

Traffic Commission Minutes
October 16, 2014

Meeting was held on Thursday October 16, 2014 at 6pm

Meeting was held at the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland Street, 2nd floor

Meeting was called to order at 6pm

Attendance: Stan Koty, John Gobiell, Thomas Graney

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Suzanne Rinfret, Austin Faison, Terence Smith

Other: Melika Fitzhugh, Mary Harris, Laurie Hight

Minutes from September 18, 2014 Traffic Commission Meeting accepted unanimously

Item #2 – Request for Handicapped Parking

a. 34 Clyde St

- Mr. Smith explained there is No Parking on the even side of Clyde St and no communication was received from the resident on the odd side of the street in support of the request. He stated per Traffic Regulations placing the space in front of someone else's residence will place an unreasonable impact and therefore Traffic and Parking does not support the request.
- The applicant, Ms. Fitzhugh, stated she reached out to the resident across the street and he didn't get back to her. She explained there are no other Handicapped spaces on Clyde St and she once fell while walking from her car to her home.
- Mr. Smith confirmed there are no Handicapped spaces on Clyde St. The Chair asked Mr. Smith to try to find other options and Mr. Smith suggested the request be tabled to allow the applicant time to speak with her neighbors across the street.

The Chair made a motion to table this request until January 15, 2015 or before, seconded by Mr. Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.

b. 10 James St

- Mr. Smith stated the applicant owns the property and has a driveway and therefore Traffic and Parking does not support the request.
- Laurie Hight, spoke on behalf of the applicant and explained she had recently purchased a new larger vehicle which doesn't fit in the driveway. She noted the driveway is 8ft wide at the mouth and narrows. She also stated the applicant walks with a cane and has many appointments.
- The Chair asked Mr. Smith if he had taken a measurement of the driveway and Mr. Smith stated he did not as it is private property. The Chair asked the applicant if she would grant permission to the city to enter her driveway to take its measurement and Mrs. Harris agreed. The Chair recommended approval for a 30 day trial period while awaiting report of measurement and directed Traffic and Parking to mark the location so the

Highway Department could place a horse with a temporary sign in the space.

Sergeant Gobiell motioned to approve for a 30 day trial period, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

c. 65 School St

- Mr. Smith recommended this request be tabled as the application is incomplete. The applicant has not provided sufficient proof of address.

The Chair motioned to table this request, seconded by Mr. Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #3 – Request to add a new Section to Article XV – Section 15-2.4 “Valet Parking Permit Regulations”

- Ms. Rinfret stated this is a request to amend the Traffic Regulations to include the Valet Parking Program and procedures for obtaining the permit. She noted a Law Department review found it sufficient.

Mr. Graney made a motion to adopt Section 15-2.4, seconded by Sergeant Gobiell. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #4 – Alternative to Contra Flow on Willow Av and Summer St at various locations

- This request was brought forth as new business by Mr. Clayton at last months meeting. Mr. Clayton was not in attendance to present his case.

Sergeant Gobiell motioned to deny this request, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #5 – Request to revise the hours of an existing Loading Zone on Bow St (Post Office) to 8am-6pm

- Mr. Smith stated this space is used throughout the day by post office truck and once the time restriction is over the space becomes occupied forcing these trucks to Double Park.

Sergeant Gobiell motioned to approve, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #6 – Request for a Loading Zone at the first three metered spaces on the east side of Chester St at Elm St; Monday through Saturday 7am-3pm (will revert back to metered spaces from 3pm-8pm)

- Mr. Smith stated this request was brought forth by the Director of Economic Development Edward O’Donnell for the new businesses coming to Davis Square.

The Chair made a motion to table this request, seconded by Sergeant Gobiell. Motion passed: 3-0.

Prior Business/Tabled Items

Item #7 – Request to consider waiving the \$40 fee for Medical Parking Permits for all applicants (especially senior citizens). Tabled from Sept 2014

- Ms. Rinfret stated the Legal Department advised this is legal provided the fee is waived for all seniors. She stated Traffic and Parking is still not in

favor of the request and she has not yet received an opinion from the Administration.

- The Chair suggested this item be tabled until no later than the January 2015 meeting to allow time for discussion with the Administration.

Sergeant Gobiell motioned to table this request, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #8 – Request to revise the parking sticker regulations for campers. Tabled from Sept 2014

- Ms. Rinfret stated based on Traffic Regulations if a vehicle is registered in Somerville it is entitled to a residential permit and since there are very few campers she doesn't feel a change is warranted.

Sergeant Gobiell made a motion to deny this request, seconded by Mr. Graney. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #9 – Request for turning restrictions 6am-10am. Tabled from Sept 2014

Dane St onto Village St

Dane St onto Skehan St

- Mr. Smith stated this request does not meet the current requirements of Article XIV and since T&P has hired a consultant to review and revise this Article he recommends this item be tabled pending completion of the review. He also noted that turning prohibitions are normally between the hours of 7am and 9am and he will recommend changing this request to these hours when it comes back to the Board.
- Sergeant Gobiell stated when the SPD issues tickets for this violation the Court throws them out for being unreasonable.
- The Chair stated they will discuss it further once the consultant presents their review.

Sergeant Gobiell made a motion to table this request, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #10 – Request for a Stop Sign. Tabled from Sept 2014

Dane St at Village St

- Mr. Smith stated stop signs are governed by MUTCD which is very specific as to where they can be installed and are only allowed on a minor road. He stated since the request is for installation on a major road and therefore in opposition to MUTCD, Traffic and Parking is opposed to the request.

Sergeant Gobiell made a motion to deny this request, seconded by the Chair. Motion passed: 3-0.

Item #11 – Handicapped Parking

23 Bolton St (approved for a 90 day trial period July 2014)

- Mr. Smith stated Traffic and Parking has not received any complaints regarding this space and has no objection to making it permanent.

Mr. Graney made a motion to approve this request permanently, seconded by Sergeant Gobel. Motion passed: 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.