

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD: THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M.
WALTHAM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**

A motion was made and the minutes of the December meeting were accepted.

1. PETITIONED ITEMS:

A. Radar Speed Sign, South Street at Weston Town Line (Councillor Katz)

Councillor Katz requested the installation of a radar speed sign on South Street at the Weston Town Line. Councillor Katz spoke of frequently speeding vehicles traveling northbound from the Town of Weston on South Street and the need for a radar speed sign. The criteria for radar speed sign installation approval is as follows:

- 1: located in a school zone, or the combination of all of items 2 through 6:
- 2: must be on a major street (as prescribed in Schedule 13 of the Traffic Rules and Regulations)
- 3: for streets that have a posted speed limit: the 85th percentile speed exceeds the posted speed limit by 5 mph or greater
- 4: for streets that do not have a posted speed limit and are located in a thickly settled zone: the 85th percentile speed must exceed 30mph
- 5: if Criteria 2 and either Criteria 3 or Criteria 4 are met, a 90-day trial is to be implemented using temporary radar speed signs with the approaching speeds displayed
- 6: if the new speed study shows a reduction in the 85th percentile speed by at least four miles per hour, then a permanent radar speed sign may be installed

Voted to direct the Traffic Engineer to conduct a speed study on South Street, northbound, just north of the Weston Town Line. If the 85th percentile speed is at least 40 MPH (5 mph greater than the posted speed limit), proceed with a 90-day trial period of a radar speed sign in accordance with the Traffic Commission criteria for installation of a permanent radar speed sign.

B. Pearl Street Parking Lane (Councillor Katz)

Councillor Katz requested that a parking lane be painted along the eastern side of Pearl Street. The Councillor reports that pedestrians are forced to walk in the travel way of the street and that a painted parking lane would help. **Voted to have the Traffic Engineer conduct a study on Pearl Street in regards to the addition of a painted parking lane on the east side.**

C. New High School Final Traffic Signal Plans

The designer for the new High School presented the final traffic signal plans, with sequencing and timings, for approval by Traffic Commission. **Voted to approve the new traffic signal on Lexington St. with the designed traffic signal phasing and timings. In addition, the following changes were made to the Schedules of the Traffic Rules & Regulations:**

Schedule 10 (Approved Traffic Signals)

Add: Lexington St. at Waltham High School Entrance & Exit Driveways

Change:

Lexington St. at High School Exit TO Lexington St. at Kennedy Middle School Exit

Lexington St. at High School Entrance TO Lexington St. at Jacks Way

In Schedule 18 (Turns as Designated)

Add:

Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling northbound in the left lane approaching Waltham High School Driveway **MUST TURN LEFT**

Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling southbound in the left lane approaching Stanley Road **MUST TURN LEFT**

Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling southbound in the right lane approaching Waltham High School Entrance Driveway **MUST TURN RIGHT**

Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling northbound approaching Waltham High School Exit Driveway **NO LEFT TURN**

Lexington Street: All vehicles traveling southbound approaching Waltham High School Exit Driveway **NO RIGHT TURN**

Waltham High School Exit Driveway: All vehicles traveling eastbound in the left lane approaching Lexington Street **MUST TURN LEFT**

Waltham High School Exit Driveway: All vehicles traveling eastbound in the right lane approaching Lexington Street **MUST TURN RIGHT**

Furthermore, the Traffic Engineer was directed to look into coordinating this signal with the signalized intersections at Piety Corner and Lexington St./Beaver St., once the new signal installations at Piety Corner and the new High School are complete.

D. PTO Annual Fitzgerald Fun Run

Ann Tierney requested approval of the Annual Fitzgerald Fun Run to be held on Friday, May 31st. **Voted to approve and forward a recommendation to the Mayor's Office for a permit to issue.**

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

- A. Elson Rd. Parking Study (6/19) (9/19) (6/23) – Councillor Durkee
- B. Adams St. at Crescent St. – Proposed All-Way and Corridor Study – Councillor Harris (11/21) (11/22) (12/22)
- C. *Bedford St – Speeding Issues – Mayor McCarthy (12/21) (9/22)
- D. Main Street at Newton St & Lyman St – Traffic Signal Coordination (1/22) (11/22)
- E. *Harrington Road Speed Study (Mayor McCarthy) (3/22) (9/22)
- F. *Villa Street: Speed Bumps (Mayor McCarthy) (4/22) (9/22)
- G. *Elm St/River St Signal Warrant (Mayor McCarthy) (5/22)
- H. 240/265 Beaver Street Traffic Safety Analysis – Councillor Bradley-MacArthur (11/22) (6/23)
- I. Brandeis Crosswalk on South Street, Improved Visibility – Councillor Katz (12/22) (1/23)

J. MBTA Better Bus Project Update (1/23)

The Better Bus Project, a project that will completely redesign and improve the bus service across the network is now in Phase 1. Waltham is not included in this phase and no changes are expected at this time. As part of a future phase of the project, Waltham will have a newly designated, high frequency route introduced along Main Street. Some existing bus routes will be altered or eliminated, as part of these programmatic updates. **For Information Only**

- K. Elm Street Northbound Approach to Railroad Crossing (5/23) (6/23)
- L. Review of Parking Regulations on Berkley Street – Mayor McCarthy (9/23)
- M. Left Turn Restrictions from Fiske Ave and Fairmont Ave onto Weston St – Councillor Katz (9/23)

N. High Street Parking Limit – Councillor Harris (10/23) (11/23)

Voted to table the item, for it to be discussed at a future meeting.

- O. RRFB at Crosswalk on Lincoln Street at MacArthur School (Councillor Dunn) (11/23)
- P. Proposed Chase Bank ATM at 1030 Main Street, Traffic Impact Study (11/23)

Q. Stop Sign at Hamilton Rd/Virginia Rd (Councillor Katz) (12/23)

Traffic Engineering completed the review of this intersection and agreed that a Stop sign on the minor approach is warranted. **Voted to approve the installation of a stop sign at this location.**

In Schedule 11 (Stop Signs) in the Traffic Rules & Regulations:

Add: Hamilton Rd. at Virginia Rd., facing northbound traffic

- R. Chaffee Ave/Canterbury Rd and Chaffee Ave/Ellery Rd All-Way STOP (12/23)
- * Mayor McCarthy will request a separate Special Meeting of Traffic Commission for the items indicated with an asterisk.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- A. Parking Meter Report - revenues continue to rise compared to last year

- B. Traffic Commission Status Report
Lake St, Princeton Ave RRFB – Traffic Engineering to seek funding
Dual Language School Parking – 50 passes completed

- C. Traffic Signal Inventory: Winter Street/West Street
Vehicle volumes are down; the intersection should be taken off of flash and the signal timings and lights/crosswalk buttons need to be verified; signal heads need to be updated to match the approved design; cabinet lock needs to be fixed; signal timings should be updated to reflect either the designed or optimized Synchro model. **Voted to table**

- D. Traffic Signal Inventory: Winter Street/First Avenue
Traffic volumes are down; detection needs repair; update signal timings to reflect the optimized Synchro model; fix the three crosswalk buttons. **Voted to table**

- E. Traffic Signal Inventory: Winter Street/Second Avenue
Traffic volumes are down; update the signal timings to reflect the optimized Synchro model; fix the detection; fix the crosswalk button on the northern side of the WB travel lanes; fix pedestrian signal heads on the northern side of the EB travel lanes; relocate signal head N further along the grass island. **Voted to table**

- F. Revision to Traffic Rules & Regulations: Stop Signs on Sunset Rd, Valley View Rd, and Warren Ave (Signs already exist)

Add in Schedule 11 (Stop Signs)

Sunset Road at Prentice St, facing northbound traffic

Valley View Road at Lyman Street facing eastbound traffic
Valley View Road at Beaver Street facing northbound traffic
Warren Avenue at Lexington Street facing westbound traffic

G. Revision to Traffic Rules & Regulations: Parking Regulations on Rich St and Sunset Rd
(Signs already exist)

Voted to add the following to Schedule 1 (Parking, Standing, and Stopping Restrictions) in the Traffic Rules and Regulations:

Add:

Rich St, east side, from Columbus Ave to dead end, No Parking
Sunset Rd, west side, from Prentice St to a point 90' south of Prentice St, No Parking

LATE FILED ITEM(S)

**4A: Race Cancer Foundation – Super Sunday Run to Remember 5K/5M
Sunday February 11, 2024 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM 411 Waverley Oaks Road**

Mr. J. Alain Ferry, Race Director, requested approval for a road race on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Lt. Quaranto (WPD), Captain Feeley (WPD), and Mr. Bob Pratt (CPW) met with organizers and presented a route from 411 Waverley Oaks Road (the Mighty Squirrel Brewery), through Linden Street, Main Street, Lexington Street, Beaver Street, and Waverley Oaks Road. There are 1,500 to 2,000 estimated participants. There will be numerous police details and volunteers assisting along the route. There will be no parking on Main Street on the north side from Craven Circle to Lyman Street. **Voted to approve and forward a recommendation to the Mayor's Office.**

4B: Totten Pond Road

The Traffic Commission Sub-Committee formed on June 15, 2023 (Mr. Magno, Fire Chief Mullin, & Mr. Vizard) presented a plan for the redesign of Totten Pond Road, dated January 11, 2024. The design calls for single eastbound and westbound lanes; sidewalks; a new traffic signal located in the area of the Prospect Hill Park/ Ice-Skating Rink; raised and/or painted center islands; and the alignments of driveways. The project must be designed by a traffic engineer and include accurate cost estimates. It is expected that this will be done in the Spring of 2024. **For the present and immediate, it was voted to request an RFP for the installation of a "HAWK" signal at the skating rink/Prospect Hill entrance.**

**Attendance: All members present
Adjourned @ 11:16 AM**

**Respectfully Submitted
Frank S. Lombardo, Clerk**

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