

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD: THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.  
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

The Chair accepted a motion and the minutes of the May meeting was approved.

**1. PETITIONED ITEMS:**

**A. Trapelo Road at Christopher Road Crosswalk Update – Councilor Darcy 1**

Councilor Darcy is requesting an update on the crosswalk approved at Trapelo/Christopher. An ADA ramp and additional lighting is required before the crosswalk can be installed. **Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to wait until the ramp and lighting has been installed and then apply the new crosswalk pavement markings, crossing Trapelo Road just west of Christopher Road.**

**B. Exemption for Restricted Parking, 14 Huntington Street – Councilor Darcy 5**

Councilor Darcy is requesting an exemption for the No Parking along the south side of Huntington Street in front of #14 Huntington Street. Huntington Street is less than 25 feet wide and for public safety parking was limited to one side. After a neighborhood meeting the consensus was to restrict parking on the south side of the street, entire length. Councilor Darcy spoke of the need for a resident who is Handicapped, to have an on-street parking space on the south side. It was recommended to deny this request; however, the applicant could request an HP parking space on the north side. **Voted to deny the request and keep the existing regulation that prohibits parking along the entire south side of Huntington Street.**

**C. Cedarwood Avenue/Villa Street – Councilor Katz 8**

Councilor Katz is requesting improvements to slow traffic down as they turn from Weston Street onto Cedarwood Avenue and Villa Street. There is an existing regulation that prohibits left turn from Cedarwood Avenue southbound onto Villa Street eastbound from 7am to 9am. The signage is faded (will be replaced) and is often violated. It was suggested to extend the median, to physically prevent vehicles to make a left turn onto Villa St. from Cedarwood Ave.; this requires CPW to build the median. Signs could be placed on the median. Vehicles turning right from Villa St often fail to stop in order to catch the light at Weston Street. The location of the Stop Sign is proper and often ignored.

**(1) Voted to ask CPW extend the raised median at the end of Cedarwood Ave. along the length of the existing painted island, and install new signage will be installed; (Note: as an interim measure CPW is requested to place barriers where the potential extended raised median would be.)**

**(2) have the Police Department increase enforcement of the Stop sign at Villa Street and Cedarwood Ave.**

**D. West End Traffic and Speed Study – Councilor Katz 13**

Councilor Katz is requesting a study to reduce the number of cut through vehicles in the West End neighborhood. This item dates back to October 2017. At that time Councilors Marchese, Logan and Mackin represented many of the residents in the area. A recommendation was made to have a traffic study determine what “calming measures” could be implemented. In March 2019 it was voted to have an RFP to solicit bids for a consultant to perform a Traffic Study in the West End neighborhood. However, before the RFP was solicited, it was strongly encouraged to hold a neighborhood meeting with the councilors and residents. The meeting was never held and as a result the RFP was never solicited. **Voted to hold a West End neighborhood meeting with the affected Ward Councilors/residents to reach a general consensus and buy-in before proceeding to solicit bids for a consultant.**

**E. Weston Street/Fiske Avenue/Everett Street 35**

Councilor Katz is requesting safety improvements at the intersection of Weston Street at Fiske Avenue. In the past we approved some minor improvements:

1: added a double yellow line center line on Fisk Ave

2: replaced faded signs No Right Turn on Weston Street at Fiske Ave  
3: requested Mass DOT to improve pavement markings (Weston Street is State Highway At this intersection) added was "Do Not Block Intersection"  
A suggestion to have "Right Turn Only" on Fiske Ave at Weston Street was something to be discussed at a neighborhood meeting.  
**Voted to have as part of the West End traffic study, include the evaluation of whether all traffic on Fisk Avenue northbound should be required to turn right.**

**F. Bedford Street at South Street 41**  
Councilor Katz is requesting improvements to the traffic signal at South Street/Bedford Street. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended a study and consideration for a mast arm should be studied. Councilor Katz is asking for some additional Police Enforcement. **Voted to table and have the traffic engineer conduct an accident analysis and report at a future meeting.**

**G. Summit Avenue Truck Restriction 45**  
Councilor Katz is requesting prohibition of trucks on Summit Avenue between Villa Street and Virginia Road. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin agreed that this street should be considered for a truck exclusion. **Voted to seek a permit from Mass DOT for a Truck Exclusion, Villa Street to Virginia Road.**

**H. Morton Street and Sunnyside Street – All Way STOP 47**  
Councilor Katz is requesting a study of an All Way STOP at the intersection of Morton Street and Sunnyside Street. Traffic Engineer Mr. Garvin recommended consideration and a study is needed to determine if a Four-Way Stop is warranted. **Voted to table and approved the request and to have a warrant analysis for installation of All Way Stop control at this intersection.**

**I. Trapelo Road Culvert Project 50**  
Waltham City Engineer Bob Winn will present the design of the new culvert on Trapelo Road at the Belmont Line. Nitsch Engineering has been contracted to redesign the intersection of Trapelo Road and Waverley Oaks Road The culvert is on the City/Town Line between Waltham and Belmont. During construction Stages 1A & 1B, the road will only accommodate a single lane of traffic, in the westbound direction. This will necessitate a detour of all eastbound traffic (likely turning all eastbound traffic onto Waverley Oaks Road southbound, Beaver Street eastbound and Warren Street northbound into Watertown). This will cause traffic congestion, particularly at the intersection of Beaver Street and Warren Street, as that traffic attempts to turn left at the stop sign. Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommends westbound traffic be detoured. The project is anticipated to start in the Fall 2022 or Spring 2023. Information Only

**J. 1019 Trapelo Road, Unit C – The Juicery; Trip Generation Assessment 58**  
The Juicery is proposed at 1019 Trapelo Road. TEC will present the findings of the trip generation assessment. The Juicery will be a smoothie and organic juice bar. It is estimated to generate 16 vehicle trips in the weekday AM peak hour and 24 trips in the Saturday peak hour. The Juicery will be closed (4pm) before the roadway PM peak hour. This proposed use will have minimal impact to traffic operations. Voted to accept the Trip Generation Assessment prepared by TEC for the proposed Juicery at 1019 Trapelo Road, allowing the applicants to proceed to the City Council for deliberations to obtain a Special Permit.

**K. 455 Totten Pond Road Traffic Impact and Access Study 69**  
VHB will present the findings of the traffic study for a proposed office and lab building at 455 Totten Pond Road. The property previously contained a hotel and a restaurant (Naked Fish). The proposal is to construct a building consisting of approximately 183,000 square feet of office space and 61,000 square feet of lab space, with a 735 space parking garage accessed from either Totten Pond Road or Winter Street. This study states the development will generate 360 new vehicle trip is the AM peak hour and 351 new trips in the PM peak hour. The Level of Service (LOS) for the AM peak hour at

the intersection of Totten Pond Rd/Winter Street/Third Ave will change from LOS D to LOS E. In the PM peak hour, the Level of Service will change from LOS E to LOS F. These impacts may change with re-timing the signals and reduce curb cuts on Totten Pond Rd. The applicant will join the 128 Business Council, install electric vehicle charging stations, bicycle parking and contribute \$540,000 to Waltham Transportation Infrastructure & Maintenance Fund. **Voted to accept the Traffic Impact and Access Study prepared by VHB for the proposed office and lab space at 455 Totten Pond Road and forward it to the City Council for their deliberations to issue a Special Permit.**

**L. Proposed MBTA Bus Network Redesign 75**

MBTA will present the draft redesign of the bus route network and how it affects Waltham. The proposal will dramatically have a new bus network across Greater Boston. For Waltham the following is proposed:

**New Service**

- 1: One high-frequency route (T70) that will connect Waltham Center to Watertown Square and eventually to Kendall Square every 15 minutes from 5am to 1am
- 2: Bus Route 70 every 30 minutes from 6am to 10pm Kendall Square and Market Place Drive
- 3: Bus Route 54 Arlington Center & Riverside MBTA station by way of Belmont and Waltham Center
- 4: Bus Route 53 Waltham Center to Riverside by way of South Street every 60 minutes 6am to 7pm
- 5: Bus Route 61 North Waltham and Watertown Square by way of Waltham Center and West Newton every 60 minutes
- 6: Route 505 Express Bus during peak hours, Waltham Center to downtown Boston by way of West Newton, Newton Corner and the Mass Pike

**Loss of Service**

- 1: Forest St – Trapelo Road – Waverley Oaks Road (express bus to be discontinued)
- 2: Highlands Bus along Bacon St – Dale St – Summit St – Hammond St – discontinued
- 3: Cedarwood Bus – Stow St & Weston Street; all Route 70 buses will terminate at Market Basket Plaza
- 4: Crescent St- Express Bus to Riverside eliminated
- 5: River St – express bus to Newton Corner discontinued

The Commission expressed concern that North Waltham, particularly along Trapelo Road has no service and has asked for the MBTA to reconsider eliminating service in this area. There will be public hearings to discuss these changes and the proposals are expected to be implemented in 2023. Information and comments only

**M. Route 20/Green Street/Route 117 Update 81**

VHB will present the latest update on the design of the infrastructure improvements associated with Phase II of the 1265 Main Street project. Mr. Rob Nagi of VHB gave a report to the Commission on this “privately” funded project.

- 1: The “rail trail” requires a major change to the final design.
- 2: Utilities crossing the Rt117 bridge will be relocated in three stages.
- 3: Final design plans will be presented to the State in the summer of 2022
- 4: Two construction seasons will be required for the project (2023 & 2024)
- 5: Tavern Square signal to be reconsidered
- 6: Banks Square Signals to be reconsidered
- 7: Bus Network will relocate at Market Basket
- 8: this reconstruction must be in place for 1265 to advance
- 9: there will be another update in the fall after Mass DOT has made its review
- 10: Green Street will be totally under State jurisdiction including ramp extensions

**N. Beaver Street Railroad Crossing Update****83**

Kevin Duffy, of Duffy Properties, is requesting an update of the median that was placed on Beaver Street at the railroad crossing. Councilor LeBlanc spoke of a problem that exists where the sidewalk on the eastside of the rail crossing disappears. Mr. Duffy concerns dealt with trailer trucks having great difficulty to enter and leave the property (135 Beaver Street). E.T.& L. Corp of Stow (Mr. Kevin Hoyt), is the construction company for the Demolition and Construction of the Wayside Trail. Their trucks, presently, must back into the area due to the center raised island. They are asking for the island to be removed and replaced with 42" Delineator Posts that can be moved and replaced to facilitate entry/exit of construction vehicles. The medians are needed to satisfy the requirements for a Quiet Zone designation. Mayor McCarthy spoke and updated the Commission of the progress to date. The City has not heard from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) relative its proposal to upgrade the crossing with a "quad gate design". Approval must be given in order to limit ability of vehicles to go around the lower gate operation. A grant is being sought that will re-design the crossing with a new operation and sidewalks included. To remove the island and use delineator Posts would require approval from the FRA. The Mayor was unable to provide an expected time of approval because it is dependent on the FRA. Carter/Elm Street and South Street crossings must also be considered for the "quad gate" system. **No action taken at this time; we are waiting for the FRA to consider a request for a new "quad gate" system.**

**O. Employee Parking Placard for Hanna Conlon****92**

Ms. Hanna Conlon, of Conservation Commission, is requesting an employee parking placard for use during City business. **Voted to approve this request and have an Employee Placard issued to Ms. Hanna Conlon**

**2. TABLED ITEMS: (Only items in Bold and Highlighted will be discussed at this meeting)**

- A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (10/19) – Councilor Durkee
- B. # 80-86 Orange St. – Whalen Housing Authority (9/19) – Councilor Harris
- C. City Wide Speed Study - (5/20)
- D. Elson Rd. – Proposed One-Way – Councilor Durkee (5/21)(10/21)
- E. Wyman St. – Proposed RRFB (5/21)

**F. Dale St. Speeding Issues (install crosswalk or All-Way STOP) – Councilor LaFauci 94**

**(9/21)(1/22).** A new crosswalk was approved in January at this location. At that time, it was proposed to be placed west of the intersection. There is a storm drain at that location and an ADA ramp can not be installed. Upon further review, the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Garvin recommended the crosswalk be installed east side of the intersection. **Voted to approve this location.**

- G. Oak St. at Cedar St. – All Way STOP – Councilor Paz (9/21)(1/22)
- H. Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councilor Harris (11/21)
- 00I. Trapelo Rd at Clocktower Rd – Proposed Traffic Signal – Mayor McCarthy (12/21)
- J. Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21)
- K. Willow St – Speed Limit Signage, Sidewalks, and Parking – Councilor LaCava (12/21)

**L. Bright St – Pavement Markings – Councilor LaCava (12/21)****97**

This was discussed in December and pavement markings were approved. Upon further review the street is very wide with parking allowed on both sides of the street. It is recommended that a double yellow center line along the entire length of Bright Street be painted. **Voted to approve this request and direct the Traffic Engineer to apply Double Yellow Center Lines (DYCL) along the entire length of Bright Street, as a traffic calming measure.**

- M. Lowell St – Proposed Traffic Study for Pedestrian and Public Safety – Councilor Harris (12/21)

- N. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22)

- O. Boynton Street and Winthrop Street – All Way STOP – Mayor McCarthy (2/22)
- P. Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22)

**Q. No Parking Request, Warwick Avenue (Police Department Request) (3/22) 101**

During the school drop off and pick up times, but particularly the pick-up time in the afternoon, parents park their cars along the southern side of Warwick Avenue. Parking on the north side would interfere with vehicular traffic, including school buses. In the afternoon, parents park and queue on school property. Once the lane is filed, cars are not allowed to park on Warwick Avenue (crossing guard enforces). Any vehicle parking on the north side of Warwick Avenue interferes with safe traffic operations and should be prohibited. **Voted to approve the request for no parking as follows:**

**Add to Schedule 1 Parking, Standing, and Stopping Restrictions**

**Warwick Avenue, No Parking, north side, from Putney Lane to Abbott Road, 8am to 3:15pm, on school days only**

- R. Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22)
- S. Signal Warrant – Totten Pond Rd @ Ice Rink/Prospect Hill Park (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)
- T. Banks Square Improvements (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)
- U. Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- A. Parking Meter Report – YTD funds up approximately \$13K; phone receipts continue to rise
- B. Moody St. and Main St. Signage for Mayor's approval – approximately 27 signs are waiting for approval

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

**4: Late File**

**A: Amended Parking Fees**

The subcommittee will present their findings on the committee's fee review. The Subcommittee recommended the following:

- 1: meter fees be raised from \$ .50 to \$1.00 / hour
- 2: daily rate be raised from \$2.00 to \$6.00 / day; with an additional \$2.00/hour for electrical connection
- 3: Monthly Rates from \$35./ to \$75. / month
- 4: Annual Rate from \$350. To \$700. Per year
- 5: Senior Parking Rate remain at \$5./ year

Member Mr. Vizard asked if consideration will be given to residents for lower rates. Mr. Magno, sub committee member stated that was not discussed and stated another sub-committee will be called to consider a reduced fee for Waltham residents. Voted to approve the parking fees and make them effective September 2022

Adjourned @ 12:59pm

Attendance: All members except Ms. Cagle, Mr. Chiasson, and Fire Chief MacInnis. Mayor McCarthy Councilors Darcy, Katz, LeBlanc.

