

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: JANUARY 18, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**Voted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. JB Blastoff 5K Road Race**

Ms. Margaret McCullough is requesting permission to hold this race on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 10:30 AM. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.**

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

Mr. Rich Horgan is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 1:00 PM. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.**

**2. TABLED ITEMS:**

**Voted items H – I – K – L - & O to be removed from 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. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)
- D. Trapelo Road at Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)
- E. Main Street at Newton Street – Proposed Right Turn Lane (4/17)(5/17)
- F. Trapelo Rd. at Pine Vale Rd. – Proposed Intersection Improvements (9/17)(10/17)
- G. 48 Pine St. – Crosswalk Safety Improvements (9/17)(10/17)

**H. Harris St. – Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Concerns (9/17)(11/17)**

Ward Councillor Waddick requested recommendations to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety for this street. Harris Street is 25 feet wide, with sidewalks on both sides; the average daily vehicle traffic showed 379 northbound and 544 southbound. A speed study showed both northbound and southbound (85% percentile) to be 31 MPH. A previous recommendation was made for a "raised table" at the intersection of Summer and Harris Streets, which could be useful to lower speeds on Summer Street. Such a raised table would have no effect on Harris Street. Based on the low traffic volumes and low speed along Harris Street, Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin did not recommend any further traffic calming measures. **Voted to deny the request for further improvements.**

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

Currently Waltham Lumber uses this intersection to make left turns onto Main Street. If the restriction is enforced, the trucks would be forced to travel east on Main Street. There is a Heavy Truck Restriction on Willow Street, which would force the trucks to Gore Street. Over the last three years there has been four accidents. Three of the accidents were vehicles making a left turn onto Main Street. Massasoit Street lacks adequate pavement markings, which may be a cause of these accidents. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended removing the existing left turn restriction and paint pavement marking along Massasoit Street. **Voted to delete in Schedule 18 Turns Only As Designated Massasoit Street; eastbound traffic at Main Street NO LEFT TURN and paint a double yellow center line and Stop line on Massasoit Street at Main Street.**

**J. Cabot St. Area – Traffic Calming Measures (10/17)(12/17)**

**K. College Farm Rd. – Proposed Traffic Calming (11/17)**

Councillor Fowler requested traffic calming measures on this street. A speed study showed the 85% percentile speed to be 30 MPH both directions between Princeton Ave and Trimount Ave; and 29 MPH between Indian Road and Mt. Wally Road. From 2015-2017 there were 9 accidents (5 of the 9 were at Lexington Street, the others were side-swipes or hit & run). The width of the street is approximately 22 to 28 feet, within a 40 foot right of way. Overgrown vegetation may be causing a sight problem. It is suggested that CPW trim or remove the vegetation where needed. Additionally “S” curve signs should be installed between Montview Avenue and Lexington Street. **Voted to install curve warning signs and request CPW to trim back the vegetation in the Spring/Summer.**

**L. Fairfax Rd. at Longfellow Rd. – Speed Calming Measures (11/17)**

At the November 2017 meeting the Commission was asked to review and seek additional speed calming measures at this intersection. There had been a four-way Stop Sign at this location which was removed when it was determined that the intersection did not meet the standards (the warrants required) to qualify for 4-way stop control. In September 2014 a speed study reported that the 85% percentile speed was 35 MPH eastbound and 33 MPH westbound. At that time the Commission voted monitor the intersection and install new crosswalks at all four corners. In December 2017 a speed study showed the 85% percentile to be 30 MPH in both east and west directions. This indicates that installation of the new crosswalks had an effect on the speeds at this location. An accident history for 2015-2017 showed five accidents along Fairfax Road (1 @ Longfellow, Stop violation; 2 @ Whitman stop sign violations; and 2 @ Warren both snow ice conditions). It does not appear that speed along Fairfax Road contributed to any of the accidents. Traffic volumes, sight distances and accident history do not meet the warrants for All Way Stop. It was recommended not to make any further changes to this intersection. **Voted to deny**

M. Parkview Rd. at Upton Rd. – Traffic Study (11/17)

N. Newton St. at Robbins St. – Proposed All-Way Stop (12/17)

**O. Cedarwood Ave. at Weston St. – Removal of No Turn on Red (12/17)**

As directed Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin met with Mr. John Gregg from MassDOT District 4 to discuss improvements to this intersection. It was agreed that changes to the traffic signal would help alleviate the No Right on Red for Cedarwood Ave. at Weston St. A right on red at Cedarwood Ave. interferes with the left turn from Tavern Road onto Weston Street. Modifying the traffic signal phases (adding a fourth phase) will allow Tavern Road right turns to continue with a green light but will stop the left turn onto Weston Street when there is no one present. Cedarwood Ave. will then get a right turn arrow before the left turn arrow goes green. In other words when Tavern Road is going west onto Weston Street or turning into Cedarwood Ave., there will be a right turn arrow only for Cedarwood Ave. prior to getting a left turn green arrow. MassDOT reported this action will not take place until Spring 2018. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin was commended for efforts in reaching this satisfying result.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report . . . Total collections for the year were down approximately \$20,000; however transactions for PayByPhone increased substantially.

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

38 Parking signs have been approved to be installed along Main and Moody St.; there are still 41 more signs that need to be installed. Chief MacPherson stressed the need for replacement of these signs in a timely manner due to safety issues, (Do Not Enter - Keep Right - One Way Street).

Member Mr. Kelly and Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin will report on the progress at next month's meeting.

**Attendance: All members present except Planning Director Ms. Cagle. No other attendees at this meeting.**

**Adjourned: @ 10:26 AM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo**  
**Clerk**