

Traffic Commission Minutes

March 12, 2020

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

Attendance: Steve MacEachern, Mark Niedergang, Thomas Graney, Lt. Polito

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Jacqueline Stagnari, Nancy Bacci, Brad Rawson, Dan Amelin

Other: Ed Wadman, Barkan Management, 375 Canal St

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

Item #1 – Minutes from the February 13, 2020 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

The Chair took Item #7 out of order

Item #7 – Review the Handicapped Parking Space at 15 Russell Rd.

- Nancy Bacci recommends the space be designated for Handicapped Parking between the hours of 8am-6pm then reverts to Resident Permit Parking Only from 6pm-8am.

Motion to approve as recommended by Nancy Bacci made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito.

Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #2 – Request to change the parking time limit from 2 hours to 24 minutes in the metered spot at 375 Canal St.

- Ed Wardman of Barkan Management explained this property has 122 residential units and there is no short term parking, this request is for a coin operated 24 minute meter to help eliminate double parking. He stated FRIT has no objection to the request.
- Suzanne Rinfret explained they opted for this rather than a loading zone because loading zones only allow for 5 minute passenger plate parking. She also explained this would have to be a coin operated meter since park mobile and smart meters have a one hour minimum. She also noted commercial vehicles can park at a minute for 30 minutes without paying

Motion to approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #3 – Request for a Loading Zone (Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm)

517 Columbia St

- Suzanne Rinfret explained there is currently a loading zone sign that appeared somewhere between 2015 and 2018 and is affixed to the building, the city would never affix a sign to a building. She stated the property owner has now applied for a live loading zone, Mon-Sat 8am-5pm.
- Thomas Graney asked for the item to be tabled so he can review the location and determine if fire apparatus can safely pass with a vehicle parked in this spot.

Motion to Table made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #4 – Request to extend the existing “No Parking School Pick-up Drop-off 7AM – 3PM Mon-Fri Sept-June” zone in front of the Benjamin G Brown School at 201 Willow Ave by 85 feet to provide additional curb space for school pick-up and drop-off. This request will remove 4 resident permit parking only spaces during the time when this regulation is in effect. The resident permit parking only spaces will remain available from 3PM-7AM on weekdays and all day on weekends and from July-August.

- Brad Rawson explained this request came from the Superintendent's Office and the mobility team supports the request.

Motion to approve made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #5 – Request to convert two temporary parking spaces (adjacent to #15 Union Sq) into permanent loading zones between 7am and 12pm, and metered parking between 12pm and 7am (overnight).

- Dan Amelin explained this request is to provide businesses with a safe location for deliveries and loading while also giving back parking after 12pm.

Motion to approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Mark Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #6 – Request to alter an existing loading zone (adjacent to 57 Union Sq) by restricting deliveries to 7am-6pm, and implement a “share ride pickup location” between 6pm and 7am (overnight). This location is also adjacent to an existing taxi stand which will remain in its current condition.

- Dan Amelin explained this request has the same reasoning as Item #5 as it will allow a designated safe location for ride shares.
- Suzanne Rinfret agreed and stated this will help businesses.

Motion to approve made by Lt. Polito, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.

Prior Business

Item #8 – Review the 3-way stop control at the intersection of Temple Rd and Putnam Rd.

- Suzanne Rinfret explained this was a temporary measure and it doesn't follow MUTCD guidelines.
- Brad Rawson explained they have received constant inquiries about a stop control at this location. He agreed its marginal by MUTCD standards but noted they have not completed their review so he would like to continue with the pilot until they have more data and completed analysis.

Motion to table the item until more data is available made by Mark Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito.

Motion passed: 4-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm made by Lt. Polito, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 4-0.