

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: NOVEMBER 19, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.  
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Tom Magno, Acting Chair**

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

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Curtis St. at Bellevue St. – Traffic Calming Measures**

Councillor Paz is requesting this intersection be studied due to neighborhood complaints. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer study and report back with his findings at a future meeting.**

**B. # 85 Hammond St. – Proposed Disabled Parking Request**

Councillor Durkee is requesting this on behalf of Elizabeth Cormier. The request is for a space in front of the home for vehicles to be able to pick up the handicapped resident as needed. A review by the Waltham Disability Services, Mr. Mark Johnson, did not support this request and recommended that it be denied because the resident does not have a vehicle that needs to be parked on the street. **Voted to deny the request for a HP space.**

**2. TABLED ITEMS:**

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

The Recreation Department will be reconstructing Prospect Hill Park in the near future and the existing three driveways will be incorporated into a single driveway. There will be no need for the existing center-lane pavement markings along Totten Pond Road. The speed of vehicles (45 MPH speed limit) and pedestrian safety (crossing Totten Pond Road) is a major concern. Pavement markings (a painted island) or raised median are proposed as effective at lowering speeds. Entrance to the Park both eastbound and westbound will be limited to a single driveway. The present RRFB is proposed to be converted to a HAWK signal (no signal at all until the crosswalk button is activated, a flashing yellow will start the sequence which will turn to a solid Red Light and then the pedestrian walk light will turn on. Chief MacInnis asked for consideration of having a front door (Ambulatory) drop off at the ice rink and Councillor McLaughlin agreed that that front door drop-off needs to be addressed. **Voted to approve the concept of eliminating the center turn lane, and convert the RRFB to a HAWK signal. Also, incorporate either painted or raised medians islands and left turn lane markings on Totten Pond Road. The Traffic Engineer is directed to seek funding from the Traffic Infrastructure Fund and the 40B Winter Street project and to work with CPW to make these improvements.**

B. Derby St. at Lowell St. – Traffic Improvements (9/18) – Councillor Harris

C. Warren St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19) – Councillor McLaughlin

D. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councillor Durkee

E. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councillor Harris

**F. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19)** An opinion from the Law Department suggests that the Traffic Commission should seek a City Ordinance to regulate parking on a private way for the purpose of fire safety. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer consult with the Law Department and write a City Ordinance to regulate parking on Private Ways. In addition, public streets that are at minimum width (25 feet) will be reviewed for modifying parking regulations, and Ward Councillors will be requested to make comments on behalf of their residents. (Starting with Ward One).**

**G. 25 Lexington St. – Mid-Block Crosswalk & RRFB (2/20)(9/20) –**Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin stated the following:

- 1: A pedestrian count taken on Thursday September 24. He found the AM wait time to average 2.9 seconds (15 pedestrians) and the PM time to be 3.9 seconds (21 pedestrians).
- 2: Reserved parking (14 spaces) could be utilized on site for employees
- 3: Reserved parking at the Church Street Parking Lot
- 4: No Right on Red at School St/Lexington St. which would create longer gaps in the traffic and allow more time to cross the street
- 5: Instead of two southbound lanes on Lexington Street modify the street markings into a single lane, allow parking on both sides of Lexington Street, and install a crosswalk that would eliminate the multiple threat pedestrian collision. A new ADA ramp must be installed on the east side of Lexington Street and the MBTA Bus Stop must be relocated.

**Voted:**

- 1: **Direct the Traffic Engineer request permission from MBTA to relocate the bus stop 170 feet further south on Lexington Street.**
- 2: **Request for CPW to construct a new ADA ramp on the east side of Lexington Street**
- 3: **Direct the Traffic Engineer to have Thermoplastic markings to channel southbound traffic to one lane, add a crosswalk and add new on-street parking spaces.**
- 4: **Request funding for installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).**

**Also, make the following changes in Schedule 1- Parking Restrictions:**

**Delete: Lexington St., west side, from B&M Railroad to Main St., No Parking**

**Add: Lexington St., west side, from B&M Railroad to 90' south of School St., No Parking**

**Lexington St., west side, from 90' south of School St. to 170' south of School St., 2 Hr. Parking 8am-6pm, Exc. Sun & Holiday.**

**Lexington St., west side, from 170' south of School St. to Main St., No Parking**

**H. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20) – Councillor Mackin**

**I. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20) - Mayor**

**J. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20) – Councillor Harris**

**K. Main St./Lafayette St. and Gore St./Lawndale Ave. – Proposed RRFB's (5/20) – Councillor LaCava**

**L. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)**

**M. Lafayette Street – Truck Restriction (6/20)(9/20) – Councillor LaCava**

**Voted to direct Traffic Engineer to seek MassDOT approval to remove the Heavy Truck Restriction on Willow St. from Main St. to Grove St. and approve Heavy Truck Restriction on Lafayette Street from Main St. to Grove St.**

**N. Woburn St. – Traffic Calming Measures (9/20) – Councillor Darcy**

A speed study was conducted and the 85% Speed for both southbound and northbound was 32MPH. Voted to place back onto the table and give the Ward Councillor, Mr. Darcy, the opportunity to respond.

**O. Rangely Rd. at Richgrain Ave. – Proposed STOP sign (9/20) – Councillor LaCava**

After a review Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended approval for this request.

**Voted to add to Schedule 11-Stop Signs:**

**Rangely Road at Richgrain Avenue, facing southbound traffic**

**P. Hamilton Rd. near Cedarwood Park – Traffic Calming Measures (9/20) – Councillor O'Brien. Councillor O'Brien request this item be placed on file at this time. Voted to POF**

**Q. Bus Shelter Funding (9/20)**

**R. Longfellow Rd. at Whitman Rd. – All-Way STOP (9/20) – Councillor McLaughlin**

After review, the intersection does not qualify for the minimum traffic volume (300 vehicles per hour for 8 hours). The accident rate for the past three years is zero (must experience 5 accidents per year). The intersection does not meet the warrants for an all-way stop. However, the Whitman Road northbound approach (T intersection) is recommended to have a stop sign.

**Voted to add a Stop Sign as follows:**

**Whitman Road at Longfellow Rd, facing northbound traffic.**

**S. Riverview Ave. at Rumford Ave. – Traffic Safety Study (10/20) – Councillor Harris**

It was determined this intersection is located in Newton. The sidewalk ends at the Waltham/Newton City line. A speed study showed the 85% speed to be 29MPH southbound and 30MPH northbound. No further action required. **Voted to place back onto the table and give Ward Councillor the opportunity to respond.**

**T. College Farm Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures (10/20) – Councillor Dunn**

A traffic study showed the speeds are not very high although unfamiliar drivers may approach the steep grade (7%) area too fast. Warning signs, such as steep grade, advisory 20mph and chevrons are recommended at both the top and bottom of the hill. **Voted to approve these additional signs.**

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

A. Parking Meter Report – year to date funds are down approximately \$145,000 (37%)

B. Piety Corner – Update –Eversource has agreed in concept to the new locations and we are waiting for their work order to proceed.

C. Prospect St. – Parking Regulation Change – Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin has recommended a change in the existing parking restriction, opposite Vernon Street, to reduce to the length from 150 feet to 50 feet.

**Voted to amend in Schedule 1 the following:**

**Delete: Prospect St., east side, Opp Vernon Street to 150' N. of Vernon St., No Parking**

**Add: Prospect St., east side, 50' N. of Vernon Street to 150' N. of Vernon St., No Parking**

D. Main St. at Daniels Ct. – Bus Stop issue – Some confusion exists with this bus stop where the motorist believes there is a parking space just east of the bus stop and existing crosswalk, located about 20' away. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin suggested the following:

**Voted to table and contact MBTA in regards to adding a left arrow on the sign to define bus stop.**

E. Buttrick St. – Change in Parking Restriction – Upon a review of signage in the area, a regulation that was enacted in May 1969 does not appear to be warranted. The restriction called for east side of Buttrick Street No Parking from Rumford Ave 150' south. A fifty-foot restriction is all that is needed. **Voted to amend parking in Schedule 1- Parking Restrictions as follows:**

**Delete: Buttrick St., east side, 150' S. of Rumford Ave to Rumford Ave., No Parking**

**Add: Buttrick St., east side, 50' S. of Rumford Ave to Rumford Ave., No Parking**

#### **4: Late File**

##### **A: Farmer's Market Shed – Embassy Parking Facility**

Mr. Rudnick, Waltham Farmer's Market is seeking permission to continue utilization of 2 parking spaces in the parking complex. The Commission had concerns losing prime parking spaces needed for snow emergencies. **Voted to allow the shed to remain in the parking deck but to be moved to a suitable location that will not block the needed spaces.**

**Adjourned@ 11:50am**

**Attendance: All members except for Chief MacPherson, Mayor McCarthy, Councillors Paz, LaCava, Dunn, Darcy and McLaughlin. Approximately ten other interested parties.**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Frank S. Lombardo  
Clerk**