

Traffic Commission Meeting
August 23, 2017

Attendance: Stan Koty, Robert McWatters, Thomas Graney, Sgt. Gobiell
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Terence Smith, Suzanne Rinfret, Nancy Salamoun
Other: Delia Kaye, Karen Love, Jamie Love

Meeting was held at the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm

Item #1 Minutes from the July 20, 2017 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

Item #2 Request for Handicapped Parking

a) 49 Trull St

- Terence Smith stated the house is set back from the street and has a curb cut in the front; the space cannot be placed in front of the property. Traffic and Parking deferred to the ADA coordinator.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve for a 90 day trial period, location of space to be determined by the ADA coordinator, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

b) 64 Puritan Rd

- Terence Smith stated the applicant owns the property and has a driveway.

Thomas Graney made a motion to deny, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #3 Request for Loading Zone

Berkeley St at Central St, Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm, space will revert back to resident permit parking during all other days/hours (except Sundays)

- Terence Smith stated this is an existing loading zone that was not approved by Traffic Commission. He explained since its only used periodically it should revert back to permit parking during all other hours.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #4 Request for Fire Lane

Albion Place – extend the existing fire lane down the entire length of Albion Place, approximately 160ft

- The Chair stated he was concerned about taking away parking.
- Thomas Graney explained the neighbors were complaining that the resident at #12 was obstructing the egress to the house and blocking the fire hydrant. He noted the Alderman was involved and all neighbors support the request except the resident of #12. He also provided pictures of barrels blocking the hydrant.
- Robert McWatters asked how many spaces would be lost and Thomas Graney replied one.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #5 Request for a Pick Up/Drop Off Pilot Program in Davis Square including the following changes:

- a) Replace the (3) existing 15 minute parking spaces at 212 Elm St to Pick Up/Drop Off – Live Parking Only (all hours)
- b) Add Live Parking Only 5pm-8am to the Loading Zone at 411 Highland Av (Magpie)
- c) Add Live Parking Only 5pm-8am at the Loading Zone at 30 Holland St (Statue Park)

- Suzanne Rinfret explained the spaces are free after 5pm and there is a problem with double parking when pick up/drop offs are made by Uber and Lyft. She noted if this works well it may be extended to other areas of the city.
- Sgt. Gobiell stated his concerns that taxi companies have to pay for taxi stands and these spaces will be free for Uber/Lyft.
- Suzanne Rinfret clarified the spaces can be used by anyone as long as there is a driver in the car. Sgt. Gobiell questioned why taxi companies would continue paying for spaces then.
- The Chair agreed that Sgt. Gobiell made a good point and he thinks the wording of the sign is critical, he suggested a discussion between SPD Traffic Division and the Traffic and Parking Department on the wording.

Robert McWatters made a motion to table the item pending clarification on the verbiage of the restriction, seconded by Sgt. Gobiell. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #6 – Request for Do Not Enter, 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm except city residents and bicycles

- a) Hamlet St from Highland Av
 - Robert McWatters explained he receives complaints about the cut through traffic.
 - Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking does not support turning prohibitions but acknowledged the City Solicitor has stated they can be installed.
 - Sgt. Gobiell stated these restrictions are horrible and never stand up in court.
 - Robert McWatters stated he understands but hopes the signs act as a deterrent.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.

- b) Berkeley St from Central St
 - Robert McWatters explained families are concerned about the cut through traffic and there are differing opinions on how to remedy it.
 - Delia Kaye stated this will not address the problem and will only push the traffic to Avon St. She inquired about the possibility of a delayed traffic signal instead.
 - Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking does not support turning prohibitions but acknowledged the City Solicitor has stated they can be installed. He also noted this particular traffic controller does not have the ability for a delayed signal and defers installation of a new controller to DPW.
 - The Chair recommended a discussion take place between himself, Steve MacEachern, and Terence Smith regarding the financial component.
 - Terence Smith cautioned this could set a precedent and noted there are other intersections where a delayed signal would be a higher priority.
 - Robert McWatters asked what the cost would be and Terence Smith answered between 20 and 30 thousand.

Robert McWatters made a motion to table the item so the financial details can be considered, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #7 – Request for Back In Angle Parking for DPW Employees Only from 7am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri, on Franey Rd, south side, from DPW driveway to Cedar St

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded Sgt. Gobiell. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #8 – Request for No Parking Anytime on Franey Rd, north side, from the basketball court to Cedar Street

- Terence Smith noted the location of the restriction was incomplete and should be amended to include east of the parking area adjacent to the basketball court extending easterly to Charles Ryan Road.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Sgt. Gobiell. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #9 – Request for a Loading Zone on Cross St East, at Broadway, first parking space on the odd side, Mon- Sat 8am-12pm, space will revert back to resident permit parking all other days/hours (except Sundays)

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #10 – Request to lengthen the Safety Zone on Florence St to start at Perkins St and end at Washington St

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #11 – Request to change the parking restriction on the south side of Washington St between Columbus Av and Merriam St (in front of the police department) from No Stopping 4pm-6pm to 2 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8am-2:30am and Resident Permit Parking Only 2:30am to 8am

- Suzanne Rinfret explained this area is no longer a travel lane and the pavement markings have been changed. She asked if the item is approved that the advertising period be waived.

Thomas Graney made a motion to approve and waive the advertising period, seconded by Robert McWatters. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #12 – Request for a bike corral on the north side of Washington St, just east of Washington Terrace, for a 90 day trial period

- Suzanne Rinfret asked if the item is approved that the advertising period be waived.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve and waive the advertising period, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

The Chair took a recess at 6pm and reconvened at 6:02pm

Item #13 – Request for a “Police Use Only” parking space in the parking lot at the East Somerville Community School, in the first parking space on the right as you enter the lot from Glen St

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by Sgt. Gobiell. Motion passed: 4-0.

Prior Business

Item #14 Review of Handicapped Parking Space at 32 Putnam Rd, approved for 90 day trial period in April 2017

- Terence Smith stated Traffic and Parking has not received any complaints.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve (permanently), seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #15 Request for amendment to regulation 2017-30, as follows:

No Left Turn 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm, except city residents and bicycles onto Grandview Ave from Walnut St, should be onto Grandview Ave from Vinal Av

- Robert McWatters explained he gave an incorrect location at last month’s meeting.

Robert McWatters made a motion to approve, seconded by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.

Robert McWatters made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 4-0.