

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

7:45 PM
Room 202

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

- #115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]
HELD on 06/18/14, 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.
- #309-14 ALD. JOHNSON requesting a discussion re changes that may need to be made to the membership of the Traffic Council to make it more effective, efficient, and representative of the community. [07/28/14 @ 9:20 AM]
- #325-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT, requesting a review and possible change in the composition of Traffic Council membership in light of the consolidation of all parking and transportation staff in the Department of Public Works. [08/19/14 @ 9:16 AM]
- #326-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT, requesting a discussion and a plan to replace all Newton parking meters within two years. [08/19/14 @ 9:16 AM]

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PS&T AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

- #341-14 TRANSPORTATION DIVISION, requesting presentation of the Washington Street Access Improvement Study provided by the Central Transportation Planning Staff. [08/29/14 @ 11:08 AM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, please contact John Lojek, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jlojek@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1064. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #310-10(2) ALD. DANBERG, BLAZAR, KALIS, SCHWARTZ, ALBRIGHT, HESS-
(#409-12) MAHAN, RICE, COTE, LEARY, AND NORTON, requesting amendments to Sec. 26-8D of the City of Newton Ordinances to modify and make permanent the trial program for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and to provide for enforcements and fines for violations. [09/10/14 @ 2:12 PM]
- #310-14 ALD. YATES requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor asking that the Director of Public Engagement develop a public outreach program in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation re the Add-a Lane Project on Route 128, including but not limited to emails to aldermen and members of the Upper Falls, Waban, and Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Councils, and create a prominent link on the city's website to the new Department of Transportation website page on the project [07/31/14 @ 12:12 PM]
- #72-14 ALD. CICCONE & JOHNSON, requesting a discussion of the installation of a possible bike lane on Walnut Street between Otis Street and Commonwealth Avenue. [03/03/14 @ 8:17 AM]
HELD 7-0 on 03/19/14
- #28-14 ALD. CICCONE AND FULLER on behalf of the Health Department and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requesting a discussion on duplicate street names. [01/09/14 @ 10:57 AM]
HELD 8-0 on 01/22/14
HELD 8-0 on 05/07/14
- #310-13(2) ALD. LENNON, on behalf of Dominic Proia, 17 Peabody Street, requesting an amendment to Resident Permit Parking Program Sec. 19-201(B)(1) regarding contiguous lots. [02/24/14 @ 9:08 AM]
HELD 6-0 on 03/19/14, Ald. Harney not voting
- #302-13(2) PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, requesting the Chief of Police provide periodic updates to the Committee on the departmental review, completed in July 2013. [04/16/14 @ 1:10 PM]
HELD 7-0 on 05/07/14, Ald. Harney not voting
- #150-13 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the Planning Department create a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood area by December 2013. (Wards 1 & 2) [03/29/13 @ 9:11 AM]

REFERRED TO PS&T AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

- #413-11 ALD. CICCONE, SALVUCCI, GENTILE & LENNON updating the Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees on the progress of renovations to the city's fire stations. [11/17/11 @ 11:07 AM]

- #137-11 ALD. DANBERG AND FULLER requesting possible changes to City Ordinance 19-191, Parking Meter Fees, to require a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters in order to discourage short-term use. [04/26/11 @ 9:52 AM]
HELD 6-0 on 05/18/11, Ald. Freedman not voting
HELD 8-0 on 01/18/12
HELD 5-0, Ald. Fuller not voting on 01/23/13
- #41-11(3) ALD. LENNON, LEARY, CICCONE, JOHNSON requesting implementation of an overnight parking pilot program for the period of November 15, 2014 through April 15, 2015 in Ward One. [07/07/14 @ 1:33 PM]
HELD 7-0 on 09/03/14

RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #257-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending (1) review of the Fees, Civil Fines/Non-Criminal Disposition contained in Chapter 17 LICENSING AND PERMITS GENERALLY and Chapter 20 CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION CIVIL FINES to ensure they are in accordance with what is being charged and (2) review of the acceptance of G.L. c. 40 §22F, accepted on July 9, 2001, which allows certain municipal boards and officers to fix reasonable fees for the issuance of certain licenses, permits, or certificates.
- #240-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE requesting that **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to determine who has jurisdiction for parking on municipal land, the owning department as described in **Sec. 19-224. Parking prohibited on city grounds.** or the Traffic Council as described in **Sec. 19-26. Authority and role of Traffic Council.**
- #239-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE requesting a discussion as to whether the increased Tiger Permit Fees in **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** and the process established as part of the temporary Tiger program are still valid for the smaller permanent program.
- #238-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE requesting a discussion to determine whether Hawk lights should be regulated in **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** or in the *Traffic and Parking Regulations*.
- #237-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE requesting a discussion relative to amending **Sec. 19-188 Establishment of spaces and installation of parking meters; type of meters; operation and maintenance.** of **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** by deleting in paragraph (a) the reference to specific denominations for payment.

- #236-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending **Sec. 19-175. Angle parking.** of **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended by deleting the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the words “traffic council” and by inserting after the word “and” the words “the commissioner of public works”.
- #235-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that **Sec. 19-113. Pedestrians crossing ways or roadways.** in **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended by removing the existing description of a marked crosswalk.
- #234-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that the definition of *Speed humps* in **Sec. 19-1.** of **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to make it consistent with current design/practice standards.
- #233-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that the definition of *Crosswalk* in **Sec. 19-1.** of **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to define that it is a portion of a roadway clearly indicated for pedestrians crossing with marked lines only.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman



PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Dear Resident:

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee of the Board of Aldermen will be discussing the following item, which may be of interest to you, at its next meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 7:45 pm in Room 202, Second Floor, City Hall. The meeting is open to the public and if you would like further information on the item, you are encouraged to attend.

#115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]
HELD ON 06/18/14, 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to offer comments in writing for consideration please forward your comments to the Office of the Clerk of the Board, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, 02459 or e-mail to Danielle Delaney at ddelaney@newtonma.gov by September 10, 2014.

Sincerely,

Danielle Delaney
Committee Clerk
Public Safety & Transportation Committee

CITY OF NEWTONIN BOARD OF ALDERMENPUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Fuller, Cote, Lipof, Yates, Schwartz and Harney

Absent: Ald. Johnson

Also Present: Ald. Norton

City Staff: David Koses, Transportation Planner; Sgt. Jay Babcock and Chief Howard Mintz, Newton Police Department

#115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.**

NOTE: Ald. Norton, Mr. Koses and Sgt. Babcock joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Koses provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report. Fairfield Street is 24 feet wide. Currently, there is a two-hour limit, 8am to 4pm school days except by a Newtonville Permit restriction along east side and a no parking anytime restriction along the west side – due to safety concerns. West side residents are allowed to park along the east side or on adjacent streets. Prior to the winter, the Police Department placed a temporary parking restriction on the east side of Fairfield Street due to emergency vehicle access difficulties. After thirteen days of observation, they noted that vehicles were not parking in a ‘staggered’ approach. As a result, the Police Department docketed an item for Traffic Council’s consideration requesting a permanent parking restriction be implemented. Traffic Council agreed with the Police Department that a permanent parking restriction was necessary for public safety reasons and agreed that residents can park on the east side of Fairfield Street or adjacent streets and approved a restriction of no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street.

Mr. Koses briefly described the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan. A goal in implementing and creating the comprehensive parking plan was to make parking restrictions more consistent by eliminating and regulating different parking restrictions.

Mr. Koses stated that Traffic Council usually limits parking to one side of streets with a width of less than 24 feet. The City is in the process of creating a citywide parking policy on streets that are 24 feet wide perhaps implementing a one-side parking restriction to provide consistency.

Sgt. Babcock said that after the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan was implemented, neighbors complained that vehicles were parked on both sides of Fairfield Street making it difficult for emergency vehicle access, especially fire trucks. The Police Department placed a temporary parking restriction on the east side of Fairfield Street after thirteen days of observation and noted that vehicles are not parking in a 'staggered' approach. He said that he docketed an item for Traffic Council's consideration because of safety concerns, challenges and complaints received due to the difficulties for emergency vehicle access. He then said that no complaints have been received since parking was removed on the west side of Fairfield Street.

Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Fran Kuehn, petitioner spoke in favor of removing the permanent parking restriction of no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street approved by Traffic Council. He said that since the Police Department removed parking, approximately ten months ago it has been difficult parking on the west side and crossing with children. It is unsafe and concerning. He then said the residents of the street signed the appeal petition supporting and requesting that Traffic Council's decision be overturned. There are fourteen single-family owner occupied homes. He then said that residents agree safety and emergency vehicle access are necessary. Mr. Kuehn stated that residents agree to 'stagger' parking, will use their driveways, and request that guests do the same. Residents would like to be able to park in front of their homes on weekends and at night. Mr. Kuehn then said that since the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan was implemented, there are fewer vehicles parking on Fairfield Street. One resident agreed with Mr. Kuehn and said that he has never observed emergency vehicles having access difficulties. He made a suggestion to restrict parking from the corners.

Chair Ciccone said that administratively the Department of Public Works could restrict parking up to 50 feet from the corners.

Committee members and Ald. Norton discussed this request and expressed their concerns, questions and comments.

Concerns:

- A citywide parking policy may not be appropriate, unless the demand for on-street parking is low and such a policy may negatively impact all.
- It is concerning, residents refused to move their vehicles when requested by the Police Department. How will residents be able to self-regulate ('police') their own street? Residents should use common sense for emergency vehicle access and 'staggered' parking are necessary.
- Committee members realize it is an inconvenience, but should not be difficult to cross the street with children because Fairfield Street is not a busy street with minimal traffic.

Questions:

- Committee members asked if each home had a driveway. Mr. Koses answered yes.
- Are Newton North students parking up the area. Mr. Koses briefly described the resident and student Tiger Permit programs. He said that 150 Tiger Permits are issued to students costing \$25.00 per year, allowing them to park on Hull Street, Lowell Avenue and the Austin Street parking lot.
- What is the width of a fire truck and how many times do they not have access to a street 24 feet wide due to parked vehicles parking on both sides? Sgt. Babcock answered that an

engine truck is 10 feet wide, including mirrors. A ladder truck is wider. He estimates that in the past three years, approximately fire trucks did not have access ten times.

Comments:

- A suggestion was made to distribute the neighborhood with 'flyers' as an education measure prior to the Police Department placing temporary parking restrictions. Sgt. Babcock answered this was not the departments' responsibility.

Ald. Fuller made suggestions to Committee members including a trial to be conducted, restrict parking from the corners and suggested that the Police Department and the Ward Aldermen observe how residents are parking. She said that it appears these residents are educated and motivated and she is hopeful they can self-regulate their street. Ald. Fuller then stated that if a trial is implemented; does not work it would be eliminated. Ald. Norton agreed.

Sgt. Babcock said that he would be fine with residents 'policing' themselves. The restriction was placed because of safety concerns. He then stated to the public and Committee members that if the Police Department has to return to Fairfield Street due to an issue, the emergency restriction will be implemented again. The Police Department will not be knocking on doors. Committee members agreed. Chair Ciccone stated to the public that he realizes it may be inconvenient to some that they have to move barrels, etc. to park but vehicles must be parked 'staggered' to accommodate emergency vehicle access.

Chair Ciccone said that this Committee has the authority on appeal items to hold a maximum of a 60-day trial.

Without further discussion, Ald. Fuller made the motion to hold this appeal for a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street to allow parking on both sides of the street and requested that administratively the Department of Public Works restrict parking up to 50 feet from the corners. She then suggested that the Police Department conduct directed patrols and the Ward Aldermen observe how residents are parking. Committee members agreed 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstained because in Traffic Council he voted in favor of a parking restriction. Ald. Schwartz was not present when voting.

Chair Ciccone stated he intends to discuss this trial in September 2014. Sgt. Babcock agreed to provide a report on this trial.

115-14

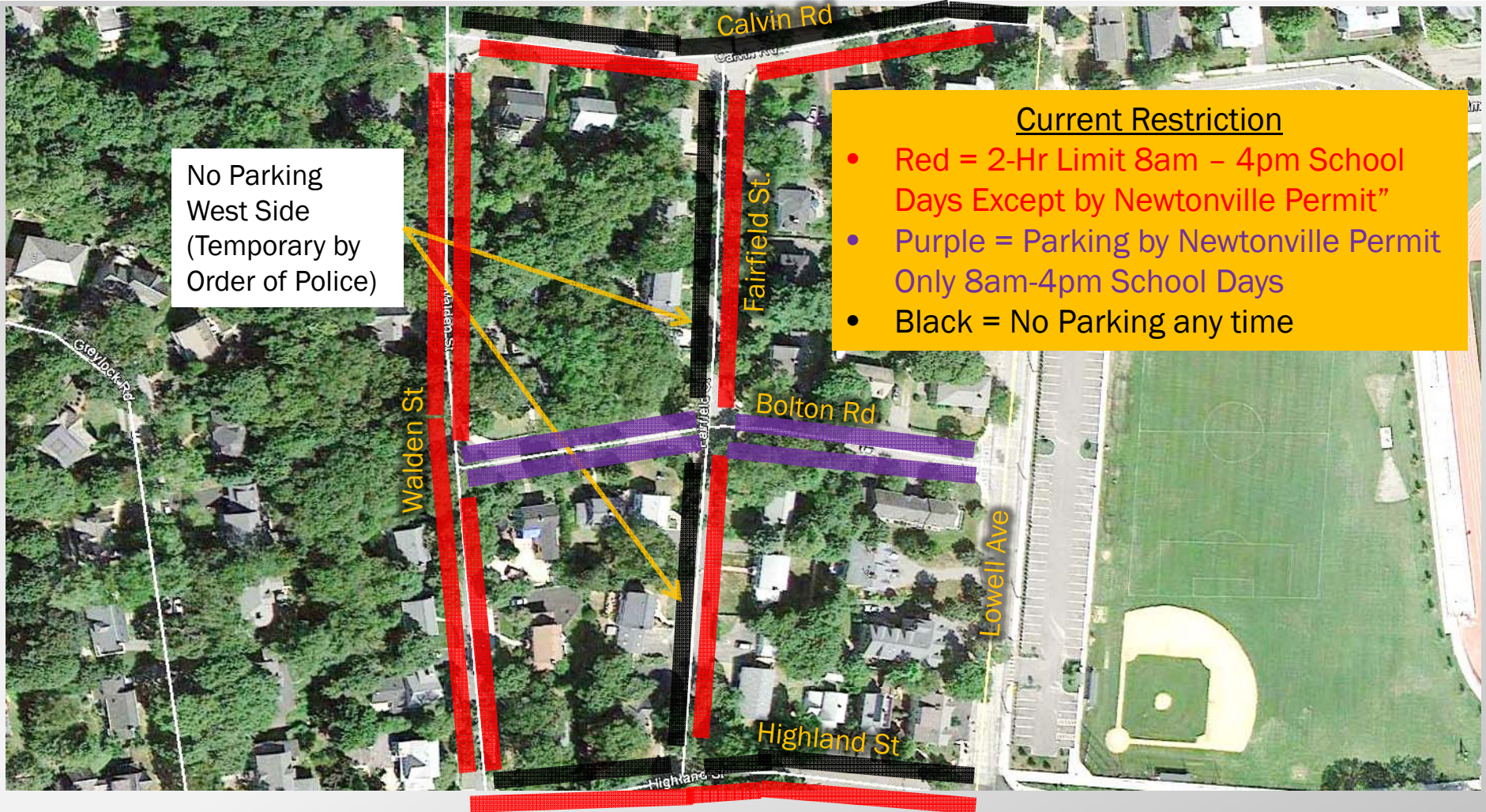


Appeal of TC1-14

Fairfield Street Parking Restriction

Existing Conditions

115-14



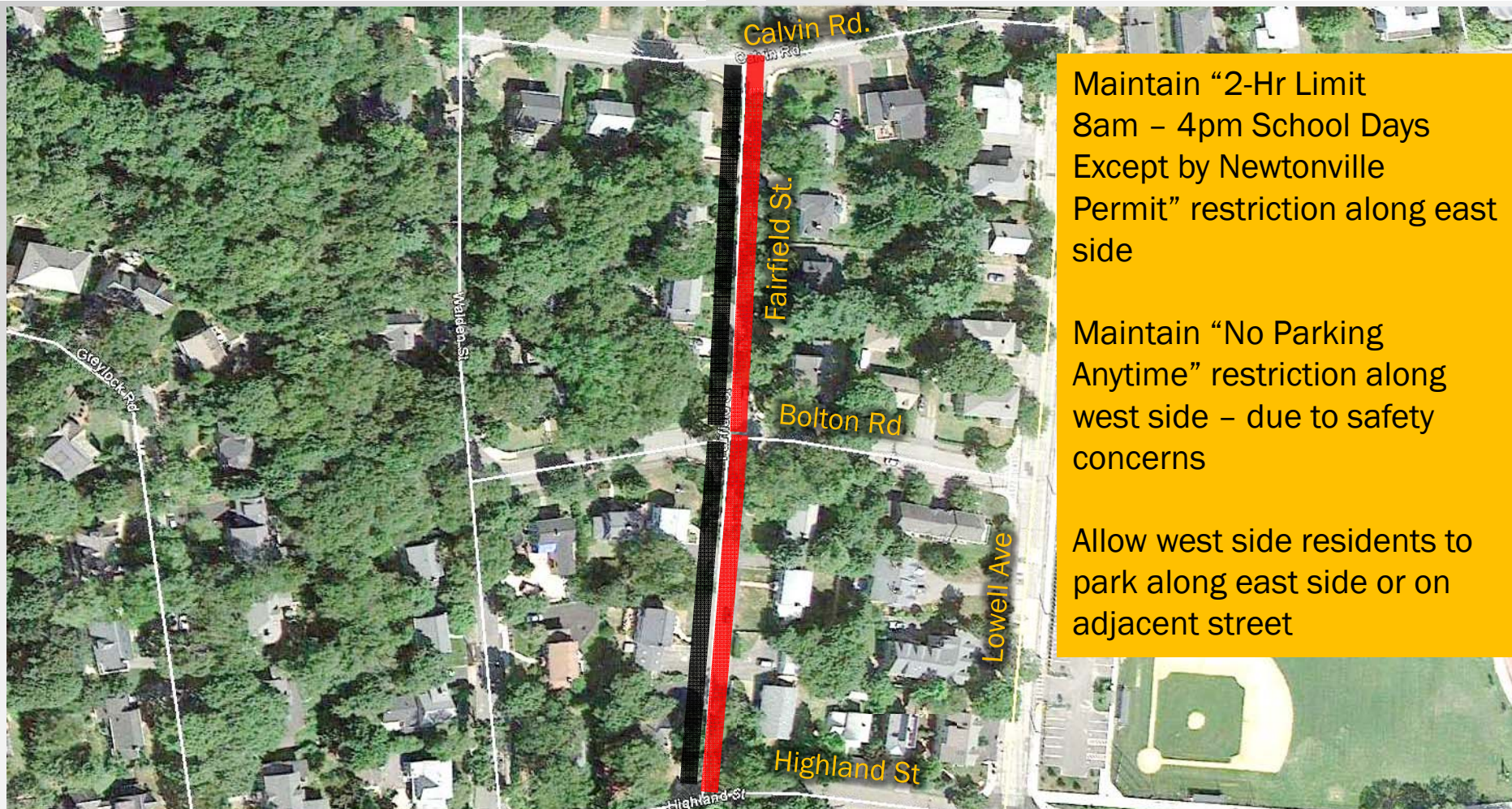
Photos

115-14



Recommendation Presented at Traffic Council

115-14



Maintain “2-Hr Limit
8am – 4pm School Days
Except by Newtonville
Permit” restriction along east
side

Maintain “No Parking
Anytime” restriction along
west side – due to safety
concerns

Allow west side residents to
park along east side or on
adjacent street

**ARTICLE II.
TRAFFIC COUNCIL; TRAFFIC PETITIONS**

Sec. 19-25. Establishment of traffic council; membership.

(a) There shall be a traffic council which shall be made up of five members, as follows:

(1) One appointed member who shall be a resident of the City who has expertise in traffic engineering or traffic planning, shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years in accordance with the procedures of the City Charter Section 3-3. One or more alternates, who shall also be resident(s) of the city with expertise in traffic engineering or traffic planning, shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years in accordance with the procedures of the city charter Sec 3-3. The chairman may designate an alternate resident member to attend traffic council meetings as a voting member whenever the permanent resident member is unable to attend and during any such time that there is no permanent resident member due to expiration of three-year term, resignation, or other reason

(2) The chairman of the board of aldermen's Public Safety and Transportation Committee, or the chairman of such successor standing committee which the board of aldermen may establish to consider matters relating to parking and traffic shall serve ex-officio. Such chairman, whenever unable to attend a traffic council meeting, may designate the vice chairman of such committee to attend in the chairman's place; and in the event that the vice chairman is unavailable, the chairman may designate the senior member of such committee to attend in the chairman's place.

(3) The other three members shall be employees of the City, as follows: one employee of the public works department whose duties include traffic engineering, as designated by the commissioner of public works; one sworn police officer with a rank of sergeant or higher, whose duties include management of traffic and parking enforcement, as designated by the chief of police; and one employee of the department of planning and development whose duties include transportation planning, as designated by the director of planning and development.

(b) The traffic council shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman for a term of one year, provided however, that the aldermanic member shall not be eligible to serve as chairman. (Ord. No. Z-12, 12-03-07; Ord. No. Z-23, 04-22-08)