

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER AUDITORIUM**

The Chair accepted motions to approve the minutes of previous meetings that held on June 4 (Special Meeting), June 17 (Regular Meeting) and July 29 (Special Meeting).

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Moody St. Entertainment Downtown – Information Only

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this item be placed on the agenda. Mayor McCarthy was present to discuss this item and stated that she is exploring the possibility of “live entertainment” in the downtown Moody Street area.

Information Only at this time

B. Moody St. Closing

Mayor McCarthy is requesting this item be placed on the agenda. The Mayor was present to discuss this item and is suggesting Moody Street be closed annually Thursday through Saturday from Pine Street to High Street from May 1st to October 31st. Restaurants could use the street provided that a 20-foot-wide emergency lane is maintained. Consideration would be given for electronic gates (barriers) to block Moody Street. The proposal is subject to Mass State approval and also the License Commission. **Voted to table. The Mayor would like public hearings in the future regarding this issue.**

C. Downtown Parking – Revive Feasibility Study – Information Only

Mayor McCarthy is requesting to revive the study regarding Crescent St. Parking Lot to become a parking garage. The Mayor was present to discuss the report submitted in March 2008 by Lozana Baskin and Associates which recommended constructing a four-level parking garage containing more than 600 parking spaces in the existing Crescent Street Parking Lot. **Information only and no action is needed by the Traffic Commission at this time.**

D. Cherry St. – Loading Zone

Mayor McCarthy is requesting a Loading Zone on Cherry St. for the Healthy Waltham Food Drop. The Mayor was present to discuss this item. The Waltham Food Drop uses the former Fitch School located at 15 Ash Street for storage. Mr. Garvin recommends parking permits for volunteers when the food distribution is at Government Center. **Voted to approve the request for a Loading Zone on Cherry Street, south side, from 155’ east of Crescent Street to a point 216’ east of Crescent Street. In addition, 40 parking passes for volunteers to use at the Central Square Parking Deck, upper level only, when food distribution occurs at Government Center (School Street)**

E. Worcester Ln. – Excessive Speeding

Councilor LaFauci is requesting this be on the agenda. The Councillor was not present, but Mr. Nathan Sigel, # 160 Worcester Ln. was present to discuss the neighborhood concerns regarding speeding. Residents are looking at speed humps and posted speed limit if possible. Worcester Lane is a “Private Way”. A recent speed study conducted between April 2021 to July 2021 indicated the 85th Percentile speed to 23 MPH in one direction. The average volume per day was 285. The study shows that speeding is not an issue. The fundamental speed limit of 30 MPH has not been exceeded. The volume of vehicles may be the cause of concern. **Voted to deny the request for speed humps and posted speed limit.**

F. Dale St. – Speeding Issues

Councilor LaFauci is requesting this be on the agenda. The Councillor was not present to discuss this issue. The residents are looking for a crosswalk or STOP sign to be installed to slow down traffic. Four-way or Mid-block Stop signs cannot be used as a means to slow vehicle speed. There are

specific warrants that must be met to install a Stop Sign. The city wide 25 MPH reduced speed limit study is in process. The Traffic Engineer has been requested to determine if a crosswalk should be installed at Claremont Street and recommend any other traffic calming measures. **Voted to table**

G. Harvard St., Felton St. and Charles St. – Flashing RRFB at Crosswalk or STOP Sign, Posted Speed Limit or Children Playing sign. Councilor Paz is requesting this due to the school buses picking up/dropping off children at the intersection along with numerous pedestrians crossing. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a traffic study for both intersections and report back at a future meeting.**

H. Oak St. at Cedar St. – Possible All-Way STOP

Councilor Paz is requesting it be looked into if the flashing light can be switched to All-Way STOP. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a traffic study and determine if the intersection qualifies for an ALL-WAY STOP.**

I. MBTA BSASI High Priority Stops

McMahon Associates will be presenting plans and reports for the bus stops approved by the Traffic Commission earlier this year. **Item tabled without discussion at the request of the McMahon Associates.**

J. MBTA Bus Network Redesign Project

Caroline Vanasse, DOT will discuss this project.

Item tabled without discussion at the request of the MBTA

K. MBTA Route 61, 556 and Crescent/Maple Diversion

Joshua Weiland, Supervisor of MBTA Transportation Planning was present to discuss various MBTA Bus issues.

1: Requested: Moody & Crescent Street (Hall's Corner)

a: Push back the left turn stop bar on Crescent St. eastbound

b: "Do Not Block Box" marking on Crescent Street eastbound

c: Adjust centerlines and lane markings to create more space for buses to swing out on Moody St., and more room for the receiving lane on Crescent St.

Recommended:

a: Push back stop line on Crescent Street from 22 feet to 27 feet from the crosswalk

b: "Do Not Block Box" not recommended

c: Adjust centerlines. No change recommended

2: Requested: Crescent and Maple

a: Push back stop bar on Maple St. westbound

b: Add "Stop Here on Red" on Maple St. westbound

c: "Do Not Block Box" marking on Maple St. westbound

d: Disallow right turn on red on Maple Street westbound

e: Adjust centerlines to create more room for the receiving lane

Recommended:

a: Push back stop bar on Maple St. westbound – not recommended (presently 41 feet)

b: Add "Stop Here on Red" on Maple Street – not recommended

c: "Do Not Block Box" marking - not recommended

d: Disallow right turn on red Maple Street westbound – recommended to approve

e: Adjust centerlines – paint a Double Yellow Center Line on Maple St. approaching the stop line to narrow the lane to 11 feet wide.

3: Requested Dale and Bacon Street

- a: Push back Bacon St. southbound stop bar
- b: "Do Not Block Box" marking on Bacon St. southbound
- c: Add "Stop Here on Red" on Bacon St. southbound
- d: Disallow right turn on red on Bacon St. southbound
- e: Adjust centerlines on Bacon St. and Dale St.
- f: Eliminate Stops #7864 on Dale St. and #1609 on Bacon St.

Recommended:

- a: Push back Bacon St. southbound stop bar – not recommended (presently at 32 feet)
- b: "Do Not Block Box" markings not recommended
- c: Add "Stop Here on Red" Bacon St southbound – add "Stop Here on Red" for Bacon St.
- d: No turn on red Bacon St. southbound – recommended to be approved
- e: Adjust centerlines on Bacon St. and Dale St. – not recommended
- f: Eliminate Stops #7864 on Dale St. and #1609 on Bacon St. – recommended removing both stops

4: Requested Main Street and Bacon Street

- a: Push back southbound Bacon St. left turn stop line
- b: "Do Not Block Box" markings on Bacon St. southbound
- c: Adjust center line on Bacon St.
- d; Adjust the median on Main St. westbound

Recommended

- a: Push back southbound Bacon St. left turn stop line – move back to 20 feet from Main Street
- b: "Do Not Block Box" - not recommended
- c: Adjust center line on Bacon St. – a double yellow center line is not recommended
- d; Adjust the median on Main St. westbound – not feasible to adjust location of the median on Main St.

5: Waltham Center Restrooms

There are no restrooms available to operators seven days a week. This does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission. No action required.

6: Future of Moody Street Closure/Bus Diversion

If Moody Street is to be closed than Bus Routes 553,554 and 556 must be diverted. The MBTA would lean toward having a single route year-round with the Maple/Crescent routing.

Recommended – Mayor McCarthy is proposing a new concept for Moody St. in 2022. Traffic Commission will be considering her proposal soon.

7: Restoration of Route 505 will be restored this fall

Recommendation – No action required. Information only

Voted to accept the Traffic Engineer's recommendations

L. Grove St. and Gore St. – Motorheads Car Club Special Event Parking

Eric & Nicole Siciliano are requesting spectators be allowed to park on Grove St. and Gore St. Mr. Siciliano was present to discuss this event which will be held on Sunday, September 26, 2021 from 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. **Voted to approve this request and allow parking on Gore Street and Grove Street along the frontage of the Gore Estate.**

M. Octoberfest Four Miler

J. Alain Ferry is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 9:00 AM. **Voted to accept and recommend the Mayor issue a permit.**

N. Shifter's 5K for Dana Farber Road Race

Rich Horgan is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 11:00 AM. **Voted to accept and recommend the Mayor issue a permit.**

O. YMCA 7th Annual Five to Thrive 5K Road Race

Dru Belli is requesting permission to hold this event on Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. **Voted to accept and recommend the Mayor issue a permit.**

P. Widening of 128/95 South On-Ramp from Winter St. – Update

Pete Cameron with Marcus Partners, Inc. was present to give an update on this project. Mr. Cameron gave a summarized report which in general described the widening of the on-ramp to southbound I-95 (Rt.128) at the Winter Street interchange. The widening will increase the capacity of the on-ramp. **Information Only**

**2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)
All bold items were voted to remove from the table**

A. Warren St. at Candace Ave. – Traffic Safety Issues (5/19)(4/21) – Councilor McLaughlin
Councilor McLaughlin was unable to make this meeting. **It was voted to re-table.**

B. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councilor Durkee

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

D. Review Citywide Street Widths for Minimum 25 feet width (12/19) (11/20) (12/20) (1/21) (2/21) (3/21) Traffic Engineering recommended one street in Ward 8, Washington Avenue. This street is two-way traffic from Lowell Street east to the Newton Line, a distance of 1,600 feet and is 25 feet wide. In this area there are no restrictions. The Traffic Engineer recommended to prohibit parking on the south side of the street, which would extend the existing restriction from Moody Street to the Newton City Line. **Voted to table this recommendation for one month.**

E. Cutting Ln. at Stow St. – Proposed RRFB (2/20) – Councilor Mackin
Councilor Mackin was unable to make this meeting. **It was voted to re-table.**

F. Spruce St. – 5 Minute Parking (5/20) – Mayor. A five-minute restriction would be very difficult to enforce. The existing limit is 30 minutes. The Parking Control Officers takes about 45 minutes to complete the route. If a violator is observed this is sufficient time to issue a violation. **Voted to deny this request**

G. Crescent St. at Cherry St. – Proposed RRFB (5/20) – Councilor Harris. Councilor Harris was present regarding this item. The warrant for an RRFB, requires a volume of 150 vehicles per hour and a pedestrian crossing of at least 20 during the peak hour. This intersection qualifies under this standard. Mr. Garvin recommended approval. **Voted to approve the installation of an RRFB on Crescent Street at Cherry Street. The Traffic Engineer will request funding for the installation. Also, voted to deny the request to change the existing Yield to a Stop at Prospect St eastbound to Crescent Street.**

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

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

J. 560 Moody St. – Coldwell Banker Business All Day Parking 90 Day Trial (9/20)(12/20)(3/21)(6/21) Ms. Maryellen DiSchino, Caldwell Banker Realty requested a continuance for this item. Consideration has been given to the petitioner with ample time to explore alternatives and provide parking for their employees. **The Commission voted to extend the permit program until December 31, 2021; however, no further consideration or extension of the permit program will be granted beyond that date.**

K. Ellison Pk, Harris St., Summer St., Pleasant St. & Faneuil Rd. – Traffic Calming Measures – Councilor Durkee (3/21) Councillor Durkee was present for this item along with Harris St. residents Deborah Schreiber (# 23) and Maria Salvatierra (# 51). Approximately forty (40) area residents signed a petition (Harris St., Pleasant St. and Faneuil Rd.) for exclusive residential parking permit stickers. In addition, residents have requested “speed humps” reduced speed limit, no commercial vehicles and amend the timing for the traffic signal at Lyman St.

Observation shows there is adequate on-street parking and a permit program is not warranted. Speed humps have been discussed on many occasions and is not an option. The Fire Department is adamantly opposed. Vehicles may slow down for the bump but then accelerate; it causes undo noise when trucks and/or trailers pass over the bump; and in some cases, the motorist tries to “airborne” the vehicle. Member Mr. Chiasson, stated he would be in favor of speed bumps for School Zone areas. Mr. Magno stated it appears to be a police enforcement matter.

As speed study showed the following:

Harris St. was 32 MPH northbound and 27.8 MPH southbound.

Summer St. from Harris St. to Pleasant St. was 26.6 MPH eastbound and 28.5 MPH westbound.

Ellison Park was 20 MPH northbound and 23.9 MPH southbound.

Summer St. from Faneuil Rd. to Harris St. was 30.2 MPH eastbound and 28.7 MPH westbound.

Speeding is not the issue; however, the volumes are perceived to be high. Chief O’Connell stated the Police Department will continue to monitor the area for speeding violations. Pleasant St. is 30 feet wide with two-way traffic with parking on both sides of the street is currently allowed. Per the residents request it is recommended to restrict parking on one side. The signal sequence at Linden Street at Ellison Park should be amended so the green light for Ellison Park is prior to the green light for Linden Street. This change will reduce the possibility that a right turning vehicle from Linden Street would enter the intersection when Ellison Park gets a green light.

The Commission voted the following:

1: Deny the use of Residential Parking Permits

2: Deny the use of Speed Bumps

3: Prohibit parking on Pleasant Street, east side, entire length

4: Amend the timing and signal sequence of the traffic signal at Ellison Parking and Linden/Main Streets

L. Gale, Ripley and Pierce Sts. Review of Parking Restrictions – Councilor LaCava (4/21)

Councilor LaCava was present for this item and stated that there are many parking violations and people using the streets to store cars. These streets are very narrow and parking is an issue. The resident from # 17 Ripley St. was present and concerned about his existing Disabled Parking space which is on the west side of Ripley St. This space will now need to be moved to the east side of Ripley St. in front of his house. The Traffic Engineer agreed that these streets fall under our recommendation to prohibit parking on one side due to the narrowness (25 to 26 feet wide). He recommended parking restrictions as follows:

- Gale Street: No Parking east side
- Ripley Street: No Parking west side
- Piece Street: No Parking west side

Voted to amend Schedule 1 No Parking as follows:

Delete:

Gale St.: east side, from River St to a point 50' north No Parking

Peirce St.: both sides, from River St to a point 50' north, No Parking

Ripley St.: both sides, from River St to a point 50' north No Parking

Add:

Gale Street, east side, entire length No Parking

Piece Street, east side from River Street to a point 50' north, No Parking

Piece Street, west side, entire length, No Parking

Ripley Street: east side from River Street to a point 50' north, No Parking

Ripley Street: west side, entire length, no Parking

Voted to Amend Schedule 6 Disabled Parking as follows:

Delete: Ripley St., west side, 1 space, Opposite # 17

Add: Ripley St., east side, 1 space, in front of # 17

M. Trapelo Rd. at Pine Vale Rd. – Safety Issues for Bicyclist and Pedestrians – Councilor Darcy (5/21)

N. Bennett St. at Hastings St. – Proposed ALL-WAY STOP – Councilor LaCava (5/21)

Councillor LaCava was present for this item. This intersection does not meet the warrants for an ALL-WAY Stop. The accident history showed no accidents in the past three years; the traffic volumes of 300 vph for the major street and 200 vph for the minor were not met; and there is adequate approach sight distance. The 85% vehicle speed was found to be 25 MPH. Given the results of this analysis the intersection does not meet the warrants and it was recommended to be denied. **Voted to deny the request**

O. Elson Rd. – Proposed One-Way – Councilor Durkee (5/21)

P. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB (5/21)

Q. Waverley Oaks Rd. at Linden St. – Proposed change of signage from Yield to Stop control – Councilor Durkee (6/21)

Councillor Durkee was present for this item. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin agreed the layout of the intersection is confusing. To the unfamiliar driver, it would seem from the geometrics, that Waverley Oaks Rd. is the “side street” and should be the stop street. This level of confusion could potentially lead to traffic accidents. Based on the unique geometry, Mr. Garvin recommends an ALL-WAY Stop. In order to implement this regulation for the westbound Waverley Oaks Rd. approach a new raised island needs to be installed. CPW would need to construct this island prior to the ALL-WAY Stop control being enacted.

Voted to approve the request to convert the intersection of Linden Street/Waverley Oaks Road to ALL-WAY Stop control and amend Schedule 11 (Stop Signs) as follows (to be implemented once a raised island is constructed):

Delete: Linden Street at Waverley Oaks Road, facing south-westbound traffic

Add: Linden Street at Waverley Oaks Road, facing south-westbound traffic

**Waverley Oaks Road at Linden Street, facing westbound traffic left turn
Waverley Oaks Road at Linden Street (right turn channel), facing westbound right
turn traffic**

R. Liberty St. – Proposed One-Way Study (5/21)

Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin's review showed that Liberty Street is very narrow, 21.5 feet wide when vehicles are parked on one-side along with two-way traffic. It should be made one-way. More vehicles travel northbound than south. Travel to the south appears to be from pick-up and drop-off vehicles from the McDevitt Middle School during 7:30 am – 8:30 am (51) and 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm (51). In the evening PM peak hour, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, there were 15 southbound vehicles. The Valvoline Oil Change at the corner of Main St. and Liberty St. uses northbound Liberty St. to enter vehicles onto their property. The Traffic Engineer recommended Liberty Street be made one-way northbound. Vehicles that would use southbound Liberty Street would be re-routed to Lexington Street southbound or Church Street northbound to Lyman Street.

Voted to approve this recommendation and amend Schedules 11 and 14 as follows:

**Delete: Schedule 11 Stop Sign
 Liberty Street at Main Street facing southbound traffic**
**Add: Schedule 14 One-Way Street
 Liberty Street, northbound, from Main Street to School Street**

S. Middle St. – Proposed One-Way Study (5/21)

Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin reported Middle Street is only 22 feet wide with on-street parking. The street is not wide enough for two-way traffic. The traffic volumes appear to support that there is very little "cut-through" traffic. Most of the traffic originates or is destined for Middle Street or Middle Street Court. If Middle Street were made one-way westbound it would be very problematic for drivers to get to their residence. **Voted to approve the Traffic Engineer's recommendation to convert Middle Street to a one-way street and amended the Traffic Rules Schedule 14 as follows:**

Add: Middle Street, eastbound, from Spring Street to Common Street.

Delete in Schedule 11 Stop Signs

Middle Street at Spring Street, facing westbound traffic

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report – reported \$91K increase over last year**
- B. Piety Corner – Update – Bid Opening is September 29th**
- C. Trapelo Rd. / Waverley Oaks Rd. – Update funding approval on hold until the culvert project on the Waltham/Belmont line is complete.**
- D. Railroad Crossing Update – Federal Railroad Administration is "under review"**
- E. Correction to Appendix C: Chapter 90, Section 20A ½ - voted to amend Rules and Regulations and modify Appendix C: Chapter 90, Section 20A1/2 to read Section 20A**

AND ANY LATE FILED ITEM(S) THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

4A: Comprehensive Traffic Study for the various marijuana dispensaries, the 40B project, Phase 2 of 1265 Main Street and other developments in the upper Main Street, Bear Hill Road and Second Avenue area. The Traffic Impact Studies submitted by the various developers when taken together do not appear to be consistent. There is a need for an outside consultant to review the traffic impact when all the proposed developments are in place now and in the future. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer hire a consultant and submit their findings to the City Council and Traffic Commission.**

**Attendance: All members except Ms. Cagle and Mr. Waddick. Mayor McCarthy, Councilors Durkee, Harris and LaCava.
Adjourned @ 12:54 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo
Clerk**

Date of the Meeting: September 23, 2021

Please Print

Name of Speaker	Address # Street, City	Item of Interest	Affiliation i.e. Attorney Abutter Interested party – Traffic Engineer Petitioner
Matt Colella	44 Crawford St Watertown	Motorheads Car Show	Petitioner
Olivia Mobayed	MBTA	1 K	Petitioner
Joshua Weland	MBTA	1 K	Petitioner
Deborah Schreiber	23 Harris St	Pleasant Harris Faneil	Petitioner
Doreen Frigo	14 Ripley St	Parking item 1L	Petitioner
Joey LaCava	City Councilor	Gale,Ripley,Pierce Bennett @ Hastings	Councilor
Jeannette A McCarthy	610 Main St	1A, 1B, 1C, & 1D	Mayor
Doug Waybright	73 3 rd Ave	All	
Maria Salvatierra	51 Harris Street	Speed Bumps	
Jessica Almeida	14 Tontine St Medford, MA	Oktoberfest	Race Center Representative
Sean Durkee	185 Hammond ST	Ellison Park	Councilor
Cathyann Harris	42 Hovey Rd	Moody St	Councilor
Marc Rudnick	144 Hardy Pond Rd	Moody St	
Peter Cameron	930 Winter St	1P I95 on Ramp	