

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: OCTOBER 15, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Chair accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting(s).

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Lions Club Food Basket Distribution

Embassy Parking Facility, Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Ms. Liz Pulice, President of Lions Club and Mayor McCarthy were present and requested this be on the agenda. Box trailers will be used to bring in food, and then recipient car staging will be utilized for distribution. The lower level will provide coverage for social distancing and protection from inclement weather and will require the use of 54 parking spaces. They will follow the present format of the weekly Health Waltham distributions (St. Mary's) concerning both drive-up and walk-up lines. **Voted to approve the request conditionally, pending a "snow event" in which case St. Mary's lot will be used.**

B. Cross St. – Extend No Parking another 10' from Central St.

Councillor LaCava was present and requested this be on the agenda. Ms. Diana Bradley, who lives on the corner of Cross St. at # 37 Central St. was also present. Cross Street is approximately 20 feet wide with curbing on both sides. Large trucks have difficulty turning onto the street from Central Street and have damaged Ms. Bradley's wall and fence numerous times. **Voted to increase the corner clearance and amend the regulations as follows:**

Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions: Cross Street, west side, from Central St. to a point 40 feet north, No Parking

C. Riverview Ave. at Rumford Ave. – Traffic Safety Study

Councillor Harris was present and requested this be placed on the agenda. Mr. Tom Monteleone was present and had sought the help of Councillor Harris concerning lack of a crosswalk and STOP sign at this intersection. **Voted to table this item. The intersection of Riverview Ave. and Rumford Ave. are actually located in the City of Newton. The Traffic Engineer will confirm the location and conduct a baseline study on the Waltham side.**

D. College Farm Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures

Councillor Dunn was present and is requesting this be on the agenda. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer conduct a study and report his findings at a future meeting.**

E. 114 Felton St. and 44,44R & 56 Williams St. – Special Permit

Attorney Bret Francis is requesting this be placed on the agenda for proposed transfer station and organic product storage. Proposed is to "adjust their business model to an organic materials supply shop and landscape waste material transfer facility, providing landscape contractors with a one-stop shop for all of their organic material need". Forty surface parking spaces need to be accessible through Felton Street and eight accessible spaces from Williams St. The facility is expected to have 30 vehicles trips in the AM peak hour and 36 in the PM peak hour. A truck turning analysis was submitted for the largest truck, a WB-53 18-wheel dump truck, entering and exiting the site without interfering with parked cars along Felton Street. **Voted to accept the traffic impact assessment prepared by Howard Stein Hudson, for the proposed redevelopment of Vanaria & Sons at 44 Williams Street, allowing the applicant to proceed to the City Council for a Special Permit**

F. Filming on Main St. – Temporary Parking restrictions

Ryan Cook, Location Manager was present and requested parking on Main St. from Liberty St. to Lyman/Heard St. be on the agenda. Filming for “Julia Child Project” will take place at Wilson’s Diner, 507 Main Street, on Monday October 26 and Tuesday October 27. Forty (40) parking spaces on the north and south side on Main Street are needed. **Voted to approve temporary No Parking Main Street south side from Heard St to Cross St; and on the north side from Lyman Street to Liberty Street, October 26 and October 27.**

G. Third Ave. at Prospect Hill Ave. – Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement

Rob Nagi with VHB was present and seeking a signed agreement between the City of Waltham and MassDOT regarding this intersection. The two signals are Third Ave./Prospect Hill Ln. and Totten Pond Rd./Winter St./Third Ave./Wyman St. These signals will be owned, operated and maintained by MassDOT rather than the City. **Voted to authorize the City Traffic Engineer to sign the Traffic Control Agreement for Third Ave./Prospect Hill Ln. and for Totten Pond Rd./Winter St./Third Ave./Wyman St. on behalf of the City**

2. TABLED ITEMS:

A. Highland St. “Spur” at Curtis St. – Removal of “No Right Turn” Restriction (9/12)(10/12)(5/16)(6/16) The right turn prohibition was implemented in May 2011. In 2016, it was noted that there was an increase in accidents at Highland St. (proper) and Curtis St. The accident rate increased from 1.20 per year to 4.71 per year. Additional signage was installed and the accident rate still increased to 5.73 per year. It appears that the elimination of right turns from the Highland Spur onto Curtis Street is the reason for the increase accident rate. There was a consideration from Waltham Children’s Hospital that expansion plans would include changes to the intersection of Hope Ave. and Highland St. However, those plans have been changed and are limited to existing clinical spaces and renovations of the existing facilities that will be completed in 2026. There are no plans for the Hospital to expand at this time. **Voted to remove the right turn prohibition as follows:**

Delete from Schedule 18 - Turns Only as Designated: - Highland St. (south section) All vehicles traveling eastbound on Highland St “spur” approaching Curtis St. Must Turn Left

- 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. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)

Voted to continue on the table and seek an opinion from the Mayor to see if she would support such a request giving the Traffic Commission authority to regulate parking on a Private Way.

H. 25 Lexington St. – Mid-Block Crosswalk & RRFB (2/20)(9/20)

Voted to table and have the Traffic Engineer add a traffic signal warrant analysis to the study.

- I. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20)
- J. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20)
- K. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20)

L. Hall St. & Lowell St. – Striping for Parking (5/20)(9/20)

Councillor Harris was present to discuss the section in her Ward. A speed study showed the 85% speed in both directions is 30 MPH. This indicates that speeding is not a problem. Parking on Lowell Street is “high demand”. Painting a parking lane will have a visual effect that will act as a traffic calming measure and help maintain the existing speed limit. **Voted to approve the recommendation and add new pavement markings along Lowell Street in the Spring of 2021 to delineate the parking lane as a traffic calming measure.**

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

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

The posting of a City Wide Speed Limit of 25 MPH must apply to every street except those streets that are posted at a higher (or lower) speed regulation. Six streets have been identified as needing a posted speed limit greater than 25 MPH Bear Hill Road 35mph, Beaver Street 35mph, Forest Street 35mph, parts of Lexington Street 30 & 35 mph, parts of Main Street 35 mph and parts of South Street 30 & 35mph. **Voted to forward our request for speed limits for the six locations in question to MassDOT for an opinion on posting a speed regulation. (Member Mr. Waddick voted against this proposal).**

O. Lafayette Street – Truck Restriction (6/20)(9/20)

P. Woburn St. – Traffic Calming Measures (9/20)

Q. Lowell St. – Proposed All-Way STOP (9/20) see item 2L 4-way Stops not recommended

R. Rangely Rd. at Richgrain Ave. – Proposed STOP sign (9/20)

Voted to keep Tabled.

S. Hamilton Rd. near Cedarwood Park – Traffic Calming Measures (9/20)

T. Lake St. – Speed Study (9/20)

A speed study on Lake Street showed the 85% speed westbound has increased from 29 mph (2015) to 34 mph (2020); eastbound was at 32 mph (2014) and reduced to 29 mph in (2020). No further action needed on this item. **Voted to place on file.**

U. Bus Shelter Funding (9/20)

V. Longfellow Rd. at Whitman Rd. – All-Way STOP (9/20)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Parking Meter Report – receipts are down approximately \$130,000 or 37%

B. Piety Corner – Update – Met with Eversource in field and waiting for a work order number from them.

C. High/Joyce/Hamblin – Dagle Electric just replaced equipment as requested. TE and Wires Inspector will meet next week. **Voted to accept the signal and any modifications can be made on site.**

D. Trapelo Rd. at Waverley Oaks Rd. – Design alternatives – Councillors McMenimen, Darcy and McLaughlin were present. They are in favor of north side sidewalk and retaining wall, but no land taking on the south side. **Vote to approve a sidewalk on the north side of the intersection; an**

exclusive left turn lane; no land taking; no need to relocate “pole lines”. Also voted to approve to have City TE seek additional funding for Nitsch Engineering to attend Conservation Commission. This work should also tie into the Town of Belmont culvert work. These proposals will be incorporated into the final design plan.

E. Chestnut St. & Walnut St. from Adams St. to Moody St. – Permanent two-way direction for the Moody Street shutdown Walnut Street, which was one-way westbound Moody Street to Crescent Street, was made two-way. Chestnut Street was one-way westbound from Gardner Street to Crescent Street. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin was able to evaluate two-way travel on both streets and determined that the conversion could be made permanent regardless whether Moody Street is open or closed. **Voted to approve the permanent modification of Chestnut Street and Walnut Street, to two-way traffic between Adams Street and Moody Street, and amend parking and add stop signs as follows:**

Schedule 1 Parking

Delete: Chestnut St. north side, from Moody St. to 474’ west of Moody St, No Standing
Walnut St. Crescent St to Adams St. No Parking

Add: Chestnut St, north side Moody St to Adams St, No Parking
Walnut St. south side, Crescent St. to Moody St. No parking

Schedule 11 Stop Signs

Add: Chestnut Street at Moody Street facing eastbound traffic
Walnut Street at Moody Street, facing eastbound traffic

Schedule 14 One-Way Street

Delete: Chestnut Street, westbound from Gardner St. to Crescent St.
Walnut Street, westbound from Moody St. to Crescent St.

Add: Chestnut Street, westbound from Gardner St. to Moody St
Chestnut Street, westbound Adams St. to Crescent St.
Walnut Street, westbound from Adams St. to Crescent St

F. Paint and Thermoplastic markings update

Adjourned@ 12:17 PM

Attendance: All members except Fire Chief MacInnis. Mayor McCarthy, Councillors McMenimen, Darcy, McLaughlin, Harris, and Dunn. Ms. Diane Bradley, Attorney Bret Francis, Ms. Keri Pyke, Lt. Dennis Deveney; Mr. Rob Nagi and approximately 33 viewers

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk