

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: OCTOBER 17, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.  
HENRY HOOVER COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL**

**A motion was accepted and the minutes of the September meeting approved.**

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Oakley Lane near Beaver Street – No Parking**

Councillor Nabulime was present to discuss this item on the agenda. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin requested more time to review this request for a recommendation. **Voted to table**

**B. Linden Street – Speeding Issues**

Councillor Nabulime was present to discuss this item on the agenda. The Traffic Commission is in the process of a Citywide Speed Limit study that could eventually reduce the speeds on Linden Street (and all other streets in the City to 25 MPH). **Voted to deny this request, since it will be contingent on the results of the Citywide Speed Study.**

**C. Waltham Mills Open Studios – Event Parking**

Ms. Alanna Nelson is requesting free parking for this annual event on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was noted that last year that the Central Square Parking Deck was not utilized. **Voted to approve free parking during the time limit at Carter St lot; Embassy Parking facility; Crescent Street Lot; and Railroad Lot. Reserve parking at 144 Moody Street, for disability owned vehicles.**

**D. 200 West Street – Traffic Impact Report**

Kathleen Keen with VHB will present the traffic study for this project. This proposal is for a Special Permit to amend an existing 258,000 square foot office building to 131,000 square feet of research and development; and 247,000 square feet of office space (a total of 378,000 square feet). The total parking spaces of 1,038 exceeds the required zoning spaces of 957 spaces. The proposed expansion is expected to generate an additional 44 vehicle trips in the AM peak hour and 53 vehicle trips in the PM peak hour. The proponent will contribute \$329,000 to the Waltham Transportation Infrastructure and Maintenance Fund. Member Cagle suggested the addition of sidewalk construction on West Street and improvement for bike racks with signage. The proponent provide an easement to connect Atwater Lane from Second Avenue to West Street along its southern boundary. It is recommended the City seek corroboration with 153 Second Avenue and pursue this connection. Member, Ms. Cagle, requested a construction plan be submitted to our Traffic Engineer for the anticipated 24 months of construction time. There is also a need for Electrical Charging Stations.

**Voted to accept the traffic impact report prepared by VHB, for the expansion of the office building at 200 West Street and forward this recommendation to the City Council for their deliberations.**

**E. 1265 Main Street – Update Status – Information**

Rob Nagi with VHB was present to give the update status for this project.

**A: Route 117 Bridge Replacement / Widening** - the bridge will be expanded to seven lanes

**B: Green Street connection** - connected to Rt.20/I-95 interchange #26; and connect Rt.#20 to Rt#117.

**C: Cul-de-Sac on Stow Street** - Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin will work with the designer to consider the effects of this closure on Cutting Lane, Sheridan Road and Banks Square; Tavern Square traffic signal to be removed.

- D: Constructing a new Route 128/I-95 Northbound On-Ramp from Main Street (Rt.117)** – consideration by Federal Highway Administration is being discussed to remove the old Route 128/I95 northbound on-ramp from Rt 20
- E: Comprehensive Plan to move Wires**
- F: 25% Plans have been submitted to MassDOT**
- G: Rail Trail - - ends at 1265 Main Street – plans underway to connect to Weston**
- H: Private financing and land takings**
- I: 2022 for possible construction to begin - Green St to be available (2 years to build Rt.117 Bridge)**

**Third Avenue and Rt.128/I-95 Interchange:**

- A:** Third Avenue 25% design for motivation submitted to MassDOT; Spring 2020 possible start of reconstruction
- B: 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue connection to Totten Pond Road being investigated**
- C: Permanently creating a Border Road / Fifth Avenue connection**

Councillor Macklin on behalf of residents on Livingstone Lane requested consideration for “Noise Barriers” (this is a Federal Issue) and the need for a residential meeting. Mr. James Allen spoke of needs for bicycle routes; a possible ‘fly-over:”

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

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

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin found the area requested is not appropriate for a crosswalk location. Northbound traffic is restricted by a curvature of the roadway and a hill. This would not give adequate stopping distance for the motorist coming upon a pedestrian due to the speeds of which the motorist currently drive. There is an overhead crossing and a RRFB that connects the main campus and the Lindsay Sports Building. **Voted to deny this request**

- G. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19)
- H. Fiske Ave. at Weston St. – Traffic Issues (9/19)
- I. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19)

**J. Pine St. at Elm St. – Proposed Flashing Warning Lights (9/19)**

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reviewed the accident history over the last three years and found four accidents that had been reported. None of the four accidents appear to be a result of a driver on Elm Street not realizing there is a STOP sign. A recent fatal accident was a combination of solar glare and excessive speed. Given the low accident rate, the fatal was the result of isolated circumstances, there is no pattern of safety concerns. **Voted to accept this recommendation and deny the installation of flashing beacon.**

**K. Clematis St. – Parking Issues (9/19)**

After a site review the present existing parking restriction, showed missing No Parking Signs. The existing regulation restricts parking on the south side from Wilbur Street to a point 330' northeast on Clematis Avenue. Vehicles parking in this area force motorists into the middle of the street which makes it difficult for oncoming vehicles, over the hill, to see. The original request was to restrict parking for 130 feet, not realizing that a 330 foot restriction exists. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, recommended restricting parking for 100 feet will allow safe passage for both northbound and southbound traffic. **Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendation and amend the regulation as follows:**

**Schedule 1**

**Delete: Clematis Ave. south side from Wilbur St. to 330' northeast – No Parking**

**Add: Clematis Ave. south side from Wilbur St. to 100' northeast – No Parking**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report – receipts are down approximately \$25,000.
- B. Piety Corner – Update – demolition has commenced. MassDEP is reviewing an appeal based on the proposed landscaping plan.
- C. Review of intersections missing STOP control. **Voted to table for more review**

**Adjourned @ 11:41 AM**

**Attendance: All members except Chief MacPherson. City Councillors Mr. John McLaughlin; Mr. George Darcy, Ms. Kristine Mackin; Ms. Shariline Nabulime; Mr. Rob Nagi, Ms. Kathleen Keen, Mr. Nick Skoly, Ms. Alanna Nelson, Mr. Wayne Jackson, Mr. George Needs, Mr. John Allen**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk**

**Date of the Meeting: October 17, 2019**

Please Print

<b>Name of Speaker</b>	<b>Address # Street, City</b>	<b>Item of Interest</b>	<b>Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner</b>
<b>Rob Nagi, VHB</b>	<b>101 Walnut Street Watertown</b>	<b>1265 Main St</b>	<b>Traffic Consultant</b>
<b>Kathleen Keen, VHB</b>	<b>101 Walnut Street Watertown</b>	<b>200 West Street</b>	<b>Traffic Consultant</b>
<b>Nick Skoly</b>	<b>101 Walnut Street Watertown</b>	<b>200 West Street</b>	<b>Traffic Consultant</b>
<b>Alanna Nelson</b>	<b>144 Moody Street</b>	<b>Waltham Mills</b>	<b>Petitioner</b>
<b>Wayne Jackson</b>	<b>167 Margarite Ave</b>	<b>Stop Sign Review</b>	<b>Resident</b>
<b>John McLaughlin</b>	<b>42 Beal Road</b>	<b>Clematis Ave Stop Sigh Review</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>George Darcy</b>	<b>93 Hobbs Road</b>	<b>Stop Sign Review</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Kristin Mackin</b>	<b>17 Wheelock Terr</b>		<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>Shariline Nabulime</b>	<b>164 Hammond St</b>	<b>Linden Street Oakley Lane</b>	<b>City Councillor</b>
<b>George Needs</b>	<b>49 Sears Road</b>	<b>200West Street</b>	<b>Developer</b>