

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JUNE 20, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair will accept a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Cedarwood Ave. at Rt. 20 – Remove No Turn On Red

Numerous Cedarwood residents are requesting that the No Turn On Red sign be removed. The signal is under control of MassDOT. An exclusive left turn green arrow is given to Tavern Road southbound turning (left) east onto Weston Street (Rt.20). Cedarwood Ave turning right on red onto Weston Street would be in conflict with the Tavern Road turning movement. Proponents and Mayor McCarthy, argued that Weston Street is often clear and a Right on Red is possible without conflict. Vehicles exiting Villa Street will sometimes block the intersection of Cedarwood and Villa Streets. Member Tim Kelly stated that the signals are on time base right now and that MassDOT will be adding a camera system. Mayor McCarthy requested a letter to MassDOT asking for a review of the signal timing and all the way to the I-95 off ramps. Chief MacPherson asked if the green arrow could be changed to a green ball signal with a No Right Turn. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin forward a request to have MassDOT review the signal timing and remove the “No Turn On Red” sign.**

B. Dale St. – Speeding Issues

Mayor McCarthy was present and is requesting the continual speeding issue be addressed. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, review linkage fee accounts to determine if the funds can be found to proceed with the speed studies needed to determine if a City Wide 25 MPH speed limit can be enacted.**

C. Embassy Parking Facility – New Electric Charging Spaces

Commission member Tim Kelly is requesting 3 new Car Chargers on the upper level taking 6 spaces. **Voted to approve this request and add 3 new Electrical Car Chargers on the upper level in spaces 1215-1220 with a 2 hour max. parking time limit at the Embassy Parking Facility.**

D. Heard St. – No Parking

Marybeth Duffy, Director at the Senior Center was present and is requesting No Parking on Heard St. near the exit driveway of the Senior Center. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that there is a problem with vehicles exiting the parking lot the Senior Center due to the narrowness of Heard Street. **Voted to amend the parking as follows:**

Schedule 1 parking Restrictions:

Heard St., east side, from Council on Aging driveway to a point 20 feet north; No Parking

E. Moody St. at Charles St. – Don’t Block the Box

Councillors LaCava and Vidal were present and are requesting a “Don’t Block the Box” pavement marking on Moody St. Commission member Cagle states that this also interferes with both bicycles and pedestrians crossing Charles St. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer study this request and report back with his findings.**

F. 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 temporary Parking restrictions, Streets closed, Vender parking and Disabled Parking as requested for the annual fireworks at Leary Field.**

G. #75 Pine St. – Change 2 hr. Parking to 15 Min. Parking

Councillor Logan was present and is requesting that the current 2 hr. parking limit be changed to 15 min. parking on the south side of Pine St. by # 75. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a parking change would allow increased turnover for the businesses, but recommended a study. Upon further discussion Traffic Commission voted to amend the parking as follows: **Voted to amend the parking from 2 Hours to 15 minutes on pine Street, as follows:**

Schedule 1 Parking

Delete: Pine Street, south side, 2 Hour Parking from Lowell Street to a point 110 east
Add: Pine Street, south side, 15 Minute Parking from Lowell Street to a point 110 east

H. Pine St. from Newton St. to Elm St. – Remove 1 hr. Parking

Councillor Logan was present and is requesting that the current 1 hr. parking limit be removed in this section on the north side of Pine St. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed that a parking change would allow increased turnover for the businesses, but recommended a study. Upon further discussion Traffic Commission voted to amend the parking as follows: (Note: Fire Chief McInnis opposed this change)

Voted to amend the parking on Pine Street as follows:

Delete: Pine Street, north side from Newton to Elm Street; 1 Hour Parking

I. Elson Rd. – Parking Issue

Police Officer Sgt. Gallant is requesting a study to regarding the parking on Elson Rd. The request was supported by Capt. Russo, OIC Community Services Division. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, to study this request**

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. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)(11/18)

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

Voted to Place on File

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

E. Waverley Oaks Rd. at Wilson Rd. – Proposed RRFB (6/18)(9/18)

A large group of residents appeared on behalf of this item. Many cited near misses and the increased traffic in the past few years. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported his study found four walkers crossing at noon time and eight in the afternoon. There is a need for a sidewalk on the south side of Waverley Oaks Road. Councillor McMenimen spoke in favor of this request. Resident Mr. David Kern speaking about the increased traffic talked about the curves creating a site view problem. Ms. Emily Nordone spoke of the traffic not stopping to allow pedestrians to cross. Mayor McCarthy also spoke of the site problems in this area and the RRFB is warranted. Fire Chief McInnis motioned to approve the installation of the RRFB. Member Ms. Cagle amended the motion to include an additional crosswalk for Wilson Road and add shark teeth street markings at the crosswalks. Chief MacPherson emphasized the need for additional pedestrian street markings. **Voted to install the RRFB crossing Waverley Oaks Road at Wilson Road. In addition, the Traffic Engineer is directed to request Engineering Department to evaluate construction of a sidewalk on the**

southern side of Waverley Oaks Road. In the interim a portable pedestrian sign will be installed at this crosswalk.

F. Main St. from Church/Elm St. to Newton St. – Parking spaces (9/18)(11/18)(5/19)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported that some additional parking spaces could be gained on Main Street from Elm St east to Lyman Street. He also recommended removal of parking on the north side from Lyman Street east to Craven Circle. Local business owner Ms. Judy Harsley stated that removal of the parking in this area, even for the hours of 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM would be very detrimental. The Toolshed requires short term parking for pick-up and deliveries; also the next door Hair Salon requires some long term parking. Mayor McCarthy spoke in favor of not removing parking on the north side of Main Street in this area. “Don’t Block the Box” street painting should be implemented. The other changes are beneficial and the parking should be approved. Member Ms. Cagle requested improved street markings from the next intersection of Pleasant Street to Lyman Street and she would oppose removing the parking on the north side of Main Street. Chairman Chief MacPherson, stated more study is needed for the signal coordination and member Mr. Kelly agreed. Motion was made to separate these items. **Voted to add 125 feet of parking between Liberty St. and Appleton St. on the south side of Main St., by relocating the bus stop to the stop line at Appleton St.; and 50 feet just east of Appleton St. on the south side of Main St.**

Schedule 1 Parking

Delete:

Main St., north side, from Opp. 80’ E. of Appleton St. to Appleton St., No Parking

G. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)

H. River St. at Jackson St. – Proposed RRFB (10/18)

I. Woerd Ave./Crescent St. – Study for Pedestrian Safety Improvements (12/18)(5/19)

Councillor Harris was present in support of this request. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin reported sight distances due to the road curve is a problem and some parking spaces should be removed. Parking in this area is “high demand” and removing parking should be a last resort, although safety cannot be compromised. **Voted to add additional pedestrian crossing signs, street markings (to include the “shark teeth”); determine if bushes and trees can be trimmed to improve the sight distances. Also, placed the RRFB request on the table.**

J. Main St. at Warren St. – Proposed Crosswalk (5/19)

Mayor McCarthy was present and in support of this crosswalk. Traffic Engineer Garvin stated that there is a problem at this intersection concerning the crosswalk across the eastern leg. That crosswalk is not controlled by a traffic signal; without pedestrian signals and pushbuttons. A complete reconstruction would incorporate pedestrian signals. A short term solution would require significant installation of signal post, signal heads, underground conduit and connection to the Barbara Road pedestrian signal. This is not a viable option considering the intersection is about to be redesigned. Mayor McCarthy concurred this financial expense, for a short term, is not a practical solution. **Voted to have Mr. Garvin search for sources of “leakage fees” and discuss them with the Mayor in an attempt to quickly redesign and reconstruct this intersection.**

K. 2nd Annual Shopper’s 5K (5/19)

It was voted not to recommend a “Permit to Issue” because the route selected uses Mt. Feake Cemetery. Voted to Table. Lt. Cavarallo will review a new route.

L. 4th Annual Waltham Overcoming Addiction Recovery 5K (5/19)

The event is scheduled for Sunday September 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM. It will start and finish on the Common. **Voted to recommend a “Permit to Issue” by the Mayor’s Office**

M. Moody St. Marketplace – Temp. Closure (5/19)

The request is to close Moody Street from Pine Street to Taylor Street for four Saturdays in October. This part of Moody Street carries 700 vehicles per hour and has 45 parking spaces and 2 HP spaces. Diverting this much traffic could result in very heavy traffic delays. As an alternative, Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin proposed the use of Spruce Street which would have a less impact on traffic and parking. Mr. Marc Rudnick spoke in opposition of the alternate location, stating the desired effect would be lost. A recent event, Riverfest, worked very well with little or no problems. This proposal has a very large local support. Mr. Robert Marcou, spoke of the past history of “Crazy Days” and it was very successful. Councilor Logan spoke in favor stating the minor inconvenience for this “Special Event” is worthwhile. Councilor Harris stated in her opinion, Crescent Street could handle the extra traffic and that there will be heavy resident participation. Mayor McCarthy favored the event and stated any minor problems could be fixed with minor adjustments. Councilor McMeniman also spoke in favor for this event. Member Fire Chief McInnis stated he supported the event and should any situations arise, a solution will be found.

Voted to approve the request and close Moody Street on four Saturdays; (October 5,12,19 & 26)

N. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)

O. South St. – Proposed Crosswalk at Brandeis University (5/19)

P. Orange St. at Crescent St. – Mirror for exiting vehicles (5/19). Councillor Harris was present to discuss this request. Traffic Engineering does not install mirrors at intersections. Visibility towards the right is somewhat limited due to the curve of the street, vegetation, and cars that often park close to the corner within the standard 50 foot restriction. **Voted to have the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign 50 north of Orange Street replaced and paint hatch pavement markings indicating no parking within 50 feet of the intersection.**

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – collections are down approximately \$9,000 from the same period as last year.

B. River/Farwell/Seyon – Update – most of the work has been completed. The detection issues are being fixed.

C. High/Hamblin/Joyce – Update – Mayor McCarthy was present and is in support of this design. Councillor Harris was present to support this project and to seek funding. **Voted to approve the final design and have the project go out to bid for construction**

D. Piety Corner – Update – Mayor McCarthy was present to give an update. The demolition of the existing house at 380 Lexington Street is on hold and will be combined with the demolition of the north Branch Library 685 Lexington Street; a property line fence between 380 Lexington Street and 378 Bacon Street has been approved and will be installed prior to demolition; The design of BSC Group will not include landscape design which will make the traffic plan complete. The Mayor and Traffic Engineer will meet with the neighbors regarding the traffic plan, fence and landscape before going to Conservation Commission. A meeting with the Conservation Commission must be scheduled and a demolition permit will be sought; removal of fruit trees is being done by CPW.

E. Main St. and Moody St. Sign Authorization – Update – Some Wayfinding signs are pending along Moody Street; and some Main Street are under review

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

4: Late Filed Items

A: Moody Street Railroad Parking Lot

Councillor Randy LeBlanc was present and is requesting a review of the parking lot with the possibility of expanding the parking. Mayor McCarthy was present and stated that City Law Dept researched the ownerships of this lot. She will handle it internally of who owns what before proceeding with a property survey. **Voted to table.**

B: Angleside/Edgewater/Charles River Road – All way Stop

Mayor McCarthy was present and is requesting a review of this intersection to see if an all-way stop control is warranted. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer study and report his findings when available.**

C: Lyman Street at rotary – Proposed Crosswalk

Councillor Nabulime is requesting a review for the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Lyman St. at the rotary. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer study and report his findings when available.**

Adjourned @12:42 pm

Attendance: All members except Mr. Waddick. Mayor McCarthy; Councillors Kathleen McMenimen, Robert Logan; Randy LeBlanc; and Cathyanne Harris. Residents from the Waverley Oaks Road area; business owners from 461-477 Main Street; petitioners for the Moody Street Market; and Ms. Marybeth Duffy, COA.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk**

Date of the Meeting: JUNE 20, 2019

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Jeannette A. McCarthy	91 Hamilton Rd.	1A – 1B – 1F – 2E 2F – 2J – 2M – 3D	Mayor of Waltham
Robert Logan	109 Taylor St	1G – 1H – 2M	Ward Councillor
David Kearn	484 Waverley Oaks Rd	2E	Resident
Naveen Pawar	85 Upton Rd	2E	Resident
Allan Wint	476 Waverley Oaks Rd	2E	Resident
Judy Harley	115 Parkview Rd	2E	Resident
Susan Rodley		2E	Resident
James McMeniman	15 Craven Circle	2F	Business Owner
Kathleen McMenimen	City Council	All	Councillor at Large
Emily Nordare	496 Waverley Oaks Rd	2E	Resident
John Zawachili	461-477 Main St	2F	Business Owner
Michelle Hachie	461A Main St	2F	Interested Party
Bob Marcou	5 Bancroft St	Moody St Mfk	Business Owner
Marc Rudnick	144 Hardy Pond Rd	Moody St Mfk	Petitioner
Marybeth Duffy	Council on Aging	1D	Petitioner
Randy LeBlanc	26 Linden Circle	Moody St Mfk	Councillor at Large
Cathyanne Harris	42 Hovey Rd	Crescent St	Ward Councillor
Jonathan Vega	473-469-465 Main Street	2F	Business Owner