

**Minutes OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: APRIL 15, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Chair accepted a motion for the minutes of March 18 and March 26 to be approved.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

- A. Shade St. Neighborhood Traffic Issues** – Councillor McLaughlin is requesting this be placed on the agenda. Residents are concerned about cut through traffic, speeding and pedestrian safety. **Voted to table for a traffic study**
- B. Gale, Ripley and Peirce Sts. Review of Parking Restrictions** – Councillor LaCava is requesting a review of the parking restrictions on these streets. One request is to extend the existing no parking an additional 100 feet on Gale Street from River Street. Secondly, to review Gale St., Ripley St., and Peirce St. to remove parking on one side. **Voted to table for a traffic study.**
- C. Taqueria Mexico Restaurant # 24 Charles St. Time Limited Parking** – Councillor LaCava is requesting time limited parking be allowed in front of this restaurant. Since the construction of the Merc, vehicles have been parking on Charles Street for long periods of time which restricts the on-street parking available for customers of Taqueria Restaurant. The Traffic Engineer recommended reinstating a former restriction of two hour parking. Voted to approve this request and amend Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions:
Add: Charles Street, South side, from Mechanic St. to a point 140' W, 2Hr. Parking
- D. # 25 Lexington St. – Relocation of MBTA Stop for RRFB**
Josh Weiland, MBTA Supervisor of Transportation Planning has submitted their review of relocating this bus stop. Member Mr. Kelly asked this item be tabled. **Voted to table**
- E. # 235 Bear Hill Rd. – Traffic Impact Report** – Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. Traffic Engineers for Thrive Cultivation & Dispensary presented this traffic study. Thrive Cultivation is proposing a recreational marijuana dispensary at this location. The dispensary will occupy the first floor (4,600 square feet) of the existing three-story office building. There are three separate parking lots and the south lot will be assigned to the dispensary which has an existing 25 foot curb cut and will be reconfigured to 21 spaces. The site will generate 100 vehicle trips in the weekday PM peak hour and 168 vehicle trips in the Saturday peak hour. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin expressed concern whether 21 on-site parking spaces would be adequate to handle the expected number of vehicles. He suggested that there be a requirement to make appointments for the first two weeks of operation, no more than 40 per hour, and work with the Police Department to manage traffic flow during those first two weeks. The site plan is required to indicate bicycle parking locations. **Voted to accept the traffic study submitted by Fuss & O'Neal for the proposed recreational marijuana facility at 235 Bear Hill Road and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations with the following provisions:**
- 1: Customer visits be by appointment only for the first two weeks, and that appointments are limited to 40 per hour**
- 2: Waltham Police Department assistance be used to manage traffic during the first two weeks**

F. # 1265 Main St. – Revision to previously approved Traffic Study – Ron Muller, Traffic Engineer presented the revised site plan and traffic study. The revised site plan will have Main Street as the only entrance/exit. There will be no access to Cutting Lane. Future developments are proposed to add an additional eastbound lane on Main Street to Border Road. Exiting traffic turning left from this site could result in problematic turning maneuvers from the driveway. The proposal calls for 121 vehicle trips in the weekday peak PM hour and 113 during the Saturday PM peak hour. The proponent has agreed to require that customers must make an appointment for the first two weeks after opening and that they be limited to no more than 40 per hour. Also, it is suggested the proponent work with the Police Department to manage traffic flow during the first two weeks of opening. The site plan must be reviewed and clarified where bicycle parking will be located. The proponent has agreed to limit existing traffic to only turn right once the other development results in a widened Main Street.

Voted to approve the revised traffic study submitted by Ron Muller & Associates for the proposed recreational marijuana facility at 1256 Main Street with the following provisions:

1: Customer visits be by appointment only for the first two weeks, and that appointments are limited to 40 per hour.

2: Waltham Police Department assistance be used to manage traffic during the first two Weeks.

3: Traffic Engineering will send an advisory memo to City Council recommending that existing traffic be Right Turn Only once Main Street is widened by the 1265 Main Street project.

TABLED ITEMS: (Voted to remove Bold and Highlighted items to discuss)

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

B. Warren St. at Chaffee St. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19) – Councillor McLaughlin. A speed study (June 2019) showed the speed on Warren Street, northbound (85%) to be 33 mph and the southbound (85%) was 26 mph. Mr. Garvin recommended a pedestrian study to help determine if a RRFB is warranted. **Voted to table and conduct the study.**

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

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

E. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width

The following is the list of streets in Ward 4 that are 25 feet or less in width, that allow parking and have curbing, and the Traffic Commission votes for changes to Schedule 1 (Parking Restrictions):

Ward 4

1: Bishop Terrace (Private Way) - no action at this time

2: Freemont Terrace – No Parking, north side

3: Kenwood Lane - No Parking, north side

4: Stone Road (partially Private Way) - no action at this time

Schedule 1)Parking, Standing, & Stopping Restrictions) –

Add:

Freemont Terrace, north side from Upton Road to a point 125' west, No Parking

Kenwood Lane, north side, entire length, No Parking

The streets for Ward 5 were tabled until the May meeting, to allow for notification of residents. (Note: No action on Private Ways, waiting for City Ordinance change)

- F. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20) – Councillor Mackin
- G. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20) - Mayor
- H. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20) – Councillor Harris

I. Main St./Lafayette St. and Gore St./Lawndale Ave. – Proposed RRFB's (5/20) – Councillor LaCava Traffic Engineer recommended this item be table for study. **Voted to table and study only Gore St./Lawndale Ave. and report back at the May meeting.**

- J. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)
- K. 560 Moody St. – Coldwell Banker Business All Day Parking 90 Day Trial (9/20)(12/20)(3/21)
- L. Highland St. Spur – Traffic Calming Measures (12/20)

M. Moody St. – Closing Street for Outside Dining (2/21)(3/21)

The Commission confirmed the vote of April 9, 2021 and Moody Street will be closed to traffic from the Moody/Pine/Crescent Street intersection to Moody/High/Maple Street intersection starting May 1 through October 31, 2021. Upper Moody Street will not be closed, but the parking lanes will be blocked where outside dining will be allowed on each side of Moody Street from Robbins Street south to Wadsworth Ave./Orange St.

A study of Taylor Street being blocked at Moody Street and changing Chestnut Street one-way eastbound was voted to be placed on file.

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin has the authority to act on behalf of the Traffic Commission to amend any of the conditions for the closing of Moody Street for any unforeseen development that may arise.

- N. Ellison Pk, Harris St., Summer St., Pleasant St. & Faneuil Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures – Councillor Durkee (3/21)

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report
- B. Piety Corner - Update
- C. Trapelo Rd. / Waverley Oaks Rd. - Update
- D. Stow St. at Colburn St./Cutting Ln. - Remove Portable Pedestrian Sign from Schedule 25

Voted to approve.

Late Filed:

4: Student Film Request

Worlanyo Mensah from Emerson College is seeking permission for students to film a supernatural thriller called "Trial or Terror" at a location in Waltham, on Sunday April 18.

Mike/Lisa waiting for more information on this item actual date time & location. Voted to approve and have them work with Traffic Engineering and the Police Dept. before filming.

(Note: all votes were done by roll call)

Attendance; All members except Mr. Kelly. City Councillors Ms. Cathyann Harris, Mr. Joseph LaCava, Mr. John McLaughlin and Mr. George Darcy. Ms. Kelly Cole, Ms. Jackie Davidson, Ms. Debbie Coleman, Ms. Victoria Gleyzer, Mr. Matt Skelly, Ms. Kristen Brown

Respectfully Submitted

Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk