

Traffic Commission Minutes
August 10, 2023

When: Thursday August 10, 2023 at 5:30pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85402756243> (Please click this link to attend the virtual meeting).

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsl8myzFeC8>

Attendance:

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

Staff: Jackie Stagnari, Adrienne Pomeroy, Greg Hanafin, Suzanne Rinfret, Jessica Bellow

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 Jill Lathan – present

Councilor Beatriz Gómez Mouakad – present (arrived at 5:37pm)

Lena Webb – present

Lt. William Rymill – present

Deputy Chief Sean Tierney – present

Item #1 – Acceptance of the Minutes from the July 13, 2023 Traffic Commission meeting.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Lena Webb. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries 4-0-0 (Councilor arrived late).

Item #2 – Request for an accessible parking space at 303 Washington St.

Item #3 – Request for an accessible parking space at 23 Melvin St.

The Chair requested that items 2 and 3 be voted on together. Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, stated that she reviewed both applications and supports the approval of both spaces. She noted that there used to be a space for a different resident at 305 Washington St. that was recently removed. The applicant for 303 Washington St. is a family member that had been using the space at 305 Washington St. until its removal and now requires their own space.

Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).

Item #4 – Request to modify the fire lanes on Central Rd.

- a) Request to reduce the distance of the existing fire lane at 16 Central Rd., which currently runs from the corner for a distance of 60 ft. in a northerly direction, to 47 ft. from the corner.
- b) Request to eliminate the fire lane on the south side of Central Rd. in front of #15 which runs 16 ft. in an easterly direction. This fire lane does not currently exist on the street and is unnecessary but is listed in the regulations.
- c) Request to establish a fire lane on the south side of Central Rd., running from the corner at #35 for a distance of 20 ft. in the easterly direction. This fire lane does currently exist on the street but has not been legally accepted.

Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking, explained that there were some discrepancies between what was listed in the Regulations and what existed on the street. This item is to provide clarity on the fire lanes on Central Rd.

Motion to approve made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lena Webb. A roll call vote was taken; A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).

Item #5 – Request to establish a fire lane on Nashua St. from the corner of Richardson St. down the odd side in a southerly direction for a distance of 20 ft.

Item #6 – Request to establish a fire lane on Sycamore St. from the corner of Pembroke St. down the even side in front of #74 Sycamore St. in a northerly direction for a distance of 20 ft.

The Chair requested that items 5 and 6 be voted on together. Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking, shared that these are requests from the Fire Chief after fire trucks had trouble making turns at these locations.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Rymill, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken; A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).

Item #7 – Healey School Curb Use Changes

- a) Regarding Meacham St between Edgar Ave and Century St/Ash Ave, request to restrict traffic to one-way westbound only between 7am-8:30am & 2pm-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June.
- b) Regarding the curb on the north side of Meacham St between Edgar Ave and Ash St, request to convert resident permit parking to active arrival & dismissal only between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and resident permit parking at all other times.
- c) Regarding the curb on the south side of Meacham St between Edgar Ave and Century St, active arrival & dismissal only between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and resident permit parking at all other times.
- d) Request to prohibit the right turn from Edgar Ave to Meacham St between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June, except for school staff & abutters.
- e) Regarding the curb on the north side of Meacham between Edgar Ave and the Healey School parking lot, request to convert approximately 65 feet of No Parking Any Time to School Bus Parking Only.
- f) Request to waive the advertising period for items a-e.

Greg Hanafin, Transportation Planner, explained that these items are temporary measures put into place while the playground and parking lot at the Healey School were under construction. After construction was complete, the school administration shared that they felt the temporary changes worked well and wanted to see them made permanent. Greg shared slides detailing items a-e.

Councilor Gómez Mouakad inquired about letting the community know about these changes if the advertising period was waived. Greg shared that these conditions already exist so the neighborhood should be familiar with it, but they can also post flyers. The school has also communicated these conditions to families.

Chair Lathan requested that faces in photos used in slides be blurred moving forward. The Chair also asked if there were going to be new signs installed. It was confirmed that there will be. The Chair also asked about enforcement of the Do Not Enter restriction on Meacham. Greg stated that the school and crossing guards have not noted difficulty with this restriction. Lt. Rymill said he would check in with the officer in charge of the crossing guards.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Gómez Mouakad, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).

Item #8 – Edgerly Education Center Curb Use Changes

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Otis St from approximately 33' west of Cross St to approximately 138' west of Cross St, request to convert 105' of resident permit parking to active arrival & dismissal only between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and resident permit parking at all other times.
- b) Regarding the curb on the west side of Cross St from approximately 32' north of Otis St to approximately 108' north of Otis St, request to convert 76' of MBTA bus stop to active arrival & dismissal only between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and two-hour parking except by permit at all other times.
- c) Regarding the curb on the west side of Cross from approximately 108' north of Otis St to approximately 168' north of Otis St, request to convert 60' of unregulated parking to MBTA bus stop.
- d) Regarding the curb on the east side of Cross St from approximately 26' south of Brook St to approximately 75' south of Brook St, request to convert 49' of two-hour parking except by permit to active arrival & dismissal only between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and two-hour parking except by permit at all other times.
- e) Regarding the curb on the south side of Bonair St from approximately 38' west of Cross St to approximately 58' west of Cross St, request install 20' of ADA parking.
- f) Regarding the curb on the north side of Bonair St from approximately 45' west of Cross St to approximately 65' west of Cross St, request to convert 20' of resident permit parking to ADA parking.
- g) Regarding the curb on the south side of Bonair St from approximately 58' west of Cross St to approximately 178' west of Cross St, request to convert 120' of ADA parking and resident permit parking to school bus only parking between 7am-3pm, Mon-Fri, Sept-June and resident permit parking at all other times.
- h) Request to the prohibit the right turn from McGrath Hwy to Bonair St between 7am-9am & 2pm-6pm, Mon-Fri, except for school staff and abutters.
- i) Request to waive the advertising period for items a-h.

Greg Hanafin stated these items are relating to the relocation of Winter Hill students to the Edgerly Education Center this upcoming school year. The Edgerly was being used as a school administration building so it lacks the necessary arrival/dismissal and school bus areas needed. Greg shared an overview and map of the proposed changes. He is requesting the advertising period be waived so these changes can be implemented before the new school year starts.

Councilor Gómez Mouakad asked if the times take into account arrival/dismissal for after school activities. The arrival/dismissal restrictions are proposed to end at 3pm. The Councilor requested that neighbors and businesses around the Edgerly get proper notification of these changes.

Motion to approve made by Lena Webb, seconded by Councilor Gómez Mouakad. A roll call vote was taken; A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez

Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).

Motion to adjourn made at 6:10pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Deputy Chief Tierney, seconded by Lt. Rymill. A roll call vote was taken; Chair Lathan-abstain, Councilor Gómez Mouakad-yes, Lena Webb-yes, Lt. Rymill-yes, Deputy Chief Tierney-yes. The motion carries (4-0-1).