

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: MARCH 15, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

Voted to accept the minutes of the February meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. 4th Annual YMCA Five to Thrive 5K Road Race

Ms. Amanda Cleary is requesting permission to hold this race on Saturday, July 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM. The Police department reported no streets will be closed, approximately 200 participants and there will be police presence. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.**

B. Tomlin/Prentice/Irving/Prospect Hill Rd./Dale – Proposed 25 MPH Limit

Mayor McCarthy was present and requested a review of the listed streets to determine if they meet the requirements to make 25 MPH speed limits. The policy of the Commission is to conduct a speed study and report the 85% speed rounded to the nearest 5 mile per hour. The Traffic Engineer shall apply engineering judgement to determine whether a reduction in the speed limit, below the default, is warranted. Factors such as narrow roadway width; limited sight distance; high driveway density; and unusual high crash rate shall be considered in making a recommendation. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, conduct a study and report to the Commission at a future meeting.**

C. Cross streets along Lexington and Bacon Sts. – Proposed Crosswalks

Councillor Romard is requesting crosswalks across Curve St., Lincoln St., Totten Pond Rd., Worcester Ln., Clark Ln., Greenwood Ln., Kendall Park and Dale St. Councillors Romard and Fowler each expressed their concerns for the safety of children and home owners in this area. Ms. Rachel Weinstein, from 78 Lincoln St. was present and voiced her concerns for her child's safety going to school. Mayor McCarthy spoke of the procedures the residents are required to do for the installation of sidewalks. Student walking routes are recommended by the School Department. The Police Department has been monitoring the speed and enforcing the existing Speed Limit. The Mayor requested a review for "calming measures" that may be applicable to this area. Member Mr. Kelly stated "speed bumps" should be reconsidered even though they are a problem for the Fire Department. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a neighborhood meeting should be scheduled. The issues can be addressed and suggestions can be discussed. Mayor McCarthy agreed to arrange and have a neighborhood meeting with the T.E., At-Large and Ward 1 and 2 Councillors at the Kennedy Middle School (Note: meeting set for March 28, 2018) to discuss traffic safety issues on the side streets off Lexington Street/Bacon Street from Dale Street north to Curve Street. Also, to include the Lincoln Street area. **Voted to table.**

D. Watch City Steampunk Festival

Ms. Melissa Honig, Lead Organizer was present and is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, May 12, 2018. This event will require road closure and free use of parking lots for vendors, volunteers and performers. The request includes the closing of Carter Street both ends; the use of the Carter Street Parking lot and parking on the upper deck of the Central Square parking garage. Traffic Engineering will contact the MBTA Bus and Train divisions about this event. **Voted to approve this event and close Carter Street on Saturday May 12, 2018 6:00 AM to 6:30PM. Volunteers and vendors may use the Carter Street parking lot and park free on the upper level of the Central Square Parking Deck with an approved placard.**

E. Waltham Riverfest 2018

Ms. Sarah Hankins was present and is requesting permission to hold this event on Friday, June 16th and Saturday, June 17th. On Saturday they are requesting Moody Street bridge restrictions and use of free parking in the Embassy Parking Lot for vendors and artists. Member Mr. Chiasson requested no paint applied in streets; last year it was very difficult to remove. Traffic Engineering will contact the MBTA Bus and Train divisions about this event. **Voted to approve the closing of Moody Street on Saturday June 16, 2018 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM from Carter Street to Pine Street. Parking for vendors and volunteers is approved in the 31 space (small) lot behind 210 Moody St with an approved placard. Parking in the Embassy Parking Facility will require payment to park.**

F. 99 Moody Street – Proposed Development Traffic Study

Ms. Jennifer Conley with WSP USA presented a traffic study for this proposed development. The proposal is to construct a five story building for 14 residential units and a 600 square foot retail space on the ground level facing Moody Street. Total parking spaces will be 20, one will be handicap accessible. The net traffic trips are expected to be 8 in the morning peak hour and 17 in the afternoon peak hour. The traffic signal at Moody/Carter/Felton Street operates at a LOS B during both peak hours. The additional traffic will not affect the LOS. The proponent will contribute an estimated \$13,833. to the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund. Currently both northbound and southbound (Moody Street) have two lanes each. One southbound lane could be converted and so as to have three northbound lanes and one southbound lane. If this were done there could be a left turn lane, a straight lane and a right lane at Moody/Carter/Felton Sts.

Members expressed concern with the parking space layout. The turning radius is very tight due to the support columns which would require the vehicles to back straight out onto Railroad Ave. Also, there is a lack of determination for the property line.

It is recommended to accept the traffic study prepared by WSP for the proposed 14-unit residential Development and allow the proponent to proceed to the City Council to obtain a Special Permit. In addition the Traffic Commission has strong concerns about pedestrian safety, the layout of the parking spaces, as well as the need for a survey of the northern edge of the Railroad Parking Lot. The traffic memorandum meets the requirements of a valid traffic study. **Voted to accept this recommendation and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations to issue a Special Permit. Also voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to deliver an Advisory Memorandum to City Council, outing some of the concerns of Traffic Commission.**

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

Items I & J voted to remove from the table

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

At the request of Councillor McLaughlin a review of the turning restrictions from Trapelo Road onto Upton; Waverley Oaks at Shirley and Brookfield Road was conducted from February 26 to March 2. The 85% speed on Upton Road, was recorded to be 20 MPH northbound and 16 MPH southbound; not considered excessive. Traffic volumes of Upton and Shirley during the afternoon peak hour were 80 vehicles. It is reasonable to assume most of the vehicles are drivers cutting through the neighborhood and it is less than one vehicle per minute. The intersection of Upton/Shirley Road is recommended for crosswalks. The lighting is good and there are wheelchair ramps in place. **Voted to install painted crosswalks on each of the approaches at Upton/Shirley Roads and add stop lines on both Shirley Rd. approaches.**

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

The intersection does not qualify for an All-Way Stop (5 or more reported crashes; vehicular volume of 300 vehicles per hour main street; 200 vehicles per hour on the minor street; speed study (Newton Street) showed 85% to be 29 MPH northbound and 30 MPH southbound). **Voted to deny all-way Stop Signs**

K. Lowell St. at Ash St. – Traffic Calming Study (2/18)

L. MBTA Bus Stop Accessibility Improvement Project (2/18)

M. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)

(Requested to be continued at this time)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report. February collections similar to last year's

B. Resident Parking Sticker Program – 90 Day Update

The program started in October 2017. 106 resident stickers and 105 visitor stickers have been distributed. There have been 77 violations issued between November 2017 and February 2018.

C. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update Mr. Kelly will be reviewing missing warning and guide signs along Main Street and Moody Street, and report back.

D. Embassy Parking Deck. Traffic Engineering is seeking Mayors approval to proceed with putting the reconstruction out to bid. Items include repaving, replacing and adding lighting, replacing the pay stations with new ones and added signage.

E. Piety Corner – Update – City will hire a historian to advance the project onto the State. This will be on the April 5th agenda of Conservation Commission. Possible moving the house on the property.

F. Electric Cars Charging Stations - The installation of charging stations is under review by Mr. Garvin, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Cagle, along with Joe Pedulla.

Fire Chief Paul Ciccone announced his retirement effective April 5, 2018

Attendance: Chief MacPherson and Mr. Magno absent. Fire Chief Ciccone Acting Chairman. All other members present.

Adjourned @ 11:06 AM
Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk

Date of the Meeting: **March 15, 2018**

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	1B & 2J	Mayor of Waltham
Melissa Honig	985 Trapelo Rd.	Steampunk Festival	Organizer
Rachel Weinstein	78 Lincoln St		
Sarah Hawkins	103 Seminole Ave	Riverfest	Downtown Waltham Partnership
Jennifer Conley	WSP 75 Arlington St Boston	99 Moody St	Traffic Consultant
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	Curve/Lexington/ Bacon St	Ward Councillor