the default speed limit, is warranted due to:
 - * Narrow roadway width
 - * Limited sight distance
 - * High driveway density
 - * Unusually high crash rate
- 4: The potential reduction in speed limit from the default speed should be a reduction not to exceed 10 miles per hour for 25 mph speed limit requests, or 15 mph for 20 mph safety zone requests.
- 5: If the resulting recommended speed limit is greater than 25 mph, it will still need approval from Mass DOT, as has been the past practice.
- 6: For 20 mph safety zones the Traffic Engineer shall also consider if the proposed safety zone is located in closed proximity to a building or facility which primarily houses or serves persons who are elderly and/or handicapped, or any facility for the developmentally disable, and any day-care center, park, recreational facility, or any facility in which children commonly congregate, or any other extraordinary circumstance deemed appropriate by the Traffic Engineer.

Voted to accept the guidelines for a posted 25 MPH or 20 MPH safety zone, speed limit with the approved amendments.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report. Collection are up from last year (Jan) by \$5,000.
- B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update
Sign inventory has been completed and forwarded to the Mayor for her purview
- C. Oak Street at Moore Street – Change Yield sign to STOP sign control
Councillor Logan was present and in support of this change. Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and change the Yield to Stop

Schedule 11 – Add Oak St. at Moore St. facing Eastbound
Schedule 12 – Yield; Delete Oak St. at Moore St. facing Eastbound
- D. Surplus 9 Parkeon Pay By Space machines
Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and declare these machines as surplus and inform the Purchasing Agent and the Mayor of this recommendation.

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

Attendance; All members except Mr. Malone. Mayor McCarthy, Councillor Logan, Mr. Thomas Coxall, Mr. James Hastings, Mr. Steven Frank, Ms. Maria Thomasian and Ms. Lilly Zerdelian.

Adjourned @ 11:23 AM

**Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk**

Off Committee Speakers

Waltham Traffic Commission

Date of the Meeting: February 16, 2016

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main St Waltham, MA	John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts	Mayor
Thomas Coxall	21 John Street	John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts	Petitioner
James Hastings	95 Calvary St	John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts	Petitioner
Maria Thomasian	600 Main St	John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts	Petitioner
Steven Frank	224 Calvary St	John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts	Petitioner
Robert Logan		John – Moore – Oak Friend – Flood Sts Speed Standards Oak @ Moore St	Ward Councillor
Lilly Zerdelian	86C Orange St		