

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Fiske Ave. at Weston St. – Traffic Issues

Mayor McCarthy was present and is requesting this item be placed back on the agenda. Ms. Kim Becker stated a serious problem exists with vehicle attempting to exit from Fiske Ave onto Weston Street. She suggested that Weston St. be reduced to a single lane to turn left to slow motorist down. The Mayor requested the whole area be studied due to these conflicts. In addition, the study should include the merging traffic at Weston St. and Eddy St. and possible Do Not Block the Intersection signs and markings. MassDOT will need to be contacted for installation of any signage before this intersection. **Voted to table and study the area from Banks Square to the state highway.**

B. # 80 – 86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority

Mayor McCarthy and Councillor Harris were present and are requesting residential sticker parking for those abutting this complex. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin requested time to review the parking needs and have a neighborhood meeting to notify abutting residents regarding sticker parking. Commission member Cagle stated that the Tick Tock Trolley has a difficult time going down the street due to vehicles parking on both sides. Commission member Waddick needs parking for voters who use this building during elections. **Voted to table and have a neighborhood meeting regarding sticker parking.**

C. Pine St. at Elm St. – Proposed Flashing Warning Lights

Councillor Logan is requesting flashing warning lights at this intersection. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin requested time to review. Member Kelly stated that new utility poles will need to be reset and installed if the lights are approved. **Voted to table and report findings at a future meeting.**

D. New Waltham High School – Traffic Study

Bryant Associates submitted a first draft of the traffic study in June 2019 and a revised study on September 13, 2019. The study included a AM peak hour of 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM and a PM peak hour of 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The greatest impacts by far are the AM peak hour traffic; when school is dismissed there is minimal traffic on the streets that are unrelated to the school. Mr. Garvin's review focused on the AM peak hour.

The following intersections were studied

- 1: Lexington Street/Stanley Road
- 2: Lexington Street/Jack's Way (existing entrance to high School)
- 3: Lexington Street/High School egress
- 4: Lexington Street/Lake Street-Bishop Forest Drive
- 5: Lexington Street at Piety Corner (Totten Pond Rd - Bacon Street)
- 6: Forest Street/Woodcliff Drive

Bryant Associates calculated the approximate number of vehicle trips based on the existing enrollment of 1,474 students. There are 1,032 vehicle trips in the AM peak hour. Of these 691

were entering and 341 were exiting. 40 percent of the traffic existing the high school use Forest Street and 60 percent use Lexington Street/Jacks Way. Our own traffic counts (Waltham Traffic Engineering) agreed with these results.

Bryant Associates used a reasonable calculation of 24 percent increase in traffic if the population increased from 1,474 to 1,830. The increase in traffic would not change the existing 40/60 percent distribution. This assumption is completely unrealistic; the use of Forest St./Woodcliff Drive would drastically be reduced and Lexington Street will see a dramatic decrease in the Level of Service. Bryant Association projections underestimate the amount of traffic on Lexington Street south of the new high school and overestimate the traffic north of the high school. The principal reason for the discrepancy is the assumption of the high school traffic will use Woodcliff Drive/Jack's Way. In addition, it assumes that the improvements to Piety Corner are complete and it assumes widening Woodcliff Drive. Mr. Garvin's projections are that Lexington Street south of the new high school will increase by 41% over existing traffic.

Level of Service Operations

- 1: There will be a separate entrance and exit driveway with two interconnected traffic signals. The close proximity of these two signals may cause stored vehicles to block traffic. The entrance will operate at Level of Service E with the southbound traffic experiencing the longest delays. The exit driveway will operate of Level of Service C, and will experience the longest delays.
- 2: Northbound left turns into the driveway will operate of Level of Service F with very long delays.
- 3: The intersection of Lexington Street/Lake St is expected to operate at Level of Service F with Lake Street and southbound traffic experiencing the longest delays.
- 4: Piety Corner (Lexington/Bacon/Totten Pond Rd) is expected to operate at Level of Service F after the reconstruction with long delays. Queues will extend in each direction, possibly causing gridlock along Lexington Street.

The existing high school building is expected to house a new middle school with 650 students. Without knowing, exactly what part of the city the new middle school will draw from it is difficult to determine the impact on traffic

Summary:

We can expect significant increases in traffic volumes on Lexington Street. In the combination of both directions, traffic volume is expected to be 41percent higher than today's traffic. For each of the 180 days of school, there is a good chance of gridlock on Lexington Street in the Am peak hour. Construction traffic impacts indicate 12 months of hauling material from the site and 36 months to build project. The fact that without a second access drive, the proposed location will significantly increase traffic on Lexington Street to a point where it is likely the existing street cannot accommodate the increased traffic. In addition, consideration should be given for a single traffic signal.

(Note: the Traffic Commission has no required obligation to vote on this project and is stating an opinion on facts presented for a comment only)

E. Clematis Street – Parking Issue

Mr. Bill Thompson is requesting No Parking on the south side from Wilbur St. going up the hill. Councillor McLaughlin spoke in opposition to this request; the neighbors are opposed to additional No Parking. The present regulations are No Parking on the north side entire length; and No Parking on the south side from Wilbur St to a point 330 feet NE. The signs for the south side no parking are missing. **Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin review the parking and recommend if the regulation should be amended.**

F. 26 Liberty St. – Disabled Parking Space

Nazneen Yousaf is requesting a Disabled Parking Space in front of her residence. All the required paperwork has been completed. Mr. Johnson, Chair of Disability Services recommended approval. **Voted to have a Disabled parking space as follows:**

Add to Schedule 6 Disabled Parking -

School Street, south side, 1 space, in front of #58 School Street

G. Gilmore Playground – Disabled Parking Space on Hall St.

Nick Abruzzi, Parks Director is requesting a Disabled Parking Space for patrons of the park. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended a Disabled Parking Space on Hall Street. The location is ADA compliant.

Voted to approve the request and add a Disabled Parking Space as follows:

Add to Schedule 6 Disabled Parking:

Hall Street, east side, 1 space at corner of High Street

H. Sanderson Rd. – Slow, Deaf Child sign

Ms. Sadye Vogel, # 34 Sanderson Rd. is requesting this sign for her son. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, upon review recommended the request be approved until the child reaches 18 years of age (2029) at which time the sign should be removed.

Voted to add to Schedule 24 Blind/Deaf Signage: Sanderson Road. – Deaf Child

I. 99 Moody St. – Temp. Parking for construction

Mr. Carlos Nano Jr. is requesting the use of 5-6 parking spaces on Felton St. for 6 months during construction of a new building at 99 Moody Street. The spaces in question have a four hour time limit for parking and are intended for customers of local businesses. Construction workers should park in the Central Square Deck and not use Felton Street. Mr. Matt O'Connor was present to discuss the needs for this project. He stated the difficulty in maneuvering the large trucks onto the site. On days when large delivery trucks are expected, a one-day permit can be issued. **Voted not to deny this request and have them contact Traffic Engineering to issue a permit on a day-to-day basis.**

J. Mighty Squirrel Brewery 5K

J. Alain Ferry was present to request permission to hold this event on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at 10:00 AM. The race will start and finish at 411 Waverley oaks Road. Lt. Cavallaro, Police Department, reported no streets will be closed, there will be Police presence and it is expected to have approximately 500 participants. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.**

K. 6th Annual Piggy's 5K Road Race

Ms. Margaret McCullough is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 2:00 PM. The race will start and finish at 411 Waverley Oaks Road. Lt. Cavallaro, Police Department, reported no streets will be closed, there will be Police presence and it is expected to have approximately 900 participants. **Voted to recommend a permit be issued.**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

Voted to remove items E – H – I – J- K & L 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. Amend Art. 5, Sec. 18 GVW (3/16)(11/18)
- C. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)
- D. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)
- E. **River St. at Jackson St. – Proposed RRFB (10/18)** The Traffic Engineer was instructed to review this location and determine if a RRFB is warranted. On a busy summer day (when Connors pool was open) 33 pedestrians during a peak hour of 12:15pm – 1:15 pm crossed River Street. A majority 18, crossed at Amory Road and 15 crossed at Jackson Street. Since more pedestrians used Amory Road instead of Jackson Street, it is recommended that the RRFB be placed at the intersection of Amory and River Streets. The Traffic Engineer and Wires Inspector Tim Kelly will meet to determine if solar or hardwired unit will work for this location. **Voted to approve this request for a RRFB and direct the Traffic Engineer to seek funding.**
- F. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)
- G. South St. – Proposed Crosswalk at Brandeis University (5/19)
- H. **Moody St. at Charles St. – Don't Block the Box (6/19)** Upon observation Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that pavement markings should be applied to this intersection. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer, to submit SAP-19-12 to the Mayor and if approved install a new R10-7 sign and apply the Do Not Block Intersection pavement markings on Moody Street at Charles Street**
- I. **Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19)** Vehicles park on the south side of the street, which has no curbs in such a way as to block the sidewalk. Staying off the sidewalk narrows the two-way street. On the western end, the street is 26 feet wide. Allowing 7 feet for sidewalks on each side, the remainder is 12 feet for two-way traffic; which is unacceptable. The east end of Elson Road varies from 25 feet to 32 feet in width. The City's Right of Way for the entire length is 40 feet. Some options discussed were for the CPW to widen the pavement to the full 40 feet; convert Elson Road to one-way traffic (not recommended; it is too inconvenient) or leave the situation as is and have the police enforce parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Amir Moyhlin, # 74 Elson Rd. was present and brought up his observation of the parking issues on this roadway. **Voted to table and request the Ward Councillor to conduct a neighborhood meeting to seek more input on where the change should take place.**
- J. **Railroad Parking Lot Survey (6/19) Voted to Place on File.** Funding request for a survey is listed in item #3N

K. **Angleside/Edgewater/Charles River Rd. – All Way STOP (6/19)** Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended a Stop Sign on Charles River Road facing northbound traffic. Mayor is in support of this request. **Voted to accept this recommendation. (See Item 3H)**

L. **Lyman St. proposed crosswalk at rotary (6/19)**

Councillor Nabulime requested a review for a new crosswalk at this location. Pedestrians were observed using the sidewalks and there is clearly a demand for a connection between the sidewalks. MUTCD states a crosswalk should be located about one car length behind the yield markings at a roundabout. Commission member Cagle asked that some kind of additional advance markings be installed as well. Traffic Engineer Garvin suggested that we add a portable Pedestrian Crossing sign. **Voted to install a crosswalk after CPW constructs ADA ramps on both sides of Lyman Street (northbound traffic) at the rotary with Beaver Street**

3. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report – **Total receipts are down approximately \$24,000.**

B. River/Farwell/Seyon – Update – **Final inspection of the signal work has been approved and accepted.**

C. High/Hamblin/Joyce – Update – **Construction to commence Spring 2020.**

D. Piety Corner – Update – **House Demolition has been approved and will be starting in a couple weeks and notification to abutters will be sent out when date is determined. Relocation of the utility poles will need to be completed. We anticipate this project to be advertised for construction over the winter.**

E. Removal of St. Jude School Zone Signage – **The school has closed so there is no need at this time for the School Zone signage and overhead mast arm flashing signage. Voted to remove School Zone signage and request Wires Dept. to turn off flashing overhead signs.**

F. **#110 Charles St.** – Removal of HP sign Parking is no longer needed. The original petitioner notified Traffic Engineering that they have moved. – **Voted to Remove and delete from Schedule 6 – Disabled Parking:**

Charles St., South side, 1 space, In front of # 110

G. **Moody St. and Main St. Sign Authorization Update** – Additional requests have been submitted to the Mayor's Office and are awaiting approval in order to make room for banner brackets. A Right Lane Must Turn Right on Main Street facing eastbound traffic at Newton Street will need to be relocated to a utility pole in front of the Senior Center.

H. **Review of intersections missing STOP control.** An accident at a non-controlled intersection prompted Traffic Engineering to review how many intersections do not have traffic control, but should be controlled by either a Stop or Yield Sign. A review was made of 1,133 city intersections. Of these 75 are controlled by traffic signal, 524 are controlled by Stop signs and 10 are controlled by Yield signs. The remaining 524 intersections, are without control. The majority of these are T-shaped intersections where it is obvious which approach would need to stop in order to avoid a conflict. 32 intersections were identified as **four way or y-shaped**

intersections that should have control. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended 2 intersections be voted for Stop control today and the remaining 30 intersections at a future meeting. **Voted to approve Stop Signs at the following intersections:**

Add to Schedule 11 Stop Signs

Azalea Road at Woodcliff Drive - facing both northbound and southbound traffic

Charles River Road at Angleside Road - facing eastbound traffic

- I. Request funding for Traffic Camera's \$98,448. **Voted to request funding.**
- J. Request funding for 2020 Ford F150 Pick-Up **Voted to request funding.**
- K. Request bid specifications for Main St./Warren St./Barbara Rd./Gore St. intersection design **Information only and work with Purchasing Agent.**
- L. Request bid specifications for Trapelo Rd./Waverley Oaks Rd. intersection design - **Information Only and work with Purchasing Agent.**
- M. Request bid specification for Beaver St./Warren St. intersection design - **Information Only and work with Purchasing Agent.**
- N. Request bid specification for survey of Railroad Parking Lot. - **Information Only and work with Purchasing Agent.**
- O. Request bid specification for Citywide Speed Limit Study - **Information Only and work with Purchasing Agent.**
- 4. **LATE FILED ITEMS:**
 - A. **Church St. Lot** – Recreation Dept. parking passes for Wires/ITS Lot. **Due to the many events that take place it was voted to limit parking restrictions of vehicles with a parking passes until 4:00 PM. No permit will be required to park after 4:00 PM Monday to Friday, or Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.**
 - B. **Moody Street Marketplace** – Mr. Marc Rudnick is requesting the use of the Embassy Parking Lot for Marketplace vendor parking for the four Saturdays in October 2019. Dashboard passes will be issued to the vendors. **Voted to approve this request and limit the vendor parking to the Upper Deck ONLY of Embassy Parking Deck.**
 - C. **Piety Corner Change Order** – BSC Group is seeking additional funding in the amount of \$11,559 for work not included in their contract. **Voted to approve this request and seek funding.**

Attendance: All members; Mayor McCarthy; Councillors McLaughlin & Harris. Ms. Paula Hughes, Mr. Leo Keightley; Mr. Matt O'Connor; Mr. J.Alain Ferry; Ms. Kimberley Jackson; Mr. Kevin Dolobowdy; Mr. Allen Urquhart; Mr. Amir Moyhlin; Mr. Marc Rudnick; Ms. Michele Desautels; Mr. Ed Andrews; Mr. Gary Morrison; Mr. John Hart; Mr. Todd Breyton; Mr. John Allen

Adjourned @ 12:26 PM
Respectfully Submitted:

Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk

Waltham Traffic Commission**Date of the Meeting:**

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 Waltham	1A – 1B – 2K 3H – Comment on Funding Items	Mayor of Waltham
Paula Hughes	588 Lexington St Waltham	High School	Abutter
Leo Keightley	731 South St Waltham	Vender Parking Moody St Marketplace	Waltham Farmers Market
Matt O'Connor	99 Moody St Waltham	Temp Parking Felton St	Builder/Owner Rep
J. Alain Ferry	411 Waverley Oaks Rd	Mighty Squirrel Road Race	Race Director
Kimberley Becker	12 Fiske Ave	Fiske Ave	Resident
Kevin Dolobowdy	94 Lincoln St	High School	Resident
Allen Urquhart	574 Lexington St	High School	Resident
Amir Moyhlin	74 Elson Road	Elson Road	Resident
Marc Rodnick	144 Hardy Pond Rd	MoodySt Marketplace	Petitioner
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Road		City Councillor

off Committee Speakers

Waltham Traffic Commission

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Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Michele Desautels	84 Lincoln St	New High School	Resident
Ed Andrews	14 Banbury Ave	Azalea Road	Resident
Gary Morrison	134 Plympton	Stop Signs Irving/Prentice/ Plympton	Resident
John Hart	SMMA 1000 Mass Ave Cambridge	Waltham High School	Civil Engineer
Todd Breyton	Bryant Asso Lincoln, RI	Waltham High School	Traffic Engineer
John McLaughlin	42 Beal Road	Multiple	City Councillor
John Allen	7 University Park	High School	Waltham Bicycle Committee