

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

Present: Ald. Linsky (Chair), Ciccone, Swiston, Coletti, Danberg, and Fischman

Absent: Ald. Harney and Vance

Also Present: Ald. Lennon, Merrill, Sangiolo and Salvucci

City Staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), David Koses (Transportation Planner) and Marie Lawlor (Assistant City Solicitor)

#132-08 ALD. LENNON requesting discussion of Ordinance Sec 19-32., **Field Trials**, re providing notice to persons within the vicinity of a trial. [3-26-08 @10:54 PM]

**ACTION:** **HELD 5-0 (Ald. Danberg, Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, Ald. Lennon and Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor, joined the committee for discussion on this item.

Ald. Lennon stated he would like the City to be able to give adequate notice to alert people traveling within the City of Newton notice that a field trial would be taking place in order to avoid future accidents or confusion with an approximate period for the duration of the trial.

Ms. Lawlor suggested perhaps tailoring the draft language she has prepared to state in instances where field trials will affect traffic flow the entity shall provide adequate notification procedures to provide or to ensure notice to passing motorists within the vicinity of the trial.

Ald. Coletti asked that the ordinance draft include returning streets to their original condition as it was prior to a field trial if it is not adopted. Ald. Coletti also asked that when a field trial is put in place under the ordinance it should require the Engineering Department to report to the appropriate committee on the status or conclusion of each field trial. Ald. Coletti also suggested the Board receive a periodic report as to the status of ongoing trials. Mr. Schuckel agreed to prepare such a report for the Committee. Committee members requested the Law Department revise the draft language to reflect the suggestions offered by Ald. Lennon and Ald. Coletti for the Committee's further consideration.

Ald. Swiston made the motion to hold this item pending a new draft ordinance from Ms. Lawlor.

**ITEM COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. COMM. on 5-3-04**  
**REFERRED TO PUB. FAC. AND PUB. SAFETY & TRANS. COMMITTEES**

#364-02 ALD. JOHNSON & LENNON requesting on behalf of Bo Ly, 11 Winthrop Avenue, parking study and recommendations on WINTHROP AVENUE. (Ward 1)  
**Traffic Council approved as amended on 3/18/04**

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, once again joined the committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Schuckel prepared and presented a slide show of Winthrop Avenue where the restricted signs were placed on September 4, 2008 for a 60-day trial period (attached to this report).

Mr. Schuckel stated signs were placed to restrict parking on west side of Winthrop Avenue and on the east side of Winthrop Avenue at the intersection with #30-32 Oakland Street from the driveway at #12 Winthrop Avenue to approximately five feet to the north. Oakland Street currently has restricted parking from 7 am to 10 pm on the East side as it is in the current ordinance. Signs were also added in this area to restrict parking.

The Committee then opened the discussion to public comment.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Neyshtadt, resident of 9 Winthrop Avenue, stated he has no current concerns.

Bo Ly, resident of 15/17 Winthrop Avenue, suggested there should be no parking at all.

Barbara Freer, resident of 11-13 Winthrop Avenue, stated her concerns, which are safety issues of emergency vehicles having access to reach the homes on the top of the street. Ms. Freer suggested making the current trial area of the 5' from the driveway to extend it longer so that the emergency vehicles can make the corner. Another concern is that recycling is not being picked up. Recently, the City has brought in a small truck for pickup.

Mr. Schuckel recommended adoption of the trial with the provision of no parking anytime on the section of Oakland Street that currently has signs for no parking from 7 am to 10 pm on the west side. Mr. Schuckel will also ask the Fire Department to test if a ladder truck has adequate room to access the top of Winthrop Avenue. If not, he will need to extend the 5' near the driveway area to be longer.

Ald. Swiston made the motion to approve this item on the condition that the Committee will await a report from Mr. Schuckel as to whether the Fire Department has the opportunity to test the access at the top of Winthrop Avenue. Should the Fire Department not have the opportunity to conduct such a test by the time of the Board meeting, the Committee Chair will move that the matter be put over to a date certain until such test is completed.

**ITEM COMMITTED TO PS&T ON 5/3/04:**

#477-04 ALD. LENNON, GERST, MERRILL AND VANCE requesting traffic study/safety analysis of ST. JAMES STREET and CHARLESBANK ROAD, from the Mass Pike on-ramp at exit 17 to NONANTUM ROAD, Newton Corner. Analysis should include traffic improvements/safety enhancements to provide for increased pedestrian and vehicle safety in this very busy, densely populated area. Said study should also include review (and possible upgrade) of the traffic island and lights the intersection of ST. JAMES STREET/ST.JAMES TERRACE/CHARLESBANK ROAD as well as possible capital improvements for increased vehicular safety at the intersection of CHARLESBANK ROAD/NONANTUM ROAD.

**PUBLIC HEARING ASSIGNED FOR 3-30-05**

**ACTION:** **HELD 4-0 (Ald. Ciccone, Coletti Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Ald. Lennon asked the Committee to hold this item for discussion at a future meeting.

Ald. Fischman made the motion to hold.

#272-04 ALD. SANGIOLO AND HARNEY proposing amendment to Sec.19-201, *Resident sticker and visitor permit parking program*, to include streets that are not 100% residential. (Public hearing held on 11/17/04 and 3/19/08)

**APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0-1 (Fischman abstaining) on 9-17-08  
Public Safety Committee voted to HOLD in Committee 8-0 on 10-6-08**

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0 (Ald. Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer and Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor once again joined the committee for discussion on this item. The Committee had previously moved to recommit the item following its approval of changes to the ordinance that would allow the Traffic Council to take up certain petitions that did not meet certain requirements set out in the ordinance for consideration of parking permits in accordance with the adoption of guidelines.

Mr. Schuckel prepared and presented a report to the Committee (attached to this report), including draft guidelines to accompany the ordinance. The Committee also examined the memorandum prepared by Assistant City Solicitor Lawlor. Ms. Lawlor reported to the Committee a discussion she had with Committee Chair Linsky to amend the proposed guidelines from limiting its application to certain non-residential institutions to instead reflecting an approach that focused on the level of impact in respect to both the percentage of properties affected and the nature and duration of the parking use by non-residential properties. It was suggested that such guidelines should limit its application to instances where residential properties make up, at a minimum, the majority of the properties on the street or block in question and where the parking impact is intensive by extending regularly and consistently beyond normal business hours so as to exclude high intensity use that is only occasional such as with certain houses of worship. Ald. Fischman suggested that Boston may have defined the term 'high impact' in respect to parking policy.

The Committee requested Ms. Lawlor to revise the prepared draft language and at a later date return to the committee for additional discussion.

Ald. Danberg made the motion to hold this item pending an updated draft ordinance from Ms. Lawlor.

**REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY & TRANS. & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#80-08 ALD. SALVUCCI & DANBERG requesting creation of a parking permit program for employees of Newton businesses to allow long-term parking in municipal parking lots. [1-23-08 @1:15 PM]

**ACTION: HELD 6-0 (Ald. Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer and Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor once again joined the committee for discussion on this item.

City Traffic Engineer, Clint Schuckel, joined the committee for discussion of this item. Mr. Schuckel prepared and presented a slide show of the municipal lots involved (attached to this report).

Mr. Schuckel reviewed with the Committee the current meter costs and made the comparison to other cities/towns and reviewed how their parking permits are disbursed.

Mr. Schuckel posed a number of questions for the Committee's consideration, including issues relating to: (a) how would this be administered, (b) setting of fees, (c) eligibility and (d) site location relating to the goal of creating and reserving long-term parking for the employees who work in the City of Newton. He suggested the key determinations the Committee needed to make related primarily to administration and fee structure. In the course of its discussion, the Committee suggested consideration of placing the administration of this program with the city's Treasurer.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft ordinance language and asked Ms. Lawlor to revise the prepared draft language and later return to the committee for additional discussion.

Ald. Danberg made the motion to hold until the Committee can meet jointly with the Finance Committee and for the Committee to receive a new draft ordinance from Ms. Lawlor.

**ITEM COMMITTED TO PS&T BY FULL BOARD ON 7/10/06:**

#34-06 CANDACE HAVENS requesting to change 37 short-term metered parking spaces to long-term parking spaces in the Pelham Street Parking lot. Request to change 12 short-term metered parking spaces to long-term parking spaces in Pleasant Street parking lot.

**Traffic Council Approved as amended on 4/24/06**

**ACTION: HELD 6-0 (Ald. Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:** Ald. Swiston made the motion to hold at the suggestion of Ald. Danberg and as Ms. Havens was not able to attend.

**ITEM COMMITTED TO PS&T ON 7/10/06:**

#33-06

CANDACE HAVENS requesting consideration of

1. "Live Parking" zones on Union Street and Braeland Avenue approximately 12 spaces total) in front of Newton Centre "T" Stop from 4:30-6:30 PM to eliminate double-parking and improve drop-off and pick-up of transit riders; includes relocation of handicap parking space on Union Street to opposite side of street
2. 12-hour parking meters in unmeted section of Braeland Avenue from Herrick Road to Langley Road.

**Traffic Council Approved as amended on 4/24/06**

**ACTION:**

**HELD 6-0 (Ald. Harney and Vance not present and voting)**

**NOTE:**

# 34-06.

Again, Ald. Swiston made the motion to hold for the same reasons relating to

At approximately, 9:55 pm Ald. Ciccone moved for adjournment, which was approved 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen M. Linsky, Chairman