

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JUNE 21, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

Voted to accept a motion and the minutes of the May meeting were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Wayside Rail Trail – Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian way

Pare Engineering presented their study of this proposed bike trail. Ms. Amy Archer, Engineer for PARE made the presentation for the Trail. The design plans are at the 25% completion stage and cover the area between the end of the trail, at 1265 Main Street to the west, and Beaver Street to the east. Included are seven (7) roadway crossings with the following recommendations:

- 1: Prospect Hill Rd. raised crosswalk and RRFB
- 2: Hammond St. raised crosswalk
- 3: Bacon St. raised crosswalk, HAWK Signal. (Note T.E. Mr. Garvin opposed the HAWK and recommended an RRFB)
- 4: Lexington St. full traffic signal
- 5: Lyman St. raised crosswalk, RRFB
- 6: Middlesex Circle raised crosswalk
- 7: Linden St. Grade separated, RRFB (Note T.E. Mr. Garvin opposed this recommendation for an RRFB)

(Note: the HAWK signal has a Red light which is enforceable as opposed to the RRFB that has a flashing yellow light, unenforceable)

Member Mr. Kelly opposed the raised crosswalks at Prospect Hill Road and the full signal on Lexington Street. If approved Lexington Street signal must have "Opticom". Acting Fire Chief McInnis also had concerns with raised crosswalks for the extended fire trucks' response time will be effected. Street plowing operations may also be effected by raised crosswalks.

Councillor Mackin spoke in favor of the raised crosswalk and the HAWK signal

Councillor Fowler stated he would expect many vehicles "bottoming out" but only once and pedestrian safety is paramount; he favored raised crosswalks

Councillor Harris spoke in favor of raised crosswalks

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin explained that Pare Corporation needs a vote from the Commission to continue to the 75% design level. **The Commission voted to approve the recommendations (Mr. Kelly voted opposed) of the Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin, which excluded the Linden Street crosswalk recommendation. In addition, Pare was requested to consider a design change to the approach grade so as to lessen the effects of possible damage to large trucks (Fire Equipment) passing over a raised crosswalk. Also, consider the added approaches to the Lexington Street signal and add "Opticom".**

B. Portable Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs in Roadway

The Public Works and Public Safety Committee voted to send this list for Traffic Commission review. Councillor Diane LeBlanc appeared and spoke in favor of the installation of portable pedestrian yield signs. The list consisted of 54 locations. Ms. Julie Rushe also spoke in favor of the portable signs that will remind the motorist that he should stop (yield) to the pedestrian. Acting Fire

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended the Commission adopt guidelines for installing these devices as follows:

- 1: at a location with an existing crosswalk
- 2: with no parking, the street width must be at least 30 feet
- 3: with parking on one side, the street width must be at least 37 feet
- 4: with parking on both sides, the street width must be at least 44 feet
- 5: traffic volume must be at least 5,000 per day
- 6: prevailing speed must be no more than 35 mph
- 7: non signalized intersection
- 8: not on an approach controlled by a Stop Sign
- 9: not at a location adjacent to a bus stop
- 10: not an intersection where trucks and buses are likely to turn
- 11: not on a section of roadway with a horizontal curve

Based on these guidelines, it was recommended that four (4) locations be considered

- 1: Lexington Street in front of the Police Station
- 2: Stow Street between Colburn and Cutting Lane
- 3: Crescent St at Ash Street
- 4: High Street at Cedar St.

Chief McInnis stated that there is not enough room for the fire apparatus to pass and these signs will be struck and damaged. If approved, he recommended a “trial period”.

Voted to approve the four locations recommended at this time by the Traffic Engineer, seek funding for the project and monitor the progress of this program.

C. 180 Calvary St. – Removal of parking on Calvary St.

Eversource is requesting removal of 31 feet of parking to allow their trucks to access their site. The added on-street parking has created a turning problem for tractor trailers at the Eversource driveway.

Voted to amend the parking regulations as follows:

Delete: No Parking Calvary St north side from west of #200 driveway, 10 feet to the west,

Add: Calvary St. north side, from west side of #200 driveway, to a point 41 feet west of #200 driveway

D. Fourth of July – Street Closings and Parking Restrictions

Waltham Celebration Committee is requesting street closings and parking restrictions for this event.

Voted to approve the No Parking Restrictions and Street Closings around Leary Field from 12:00 PM to 12:00 AM Wednesday July 4, 2018

E. Moody St. at Carter St. – Removal of No Turn On Red Restriction

Commission member Tim Kelly is requesting this restriction be removed. The signs have been missing for some time. Since 2010, there have been six accidents that involved a vehicle with a pedestrian or bicycle, and none involved a vehicle turning “right on red”. Sight distances are adequate and the Traffic Engineer recommended the signs be removed.

Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer’s recommendation and remove in Schedule 20 “No Turn On Red” both northbound Moody Street at Carter Street, and westbound Carter Street at Moody Street

F. 29th Annual Barnyard Bingo / Fall Festival for Friends of Saint Jude

Mr. Joel Teeven is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. **Voted to approve this event and close Waverley Oaks Road between Beaver Street and Linden Street on Saturday October 13, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM (rain date October 14, 2018)**

G. Melanoma 5K Run / Walk for Hope

Ms. Amy Mason is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 10:00 AM. **Voted to recommend a permit to issue.**

H. Waverley Oaks Rd. at Wilson Rd. – Proposed RRFB

Mayor McCarthy is supporting this request from Mr. David Kern for an RRFB at this location. The crosswalk is at the intersection of Wilson Road.

Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer review and have a report at a future meeting.

I. 225 Waverley Oaks Rd. – Special Permit

Traffic Consultant Giles Ham with VAI discussed minor modifications to the Special Permit. The Traffic Commission accepted the Traffic Impact Assessment for the proposed expansion of the existing gas station in November 2016. At that time the report stated the existing driveways would be narrowed. The Board of Survey & Planning requested the driveways remain the same as they are. **Voted to accept the revised traffic study with the site plan with no change to the driveway widths.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Items B-F-I-K-L-M-N-O-Q-R-X- & Y voted to remove 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) there has been no further action from the petitioner. **Voted to Place on File**

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)

There is no further action planned at this time. **Voted to Place on File**

G. 48 Pine St. – Crosswalk Safety Improvements (9/17) (10/17)

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

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

1: Speed data was collected at two locations Robbins/Brown Street and Alder/Myrtle Streets. The 85th percentile Speed was found to be 30 MPH

2: Accident History – (2015, 2016 & 2017) there were 12 accidents (four per year) all involving a westbound (Ash Street) vehicle with a northbound (Lowell Street) vehicle. An all-way stop control is warranted if an intersection experiences five accidents per year and is correctable by all-way Stop control.

- 3: Traffic Volume – if the major street has at least 300 vehicles for eight hours and the minor street has 200 vehicles for eight hours an all-way stop meets the warrant. During the time from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM none of the traffic volumes were met

An all-way Stop is not warranted. An alternative remedy is to install a sign that reads “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop”. A flashing LED Stop Sign with vehicle detection, is cost prohibitive (estimated at \$4,400.)

Voted to approve the installation of W4-4p signs (“Cross Traffic Does Not Stop”) underneath the existing STOP signs on Ash Street westbound at Lowell Street. Install a new crosswalk across Ash Street at Lowell Street and move the existing Stop line forward. Denied the request to install an LED STOP

J. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18) (4/18)

K. Tomlin/Prentice/Irving/Prospect Hill Rd./Dale – Proposed 25 MPH Limit (3/18) Traffic calming solution is being considered a part of the Wayside Rail Trail. **Voted to place on File**

L. Lincoln Street – Traffic Calming (3/18)

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported the results of his study indicated eastbound Lincoln Street has a 24 hour volume of 2,624 vehicles per day and the 85th percentile speed recorded was 32 MPH; westbound had 3,137 vehicles and the 85th percentile speed was 32 MPH. If a sidewalk is installed the best location for a crosswalk would be between Piety Corner Road and Bigelow Road. The visibility is good and street light is adequate. Consideration should be given to a raised crosswalk. Vehicles exiting Sanderson Road have difficulty to the curvature of Lincoln Street and some trees that are located on private property (there is no violation, the trees meet zoning requirements).

Voted to approve the location of a new crosswalk across on Lincoln Street, between Piety Corner Road and Bigelow Road, when the sidewalk is installed. The Traffic Engineer is directed to suggest improvements to the Corner Clearance Ordinance and forward it to the City Council for their consideration.

M. Eddy St. – Proposed Heavy Commercial Truck Restriction (4/18)

A traffic count was conducted on May 22 and May 23

Northbound vehicles totaled 968 and 989. Less than 1% were heavy trucks

Southbound vehicles totaled 4519 & 4538. Less than 1% were heavy trucks

The warrant requirement to restrict Heavy Trucks is 5% to 8% of the total volume. A night time restriction is better suited due to the reduced volume of the total traffic. An alternative route, Banks Square (Main/Weston/South Sts.) is not unreasonable. It is recommended a night time exclusion be approved.

Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer’s recommendation and seek a permit for a Heavy Truck Exclusion from 7:00 PM – 7:00 AM

N. Hovey Rd. – Proposed Traffic Study regarding Whittemore School (4/18)

The Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin made the following recommendations:

- 1: convert Hovey Road to one-way southbound (from High St to Ash St)
- 2: continue to allow parking on the east side of Hovey road
- 3: west side of Hovey Rd new school drop off and pick up
- 4: remove drop off and pick up lane from Parmenter road
- 5: install Stop Sign Hovey Rd at Ash/Hamlin Road

- 6: On Ash St No Left Turn onto Hovey Road
- 7: On Arlington Road Must Turn Right onto Hamblin Road
- 8: new crosswalk on Hamblin Road, at Hovey Road

This action will have added traffic on Hamblin Road and which will eventually be served with a new traffic signal at High Street.

Voted to approve the modifications to the school drop off and pick up lanes; convert Hovey Road to one-way southbound, install a Stop Sign on Hovey at Ash/Hamlin Road, add the no turning signs on Ash St and Arlington Road and install a new crosswalk.

Schedule 1 Parking, Standing, & Stopping

DELETE:

Parmenter Road: east side from Ash St. to northern Whittemore School Driveway – No Parking Student Drop-Off / Pick-up Only

Parmenter Road: east side from northern Whittemore School Driveway – to High St No Parking

Add: - Parmenter Road, east side from Ash Street to High Street No Parking

Add - Hovey Road, west side, from High St to Ash St. - No Parking Student Drop-Off / Pick-up Only

Schedule 11 Stop Signs

Add - Hovey Road at Ash Street facing northbound traffic

Schedule 12 Yield Signs

Add – Hovey road at Hamblin Rd. facing northbound traffic

Schedule 14 One-Way Streets

Add - Hovey Road, one-way southbound from High Street to Ash Street

Install new crosswalk crossing Hamblin Rd at Hovey Rd.

O. High St. at Parmenter Rd. – Proposed RRFB (4/18)

The Traffic Engineer reported the highest number of students crossing High Street was at 3:00 – 3:15 PM where there is no crossing guard. Vehicles traveling east on High Street cannot see pedestrians standing on the southeast corner due to vehicles existing Parmenter Road. An RRFB (Reflective Rectangular Flashing Beacon) is recommended.

Voted to have an RRFB installed and authorized the Traffic Engineer to seek funding.

P. Moody St. at Alder St. – Proposed RRFB (4/18)

Q. 411 Waverley Oaks Road – Proposed Crosswalk (5/18)

The Traffic Engineer reported there is no sidewalk on the east side of Waverley Oaks Rd. Additionally, there is a guardrail with a steep hill beyond it. There is no room for the ADA compliant wheelchair ramp. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin requested the item be tabled; he will review the area and see if there is an appropriate other location for a crosswalk. **Voted to deny a crosswalk at this location.**

R. Turner Street – Parking Regulations (5/18)

The present restriction of No parking is from South Street to a point 100 feet west. Vehicles do not park on the entire west side of the street. It appears the daytime parking is from local employees. All night parking is allowed on all streets. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended parking be restricted on the entire north side of Turner Street. If vehicles were to park on the north side, there would not be adequate space for traffic in two directions.

Voted to approve this recommendation and request the police department check the area for over 24 hour parking.

Amend the Parking in Schedule 1 as follows:

Delete Turner Street, North side, from South Street to a point 100 feet west

Add: Turner Street, North side, entire length, No Parking

S. South St. at Turner St. – Proposed RRFB (5/18)

T. Milton St. – Proposed Speed Hump (5/18)

U. South St. btn. Charles River Rd. and Weston Town Line – Proposed Safety Island (5/18)

V. Bright St. at Grove St. – Intersection Study (5/18)

W. Bright St. – Proposed 25 MPH Speed Limit (5/18)

X. Main St. at Rose Hill Way – Proposed Crosswalk (5/18)

After reviewing this request Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended to deny installing crosswalks. Main St is a four lane road at this location with poor sight distances for vehicles approaching from the west (250 feet). Vehicles exiting Massasoit Street may not see a pedestrian trying to cross Main Street as he/she is attempting a turn onto Main Street. For these safety reasons, he recommended to deny this request and ask the MBTA to move the existing bus stop closer to Potter Road. **Voted to deny placing a crosswalk at this location.**

Y. Bow St. – No Parking (5/18)

At the last meeting the Commission voted to restrict parking on Bow Street. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin requests the following be approved. **Voted to amend the parking regulations as follows:**

Add to Schedule 1 Parking

Bow Street, west side, from the northwest property line of #16 to the end, No Parking

Z. Lexington St. – Proposed Crosswalk (5/18)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – The YTD total shows a continuing increase over last year

B. Main St. and Moody St. Sidewalk Project – Update numerous guide signs have been approved and installed, but there are 13 still missing; five regulatory signs are missing; and four Parking signs are missing; work is continuing. At a later meeting, Traffic Commission will discuss whether destination signs, primarily to churches, will continue to be approved.

C. Piety Corner – Update – 380 Bacon Street (corner of Bacon & Totten Pond Rd) has no historical value and can be considered for demolition, according to the Historical Commission.

D. Bear Hill Rd. and Second Ave. – Proposed pavement markings. In accordance with the Waltham Transportation Master Plan, Traffic Engineering has forwarded for approval proposed pavement markings for Bear Hill Road and Second Avenue. A short bike lane will be added on the uphill (northbound) section of Bear Hill Road.

Voted to approve the pavement markings presented by the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin.

E. Upton St. at Parkview Rd. – Proposed Yield Sign

Upon review by the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin he agreed that a Yield sign is warranted at this location.

Voted to accept the recommendation and amend Schedule 12, adding the following:

Add: Upton Road, at Parkview Road, facing northbound traffic

F. Newton St. at Senior Center Driveway – Proposed No Left Turn

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin is recommending this amendment.

Voted to amend Schedule 18 – Turns Only As Designated as follows:

Add: Newton Street: LEFT TURN PROHIBITED – No vehicle exiting Senior Center (#494 Main Street) driveway shall make a left turn onto Newton Street.

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

4. Late Filed

A. MBTA Commuter Rail Parking 90 Moody Street

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin responded to the Public Works Committee that a land survey should be obtained to determine the area to be used for parking in the Commuter Rail Parking Lot. The Committee in response requested the Traffic Commission authorize the Traffic Engineer seek to have a survey of the property lines and an understanding of whether any private adjacent properties have an agreement for parking or access from the MBTA property.

Voted to approve this request to have the Traffic Engineer seek funding for a survey and determine what parking arrangements have been approved.

Adjourned: 1:17 PM

Attendance: Absent Planning Director Ms. Cagle & Director CDPW Mr. Chiasson. Mr. Joseph Vizard attended (Acting City Clerk), all other members present. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Ms. D. LeBlanc, Ms. C. Harris, Mr. Bill Fowler. Mr. David Kern, Ms. Julie Rushe, Ms. Laurel Caspenle, Ms. Amy Archer, Mr. James Mesthene, Mr. Giles Ham.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Date of the Meeting: June 21, 2018

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Diane LeBlanc	55 Berkley St	1B Crosswalks	President City Council
David Kern	404 Waverley Oaks Rd	Waverley Oaks Rd And Wilson Rd	Resident
Cathyanne Harris	42 Hovey Rd	Whittemore School Items	Ward 8 Councillor
Julie Rushe	85 Grant St	1B Crosswalks	Resident
Michael A	100 Green St	1C - 180 Calvary St	Engineer
Laurel Carperle	415 South St	1A - Wayside Rail Trail	Wayside Advisory Committee
Amy Archer	Pare Corporation	1A - Wayside Rail Trail	Engineer
Bill Fowler	54 Lincoln St	2L - Lincoln St.	Ward 2 Councillor
James Mesthne	360 Waverley Oaks Road	2L - Lincoln St.	
Giles Ham	V H B	225 Waverley Oaks Rd	Engineer