

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: JUNE 18, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Moody St. Reconfiguration and Summer Meetings - Councillor Paz is requesting this item be placed on the agenda. Councillor Paz requested additional signage directing patrons to the off-street downtown parking areas. Parking signs, street name signs and directional arrow signs that are needed are being installed by the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin. Councillor Harris has been in contact with Mr. Garvin and is satisfied with requested results. Mayor McCarthy asked if something could be done to improve the looks of the existing barriers and if possible, have a business's legend installed stating what businesses are open for dining. Mr. Garvin expressed concern that the barricade must still look like a barricade to prevent and motorist attempting to enter the closed area. Member Mr. Chiasson stated he would attempt to use plants and bushes to improve the looks of the barriers.

A request for Summer Meeting was voted to be placed on file

Voted to approve opening Moody Street from Walnut Street south to Chestnut Street.

B. Pay Station Collections – City Treasurer/Commission member Tom Magno requested discussion regarding this issue, to modify Art. 10, Section 2 of the Rules and Regulations. That regulation requires that Traffic Engineering shall deposit parking meter revenue to the City Treasurer. Currently Parking Meter staff comes into the Treasurer's Office and counts the bills and coins collected from the pay stations. This set up was made many years ago when there were over 800 parking meters on the streets which generated a significantly large amount of coins. Now with the removal of the individual parking meters and installation of Pay Stations which now take credit cards and bills the coinage has dropped greatly. The City also now offers PayByPhone, which also reduces the amount of cash. Due to the lower amount of cash it is requested that the coin and bill counting operations be moved over to the Traffic Engineering Office and that Traffic Engineering deposit all cash directly to the bank. **Voted to have the coin and bill counting operation be moved over to the Parking Meter division and have them deposit both funds through the Treasurer's Office window in the same manner that all other city departments use to deposit collected funds. The request to direct Traffic Engineering to deposit funds directly to the Bank was denied. No changes to Art. 10, Sec. 2 of the Rules and Regulations were approved.**

C. New School at St. Jude's School – Councillor LaCava would like to have this on the agenda to hear from the residents. (Member Mr. Magno recused himself from this item). The Town of Watertown has arranged to use St. Jude's School as an elementary school for five or six years while renovations are being made at their schools. The anticipated enrollment is approximately 300 students, half of which will be bused and half will be transported by parents in private vehicles. In addition, there is a possibility some students may be "walkers", although that is uncertain at this time. School buses will be directed to use Bowker Road for student drop-off and pick-up. The existing parking lot will be for parent student drop-off and pick-up as well as teacher parking. Councillor LaCava and several residents expressed concern that the neighborhood streets would have increased traffic, illegal parking and a strong possibility that children will cross Main Street. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, stated that "School Zone" lights will be turned back on and other safety precautions will be investigated. School Safety Officer Frassica will also be involved with this school opening. Consideration for school crossing guards has been suggested at a cost to Watertown. All issues will be reviewed and discussions with Watertown will continue throughout the summer. **Voted to table at this time and have the Traffic Engineer and S.S. Officer Frassica coordinate.**

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. Totten Pond Rd. at Veterans Memorial Ice Rink – Proposed Traffic Signal (2/18)(4/18)
- C. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18)
- D. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)
- E. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19)
- F. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19)
- G. Trapelo Rd. at Our Lady's Church – Crosswalk Options (12/19)
- H. Lexington St. – Dedicated Bicycle Lane (12/19)
- I. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)
- J. Trapelo Rd. at Graverson Playground – Possible Raised Table (12/19)
- K. 25 Lexington St. – Mid-Block Crosswalk & RRFB (2/20)
- L. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20)
- M. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20)
- N. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20)
- O. Hall St. & Lowell St. – Striping for Parking (5/20)

Voted to remove Items 1P and 1R from the table

P. Lowell St. at Cushing St. – Proposed All-Way STOP (5/20). Previously this item was voted to be placed on hold until the traffic returned to normal but Moody Street is now closed. A vote was taken to instruct Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin to conduct a study as soon as possible and report if the intersection is eligible for a four-way stop.

Q. Main St./Lafayette St. and Gore St./Lawndale Ave. – Proposed RRFB's (5/20)

R. Brightwood Rd. at Rose Hill Way – Proposed STOP sign (5/20)

Upon review the Traffic engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed it can be somewhat confusing and an unfamiliar driver of Brightwood Road may not realize they should stop. He recommended a Stop Sign should be installed. **Voted to add to Schedule 11 Stop Signs the following:**

Add: Brightwood Road at Rose Hill Way, facing northbound traffic

S. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – YTD collections \$109,770; last year \$205,853
- B. Piety Corner – Update – Eversource needs to complete some work; hopefully by September
- C. High/Joyce/Hamblin – Update – trial period is over; signal is operational
- D. Trapelo Rd. at Waverley Oaks Rd. – Design alternatives
Mr. Keith Michalak, Nitsch Engineering prepared plans for the reconstruction of the Trapelo Road/Waverley Oaks Road intersection. **Two conditions were asked, first could a sidewalk be constructed along the northerly side of Trapelo Road and second could a short exclusive right turn lane be constructed on Trapelo Road eastbound approaching the signal. It was voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to attend the neighborhood meeting conducted by Councillors McMenimen, Darcy, and McLaughlin.**

E. Outstanding sign approval permits – Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported signs that need to be replaced on Moody Street have been requested to the Mayor's Office for installation.

F. Striping Program: - Pandemic issues and converting Moody Street is a priority. Consideration for a budget line item in next year's budget requests for painting as well as thermoplastic.

Late Filed:

4A. Electronic Speed Signs – Councillor Harris is requesting electric speed signs. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin, recommends having the Police Dept. move their portable speed signs around. The Police Dept. currently has four electronic speed signs that they could put up on Crescent St.; Lowell St.; Newton St.; and Parmenter Rd. Councillor McMenimen is in support of requesting funds to purchase electronic speed signs. Fire Chief McInnis agrees that speeding is an issue, but is not in support of speed humps. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer explore Safety Zones including signage, but no speed humps.**

Adjourned @ 1:09 PM

Attendance: Zoom Meeting all members attended. Mayor McCarthy; Councillors McLaughlin, LaCava, Paz, Harris, and McMenimen. Residents and petitioners Ms. Jean McDonald; Mr. John Arone, Officer Frassica, Mr. Keith Michelak, Ms. Adina Alpert (Nitsch).

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk