

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

HELD: NOVEMBER 16, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.

Voted to accept the minutes of the October 2017 meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. College Farm Road – Proposed Traffic Calming

Councillor Fowler is requesting a traffic study of College Farm Road. The Councillor spoke of the narrowness of this street, lack of sidewalks and the need for a Speed Limit. Councillor Fowler suggested the Fire Chief review if Fire apparatus can maneuver the streets. He also mentioned that the island at Lincoln Street is not marked well. The Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a study should be conducted to see what options exist.

Voted to table and conduct a traffic study.

B. Parkview Rd. at Upton Rd. – Traffic Study

Councillor McLaughlin is requesting a traffic study due to speeding and heavy cut through traffic. Some of the residents spoke in favor of restricting traffic to “residents only”. Chief MacPherson explained that this is virtually impossible to enforce. Any turning restrictions (off Trapelo Road or Waverley Oaks Road) would affect all the residents. Presently, Upton Road, Shirley Road and Brookfield Road have restricted turns; any further turning restrictions would prevent residents from entering the area. Member Mr. Magno stated there is a need for a “Special Enforcement Team” within the Police Department, to be assigned to these neighborhood traffic issues. **Voted to table and conduct a traffic study.**

C. Barbara Rd. at Candace Ave. – Proposed Crosswalk

Councillor McLaughlin is requesting a crosswalk at this location. Councillor McLaughlin attended this meeting and spoke in favor of a crosswalk at this intersection. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that three (3) crossings should be installed; two across Barbara Road (north & south), and one across Candace Ave. (west side). **Voted to install three crosswalks at this location when painting season starts up again.**

D. Fairfax Rd. at Longfellow Rd. – Speed Calming Measures

Councillor McLaughlin is requesting speed calming measures such as speed bumps or “raised table” intersection. The Councillor and several area residents attended the meeting and spoke in favor of the 4-way Stop being reinstalled. The signs were removed when it was determined that the warrant requirements were not met. Other alternatives, such as painting crosswalks have been installed. Mayor McCarthy requested a review to determine if the warrants for a 4-way stop have changed. Additionally, the Mayor asked for the posting of a 25 MPH Special Speed Limit. Re-installation of the 4-way stop, which does not meet the mandated warrants, is prohibited. Member Ms. Cagle (Director of Planning) asked for consideration of “raised table”. Fire Chief Ciccone stated he would like more information to support this concept. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer conduct a study for a 4-way Stop, conduct a Speed Study for a possible posted Special Speed Limit; and gather more information for installing “raised tables”.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

(Voted to remove items E. Winter St; H. Lexington St.; K. Harris St.; & L. Linden 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)(10/17)

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

E. Winter St. & Wyman St. area – Traffic Improvements (9/16) Marcus Partners, with Vanasse & Associates presented a proposal (Phase I) to modify Winter Street. Mr. Peter Cameron of Marcus Partners attended this meeting along with Mr. Steve Boudreau and Mr. Scott Thornton of Vanasse & Associates Inc. They proposed modifications to Winter Street that would alleviate some of the long delays and queues. The Mayor was present and spoke in support of this project. Estimated construction to start in Spring 2018. The following specifics are for the westbound traffic:

1: Extend the length of the left turn lane from Winter St. onto West St.

2: Widen south side of Winter Street (opposite the reservoir) by approximately six (6) feet, and shift the median over.

3: Eliminate the existing westbound lane drop and carry two (2) lanes through to the South Drive (830-890 Winter Street). The exclusive left turn lane at Gatehouse Drive would be eliminated and in some sections the existing bike lane would also be eliminated.

The proponents are also working on a separate proposal (Phase II) to assist eastbound traffic. Proposed is widening the Winter Street southbound on-ramp to two lanes and extend the merge-lane of I-95 (Rt.128) from the present 220 feet to 1100 feet. This proposal is under the jurisdiction of Mass DOT who is in favor of this project. Estimated time for construction is Spring 2019. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended acceptance of the proposals. Member Mr. Malone expressed congratulations to Marcus Partners for their work on this project. Mr. Cameron stated that many of the area developers contributed to the improvements that have been recommended. Member Ms. Cagle expressed concern with the lack of sidewalks and asked for installation where possible. Mr. Cameron will look again into talks with Cambridge regarding the sidewalks. Member Mr. Kelly stated this would be beneficial and an improvement to the traffic. It was also noted that no utility poles will be relocated during this project.

Voted to approve the modifications and amend the Rules & Regulations as follows (Pending completion of the construction):

Delete from Schedule 18 Turns Only as Designated

Winter Street: westbound at #35 Gatehouse Drive MUST TURN LEFT

ADD: Schedule 18 Turns as Designated

Winter St: all vehicles traveling westbound approaching West Street in the left lane MUST TURN LEFT.

Winter St: All vehicles traveling northbound approaching the South Drive (830-890 Winter St.) in the left lane MUST TURN LEFT

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

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

H. Lexington St. at Stanley Rd. – Do Not Block Intersection (9/17)

Traffic Engineering reviewed the entire Lexington Street project and seldom found southbound traffic backed up to Stanley Road, blocking the intersection. **Voted to deny this request.**

- I. Trapelo Rd. at Pine Vale Rd. – Proposed Intersection Improvements (9/17)(10/17)
- J. 48 Pine St. – Crosswalk Safety Improvements (9/17)(10/17)

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

Councillor Waddick was present and spoke of the traffic volumes and speeding on this street. He also requested the Commission consider “raised tables”. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported his study found the average speed to be 31 MPH. The use of “raised tables” should be studied and a recommended policy before any installation. **Voted to table and review the use of “raised tables” as a traffic calming measure.**

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

Councillor Waddick was present and spoke of the problems with the increased traffic volumes and speeding. Residents are opposed to a double center yellow line and would prefer white shoulder lines be painted. There are no sidewalks and “raised table” should be considered. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported the average speed to be 32 MPH. Painted white shoulder lines would reduce the lane width to approximately 11 ½ feet. Member Ms. Cagle asked for 11 foot lanes. “Raised tables” need to be studied and a determination made of the advantages and disadvantages for their use. Fire Chief Ciccone stated that a “raised table” will slow down fire response but unlike ‘speed bumps’ they won’t have the effect to damage equipment. **Voted to paint the shoulder lines in the Spring and review “raised tables”**

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

N. Cabot St. Area – Traffic Calming Measures (10/17)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report

Collections are down by approximately \$14K from last year; PayByPhone has exceeded 1000 users per month.

B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update

Mr. Kelly is reviewing the list of missing signs along Main Street and Moody Street, provided by Mr. Garvin. Mr. Kelly will report the results of his review by the next Traffic Commission meeting.

C. Piety Corner – Update. City Council approved funding and this will be managed by Engineering Dept.

D. Transportation Master Plan – Update

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin submitted a report for implementation. Mr. Magno wants more detail on deliverables and funding needs.

E. Lexington Street Markings and Traffic Signals – Update

Radar Speed

Northbound before improvements - 41.2 MPH - after 37.0 MPH

Southbound before improvements - 40.4 MPH - after 38.8 MPH

The revised lane markings appear to have the intended effect of reducing the speed and there have not been any unacceptable delays at any of the traffic signals. Level of Service is at Level C or better with one exception; northbound approach at Lake Street which operates at Level D during the peak evening hour (4:45 – 5:45). A true measure of

improvement, will be the annual crash rate, compared to the rate before the improvements (30 crashes per year).

F. River / Farwell / Seyon – Update

City Council has approved funding. Waiting for contracts to be signed.

Attendance: All members except CPW Director Mr. Chiasson. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Waddick, Fowler and McLaughlin.

Adjourned @ 12:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Date of the Meeting: November 16, 2017
Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Mark Gallagher	850 Winter St	Winter St	Mass High Tech Council
Dan Mazzola Sr.	77 Longfellow Rd	4 Way Stop Signs	Petitioner
Jeannette A. McCarthy	610 Main St	Winter St	Mayor of Waltham
Tom Spellman	294 Linden St	Linden St	Resident
Sonia Tamakian	30 Phillips Circle	Parkview & Upton	Resident
Bob Waddick	129 Church St	Linden St Harris St	Councillor
Tony LaFucci	54 Parkview Rd	Parkview & Upton	Resident
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	College Farm Rd	Councillor
Michael Giorgein	852 Winter St	Winter Street	Tennent
John McLaughlin	42 Beal Road	Parkview Rd Barbara Road Fairfax	Councillor
Pete Cameron	Marcus Partners	Winter Street	
Jack Trafst	128 Corporate Alliance	Winter Street	