

Traffic Commission Minutes  
February 13, 2020

The meeting was held at the TAB Building, 167 Holland St 2<sup>nd</sup> flr

Attendance: Lena Webb, Mark Niedergang, Thomas Graney, James Polito, Steve MacEachern  
Staff: Laura Accaputo, Anna Rebelo, Suzanne Rinfret, Jacqueline Stagnari, Brad Rawson, Vithal Deshpande

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

**Item #1** – Minutes from the December 12, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

**Item #2** – Request to change the restrictions in the public parking lot behind the Ice Rink on Somerville Av from Rink Parking Only 5am-1am Resident Permit Parking Only 1am to 5am to 2 Hour Parking Only 8am-6pm except by Business Permit, 2 Hour Sporting Event Parking Only from 6pm-12mid, and Residential Permit Parking Only from 12 mid-8am

- Suzanne Rinfret explained the lot is unregulated at this time and being abused by area businesses that are not buying business permits.
- Councilor Niedergang asked her to explain the concept and she stated she worked with the Director of Recreation to come up with a plan that accommodates the events held at the rink and the park while giving businesses the option of utilizing spaces by purchasing a business permit and opening up the lot to residents overnight.

**Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #3** – Request to two Install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations

a) Grand Union Boulevard at Foley St (in two metered spaces L21 and L22)

- Vital Deshpande explained both requests are the result of a grant from the EPA. The locations were chosen due to their volume and proximity to power cabinets. It was noted electric cars are a key element to the city's climate action plan. He also noted if it is determined these locations don't work they will come back with a request to relocate.

**Mark Niedergang made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.**

b) 2 spaces in the public parking lot behind the Ice Rink on Somerville Av

**Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #4** – Request for Handicapped Parking

a) 6 Albion Terrace

- Suzanne Rinfret explained this street is a private way and the city cannot assign a handicapped space on a private way. The request was withdrawn.

b) 15 Bartlett St

- Suzanne Rinfret stated the applicant does not have a driveway and noted this will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> space issued to this residence; both applicants have vehicles and placards.

**Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.**

c) 243 School St

- Suzanne Rinfret explained the applicant does not have a driveway.

**Thomas Graney made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lena Webb. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #5** – Request to change the April Traffic Commission Meeting from April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm to April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm in observation of the Passover Holiday

**Lena Webb made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #6** – Request to add a Schedule “V” to the Traffic Commission Regulations to track the installation of Specialty Signs (Caution Deaf Person, Blind Person, etc.)

- Suzanne Rinfret explained an application process was implemented a few years ago but never formally adopted as an amendment to the traffic regulations.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #7** - Per an MBTA bus stop improvement project, request for the following:

- a) That the stop on the east side of College Ave at Dearborn Rd is extended from 35 feet to 60 feet to meet minimum MBTA standards. This will result in the elimination of one residential permit parking space.
  - Brad Rawson stated it is important to facilitate safe bus movement and these requests reflect that initiative and will bring these stops into compliance with MBTA standard stop lengths. The Department of Mobility supports these requests.
  - Lena Webb stated she sees the issues first hand and supports the request as well.

**Lena Webb made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.**

- b) That the stop on the south side of Highland Ave at Cherry St is extended from 45 feet to 90 feet to meet minimum MBTA standards. This will result in the elimination of two parking spaces that are currently designated as two hour or by residential permit.
  - Suzanne Rinfret stated she asked Adam Polinski to speak with the MBTA to see if they would consider moving this stop to the other side of Cherry St as it will save a parking space since there is a fire hydrant on that side. She asked the item be tabled until they hear back from the T.
  - Councilor Niedergang stated he likes this idea since it is safer and doesn't take away a space. He also noted he has heard concerns from businesses about parking in the area.
  - The Chair placed the item on the Table.
- c) That the stop on the south side of Avon St at School St is extended from 50 feet to 70 feet to meet minimum MBTA standards. However, due to the presence of a driveway, only 12 feet of residential permit parking space is being eliminated.
  - Brad Rawson stated the Mobility Department supports this request.

**Lt. Polito made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.**

- d) That the stop on the west side of Cross St at Otis St is extended from 55 feet to 90 feet to meet minimum MBTA standards. This will result in the elimination of 35 feet of space that is currently designated as school bus parking during school hours and otherwise unregulated.
  - Brad Rawson stated although he is aware parking is tight in this neighborhood it is important to prioritize bus mobility.

**Lena Webb made a motion to Approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.**

**Item #8** – Items for Discussion (attachments)

- Suzanne Rinfret explained these were some housekeeping items submitted by the Union Square Project Manager confirming the removal of some temporary parking conditions during construction (Schedule U).

Thomas Graney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 5-0.

