

Traffic Commission Minutes
November 14, 2019

The meeting was held at the TAB Building, 167 Holland St 2nd flr

Attendance: Steven MacEachern, Thomas Graney, Mark Niedergang, John Gobiell, Lena Webb
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Dan Amelin, Nancy Salamoun, Adam Polinski, Brad Rawson
Other: Jerry Ardolino

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

Item #1 – Motion made to accept the minutes from the October 10, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.

The Chair made a motion to take Item #13 out of order, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #13 – Review of the Handicapped Parking space at 15 Russell Rd

- Jerry Ardolino, 14 Russell Rd, asked that the sign be removed. He stated the criteria for having a space is the applicant must drive and the applicant hasn't driven for one and a half years. He also noted the spot is not being used as the applicants car has been parked in the driveway. He is concerned about the loss of a space during the park odd years for snow emergencies.
- Suzanne Rinfret confirmed that Parking Enforcement Officers have been monitoring the space several times a day as the result of a neighbor complaint and the space has not been used.
- Nancy Salamoun asked if the item could be tabled until next month as the city hasn't been able to reach the applicant to let them know about the review of the space. She also noted there are provisions for family members that pick up/drop off handicapped residents. She also explained the driveway is narrow and not usable since the applicant has a walker.
- Jerry Ardolino stated he has no problem waiting another month but noted the applicant is currently parking in the driveway at the bottom end and reiterated the space is left unused.
- Mark Niedergang asked if 2 cars fit in the driveway and Jerry Ardolino answered yes.

Thomas Graney made a motion to table the item until the December meeting, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking

43 Madison St

- Nancy Salamoun explained the landlord supports the request. The driveway cannot be used due to a large ramp. She stated she supports the request.
- Thomas Graney agreed that it would be difficult to get in and out of the car due to the ramp.
- Suzanne Rinfret asked for a suspension of the rules so the sign can be posted before legal advertising but without enforcement.

Thomas Graney made a motion to approve with an amendment that the signs be installed prior to legal advertising, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #3 – Request for an increase to the following parking fines

Code	Violation	Current	Proposed Increase
12	Overtime Parking	\$25.00	\$50.00
58	Over 48 Hours	\$30.00	\$50.00
59	Taxi Stand	\$30.00	\$50.00
61	Restricted Zone	\$30.00	\$50.00
62	High School Concourse	\$25.00	\$50.00
63	Commercial Overnight	\$40.00	\$50.00
64	Wrong Direction	\$30.00	\$50.00
66	On Sidewalk	\$30.00	\$50.00
68	Loading Zone	\$30.00	\$50.00
70	Over 1 ft. from Curb	\$30.00	\$50.00
71	Construction Zone	\$30.00	\$50.00
72	traffic island	\$30.00	\$50.00
75	No Stopping Zone	\$30.00	\$50.00
78	Within 20' of intersection	\$40.00	\$50.00
83	Unattached trailer	\$40.00	\$50.00
84	Leaving less than 12'	\$40.00	\$50.00

- The Chair waived reading the list
- Mark Niedergang asked if the Council approved the increases and Suzanne Rinfret explained they did approve it but it wasn't required for them to do so.

Mark Niedergang made a motion to approve, 2nd by John Gobel. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #4 – That the Director of Communications and the Director of Parking develop and implement a plan to better publicize Traffic Commission meeting agendas and Traffic Commission decisions, and share that plan with the City Council, since Traffic Commission decisions sometimes have a major impact on resident quality of life, for example, the removal of parking spaces and major changes to the configurations of streets.

- Mark Niedergang suggested the commission take up item #12 with Item #4 as they are related.
- He asked commission members to attend a joint meeting/public hearing with the council on Monday December 9th at 6pm in council chambers. He stated the commission makes important decisions that sometimes affect many people and public input will help boards make better decisions. He noted the Broadway bus/bike lane as an example of a decision that was made without public awareness and now there is a petition with 2000 signatures against the decision. He suggested items that are deemed significant by the chair or members be sent to the Communications Department for community outreach ahead of the meetings.
- Suzanne Rinfret explained the commission can always table any item they believe requires more information or input. She also noted if any items were time sensitive a special meeting could be convened.
- Brad Rawson also noted the mobility division has made it a priority to reboot their website this winter and can host a calendar of meetings with agendas as well as posting them on social media. He also suggested adopting a standard form outlining the steps that brought them to the vote to document its history.

- Adam Poliski noted the city does have a process in place to host public meetings and analyze data and that a lot of groundwork is done before these items go before the Traffic Commission.
- Mark Niedergang said he would speak with Ms. Connor and the Communications Department regarding the publicity piece.

Thomas Graney made a motion to table Item #4, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #12 – Request from the City Council for the Traffic Commission to co-sponsor a Public Hearing with the City Council Traffic and Parking Committee of the Whole on the Broadway Bus/Bike Lanes. (Date of the meeting has not yet been set but should be by the time of the Traffic Commission meeting.)

- Mark Niedergang explained this public hearing was ordered by Councilors Hirsch, Clingan, and Mbah and Councilors White and Rossetti want the Traffic Commission to co-sponsor. He also stated there will be a presentation by Brad Rawson’s team with data and analysis and it will be open for public input. The Commission discussed procedural items for the joint meeting and determined the agenda and minutes would be prepared by the council’s clerk.
- Lena Webb asked if this meeting was to hear public input only or to make changes and Mark Niedergang explained it was to get public feedback and hear ideas.
- Thomas Graney asked if the width of Broadway could legally maintain parking, bus, and bike lanes and Adam Poliski replied they are all within the allotted standards.

Mark Niedergang made a motion to approve the joint meeting/public hearing, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.

Dan Amelin stated items 5, 6, and 7 were all related and asked to discuss them together

Item #5 – Engineering Dept. is requesting to temporarily change Merriam Street (between Somerville Ave and Washington Street) into a two-way street for approximately 3 months, as the Somerville Ave contractor prepares to begin excavating and installing new storm water box culvert at this intersection. Because the current traffic configuration of Merriam Street is one-way southbound towards Somerville Ave, exiting Merriam Street will be restricted due to limits and presence of this work zone.

Item #6 – Engineering Dept. is requesting to temporarily remove approximately 3-4 residential permitted parking spaces on Merriam Street to facilitate two-way traffic, as egress onto Somerville Avenue will be restricted. The request to remove these parking spaces will allow for two vehicles to safely pass each other given the existing narrow roadway width. This request is being made for a duration of approximately 3 months in conjunction with Item #5.

Item #7 – Engineering Dept. is requesting to install a temporary “DEAD END” or “NOT A THRU STREET” at the intersection of Merriam Street and Washington Street for a duration of 3 months, in conjunction with Items #5 and #6.

- Dan Amelin stated all 3 items are related to the ongoing Somerville Av project and distributed Traffic Management Plans which were entered into the record. He explained the contractor will begin the project in 2-3 weeks at this location, it’s a major excavation with a permanent 24/7 barrier work zone. The 2 way traffic will be in effect for 2-3 months.
- Mark Neidergang asked about the impacts to the neighborhood and Dan Amelin answered the biggest impact will be the loss of 3-4 parking spaces so vehicles can pass safely.

John Gobiell made a motion to approve items 5, 6, and 7, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #8 – Engineering Dept. is requesting to remove two residential parking spaces at each of the northern corners of Stone Avenue at the intersection of Columbus Avenue, as well as three spaces on Columbus Avenue opposite Stone Avenue for a duration of approximately one month. This request is being made to facilitate turning movements of emergency vehicles and fire apparatus during the time of which Stone Avenue is inaccessible from Somerville Avenue due to box culvert installation.

- Dan Amelin stated as in the past, all of these items will be closed out once complete.
- Mark Niedergang suggested he submit something in writing when the work is complete so he wouldn't have to come back before the commission.

Mark Niedergang made a motion to approve, 2nd by John Gobiell. Motion passed: 5-0.

Brad Rawson suggested items 9, 10, and 11 be discussed together.

Item # 9 – Request to designate or extend 20 streets in Winter Hill as 20mph safety zones, listed with start and end points described in Attachment A.

Street	Start	End
Fremont Street	At Main Street	At East Albion Street
Moreland Street	At Main Street	50' south of Mystic Avenue
Edgar Avenue	At Main Street	At Meacham Street
Ash Avenue	At Meacham Street	At East Albion Street
Meacham Street	At Fremont Street	At Healey School Parking Lot
East Albion Street	At Fremont Street	At Mt Vernon Avenue
Century Street	At Meacham Street	At Edgar Terrace
Heath Street	At Moreland Street	At Temple Street
Heath Street	At Temple Street	At Fellsway West
Jaques Street	At Edgar Avenue	At Temple Street
Jaques Street	At Temple Street	At Fellsway West
Bond Street	At Jaques Street	At Broadway
Fenwick Street	At Broadway	At Jaques Street
Temple Street	50' south of Mystic Avenue	At Jaques Street
Temple Street	At Jaques Street	At Broadway
Langmaid Avenue	At Heath Street	At Broadway
Sydney Street	At Temple Street	At Grant Street
Derby Street	At Wheatland Street	At Temple Street
Sewall Street	At Temple Street	At Grant Street
Taylor Street	50' south of Mystic Avenue	At Sydney Street
Grant Street	At Broadway	50' south of Mystic Avenue
Wheatland Street	At Broadway	50' south of Mystic Avenue

Item # 10– Request to designate or extend 35 streets in Winter Hill as 20mph safety zones, listed with start and end points described in Attachment B.

Street	Start	End
Norwood Avenue	At Medford Street	At Broadway

Partridge Avenue	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Glenwood Road	At Medford Street	At Broadway
Bartlett Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Adams Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Central Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Tennyson Street	At Medford Street	At Forster Street
Sycamore Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Thurston Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Dartmouth Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
School Street	At Broadway	At Medford Street
Marshall Street	At Broadway	At Pearl Street
Bradley Street	At Pearl Street	At Jackson Road
James Street	At Pearl Street	At Radcliffe Road
Sargent Avenue	At Walnut Street	At Broadway
Walnut Road	At Broadway	At Walnut Street
Walnut Street	At Pearl Street	At Broadway
Wigglesworth Street	At Pearl Street	At Bonair Street
Melvin Street	At Broadway	At Bonair Street
Wesley Street	At Pearl Street	At Otis Street
Dana Street	At Pearl Street	At Bonair Street
Edmands Street	50' south of McGrath Highway	At Bonair Street
Browning Road	At Central Street	At Sycamore Street
Forster Street	At Central Street	At Sycamore Street
Evergreen Avenue	At Sycamore Street	At Marshall Street
Oakland Avenue	At School Street	At Marshall Street
Maple Avenue	At School Street	At dead-end
Howe Street	At Marshall Street	At School Street
Stickney Avenue	At School Street	At Marshall Street
Radcliffe Road	At Marshall Street	At Walnut Street
Jackson Road	At Walnut Street	At Bradley Street
Jasper Street	At Pearl Street	At Gilman Street
Virginia Street	At Jasper Street	At Aldrich Street
Gilman Street	At Aldrich Street	At Walnut Street
Aldrich Street	At Virginia Street	At Gilman Street

Item # 11 – Request to designate or extend 15 streets in Ten Hills as 20mph safety zones, listed with start and end points described in Attachment C.

Street	Start	End
Bailey Road	At Shore Drive	At Temple Road
Bailey Road	At Temple Road	At Ten Hills Road
Governor Winthrop Road	At Shore Drive	At Temple Road
Governor Winthrop Road	At Temple Road	At Ten Hills Road
Puritan Road	At Shore Drive	At Temple Road
Puritan Road	At Temple Road	At Ten Hills Road
Putnam Road	At Shore Drive	At Temple Road

Putnam Road	At Temple Road	At Ten Hills Road
Ten Hills Road	At Shore Drive	At Temple Road
Ten Hills Road	At Temple Road	At Bailey Road
Cresthill Road	At Ten Hills Road	At Shore Drive
Melville Road	At Ten Hills Road	At Shore Drive
Temple Road	At Bailey Road	At Puritan Road
Temple Road	At Puritan Road	At Ten Hills Road
Temple Road	At Ten Hills Road	At Shore Drive

- Brad Rawson stated the Traffic Commission has helped regulate speed on small streets with these 20mph safety zones. He also noted there is a significant difference between a 30mph speed limit and a 20mph speed limit as with the lower speed there is an 85-90% chance of survival if hit. He explained that they will continue these requests neighborhood by neighborhood until all streets have a 20mph speed limit.

Thomas Graney made a motion to approve Items 9, 10, and 11, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.

Mark Niedergang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, 2nd by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.