

Traffic Commission Minutes
January 12, 2023

When: Thursday January 12, 2023 at 5:30pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83036277303> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting)

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Webinar ID: 830 3627 7303

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Click this link for access to the full recording of this meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE13UQdpkro>

Attendance:

Traffic Commission Members: Jill Lathan, Councilor Gómez Mouakad, Lt. William Rymill, Deputy Chief Sean Tierney

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Suzanne Rinfret, Greg Hanafin, Lauren Craik, Adrienne Pomeroy, Anna Rebelo, Laura Accaputo

Meeting Ground Rules:

1. Listen to the other side
2. Focus on issues, not personalities
3. Avoid questioning motives
4. Be polite

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

The Chair asked the secretary to conduct a roll call vote for attendance.

Chair Lathan – present
Councilor Gómez Mouakad – present
Lt. William Rymill – present
Deputy Chief Sean Tierney – present
Lena Webb – absent

Item #1 – Acceptance of Minutes from the December 8, 2022 Traffic Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Item #2 – Request for Accessible Parking space at 37 Dartmouth St.

Item #3 – Request for Accessible Parking space at 59 Preston Rd.

Item #4 – Request for Accessible Parking space at 74 Elm St.

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, requested to speak to Items #2-4 at the same time. The Chair granted this request. Adrienne Pomeroy stated she has reviewed all three requests and locations and supports the approval of all three spaces.

Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Councilor Gómez-Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Item #5 – Request for two Fire Lanes on Sewall St., running from the corner of Temple St. down both sides in an easterly direction for a distance of 20 ft.

Item #6 – Request for two Fire Lanes on Lake St.

- a. On the even side of the street running from the edge of the driveway at #40 extending 25 ft. in an easterly direction
- b. On the odd side of the street running from the corner of Church St. for a distance of 20 ft. in an easterly direction.

The Chair requested to bundle Items #5 and #6. Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking, explained these requests are from Chief Breen at the Fire Department.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Item #7 – Request to extend the Central Hill curbside management pilot, originally approved at the November 18, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting, until June 30, 2024, consisting of the following:

- a. Approximately 15 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, from opposite Putnam St to the City Hall driveway, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri.
- b. Approximately 12 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, between the entrance and exit to the Somerville High School Driveway, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri.

- c. Approximately 7 parking spaces on the west side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St (except for the existing loading zone), regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.
- d. Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.
- e. Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of School St, between Highland Ave and opposite Madison St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.

Greg Hanafin and Lauren Craik, Transportation Planners in the Mobility Division, shared additional background and data on the pilot program. This information was also shared with the Commission at the December 8, 2022 meeting. The presentation slides can be found on the City website's Central Hill Plan page and by using [this link](#). Chair Lathan asked why the pilot goes until the end of June since school typically gets out earlier. Greg Hanafin replied this is in case of any snow days or other school cancellations that may extend the school year. Chair Lathan asked how they got half a car (referring to the PCO Compliance Findings slide listing 0.5 ticketed in Fall 2022); Greg Hanafin replied this is a median number – some days there would be zero tickets, other days there would be one, and that's how they ended up with half a number.

Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked about the timing of the surveys and why one was conducted in June as opposed to May and if small business loading zone needs were taken into consideration. Greg Hanafin responded that Mobility will conduct surveys accounting for different traffic peaks throughout the year. Councilor Gómez Mouakad shared that Ward Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen is in support of this pilot project. Greg Hanafin also shared that leading up to this pilot outreach was conducted with local businesses and abutters, and they can check back in with the local businesses about loading zone needs.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 3-0-1 (Chair abstained).

Motion to adjourn made at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Gómez Mouakad, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken, Chair Lathan-yes; Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes; Lt. Rymill-yes; Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 4-0-0.