

CITY OF NEWTON
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Present: Sgt. Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; Patrick Baxter, Transportation Engineer;
Ald. Harney and David Koses, Transportation Planner

Absent: Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative

Also present: Ald. Blazar, Danberg, Hess-Mahan and Linsky

Mr. Baxter provided a PowerPoint presentation on these items, attached to this report.

TC74-13 JEANNE WHITE, 11 Calvin Road, requesting no parking on one side of Calvin Road. (Ward 2) [9/03/13 @ 12:25 PM]

ACTION: APPROVE (3-0, Harney not voting). No parking, any time, north side of Calvin Road.
This item may be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with existing conditions. He said that Calvin Road is included in the Newtonville Village Parking Plan and is currently posted for 2 hour parking 8am to 4pm, School Days, except by Newtonville permit, both sides. Calvin Road is 24 feet wide, typical for neighborhood street in Newtonville allowing two-side parking. His observations indicate that 2-3 cars park on the street during typical weekdays. The fire hydrants are located on the north side of Calvin Road.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Ms. White said that Calvin Road is on the Lowell Avenue side of Newton North High School. Calvin Road is being used as a drop-off and pick-up area for high school and elementary school students by parents and buses. This is a very serious safety issue allowing parking on both sides of the street. Ms. White requests Calvin Road be re-issued no parking signs on the south side of Calvin Road. One resident said that she is concerned with difficulties for emergency vehicle access and the number of young families residing on Calvin Road.

Ald. Linsky said that he would support no parking on the south side of Calvin Road as it was before the Newtonville Village Parking Plan was approved in April 2014 for safety reasons and emergency vehicle access difficulties due to cars parking on both sides.

Sgt. Babcock said that he has not observed many cars parking on Calvin Road. He is concerned with emergency vehicle access difficulties when cars park on both sides and would support a parking restriction on the **north** side (fire hydrant) side.

Without further discussion, Sgt. Babcock made the motion to approve no parking, any time, north side of Calvin Road. Committee members agreed 3-0, Ald. Harney not voting. Mr. Koses said that this item could be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

TC77-13 MELVYN BERGER, 251 Mill Street, requesting the stretch of Upland Road from Mill Street to Oakwood Road be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan. (Ward 2) [09/23/13 @ 9:11 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVE (3-0, Harney not voting).**
This item may be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

NOTE: Items TC77-13, TC82-13 and TC83-13 were discussed together. Please refer to summary below in TC83-13.

TC82-13 TIM GRIESER, 258 Mill Street, requesting the stretch of Bullough Park from Mill Street to Dexter Road be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan. (Ward 2) [10/08/13 @ 11:04 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVE (3-0, Harney not voting).**
This item may be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

NOTE: Items TC77-13, TC82-13 and TC83-13 were discussed together. Please refer to summary below in TC83-13.

TC83-13 SGT. BABCOCK, requesting no parking anytime Mill Street between Upland Road and Woodside Road. (Ward 2) [11/04/13 @ 1:08 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVE (4-0). REVISED VOTE from (3-0, Ald. Harney not voting).**
This item may be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

NOTE: Items TC77-13, TC82-13 and TC83-13 were discussed together. The summary on these items follows.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and photos. He stated that residents have requested to remove Upland Road and Bullough Park from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking Plan. Residents indicate that student parking on their street is minimal and not an issue.

Upland Road

Weekday observations indicate 1-2 cars typically park.

Bullough Park

Weekday observations indicate 3-4 cars typically park.

Mill Street

Mill Street has been requested by the Newton Police Department to become no parking anytime in order to maintain safe conditions because it carries heavier traffic volume than the surrounding streets. Mill Street is 24 feet wide requiring cars to cross the centerline to bypass parked cars.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present concerning Upland Road, Bullough Park and Mill Street.

Upland Road

The public did not speak in opposition to this request. Without discussion, Council members voted 3-0, Ald. Harney not voting, to approve the stretch of Upland Road from Mill Street to Oakwood Road Upland Road (TC77-13) be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan.

Bullough Park

The public did not speak in opposition to this request. Without discussion, Council members voted 3-0, Ald. Harney not voting to approve the stretch of Bullough Park from Mill Street to Dexter Road (TC82-13) be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan.

Mill Street

Sgt. Babcock said that prior to the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan was implemented it appeared that students were parking on Mill Street making it difficult for emergency vehicle access. He then said that he docketed this item because of safety concerns and challenges.

One resident asked if 'live parking' would be allowed in order to pick-up/drop-off residents. One resident suggested using the existing utility poles in the area to be used to post parking restrictions. One resident spoke concerning the number of varied signs and requests consistency. Sgt. Babcock said that he would allow 'live parking' in this case. Mr. Baxter said that the newly installed posts will be removed; there are no poles on the south side of Mill Street.

Mr. Koses said that Mill Street residents could park on Upland Road or Bullough Park because there are no longer parking restrictions. Without further discussion, Council members voted 4-0, to approve Mill Street (TC83-13) no parking anytime Mill Street between Upland Road and Woodside Road. Mr. Koses said that these items may be appealed through the close of business December 10, 2013.

TC71-13 ALD. SANGIOLO, HARNEY & GENTILE, on behalf of residents of Rand Terrace in Auburndale, requesting parking restrictions for Rand Terrace, east side, No parking Weekdays 7 am to 10 am. (Ward 4) [07/19/13 @ 12:44 PM]

ACTION: HOLD (3-1, Koses opposed). Hold for Trial, No Parking, West Side of Rand Terrace, from Auburn Street to the cul-de-sac. No Parking, East Side of Rand Terrace, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Weekdays, from the Condominium Parking Lot Entrance to the MassDOT Gate.

NOTE: Ald. Harney said that this item was docketed on behalf of Rand Terrace residents because it appears commuters are parking up the area. He is hopeful a parking restriction will be implemented to provide residents relief from commuters parking up the area.

Mr. Baxter provided Council members with the existing conditions, area map and photos. He said that Rand Terrace is 24 feet wide and a dead-end street. He has observed 4-6 cars parking on a typical day. There are no existing parking restrictions. He then said that the fire hydrants are located on the west side of Rand Terrace, north of Auburn Street.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns regarding commuters parking up the street, parking very close to driveways, trash pick-up difficulties, emergency vehicle access difficulties and the winter parking ban exasperates these issues. Residents suggested implementing a parking restriction on both sides, a parking restriction on the west side, 'resident parking only' or a later time restriction of 9am to 11am hoping to deter commuters and allow easy trash-pickup. One resident

is opposed to a parking restriction because of limited off-street parking availability and it appears that condominium residents are parking on Rand Terrace. Some residents said that if a parking restriction is implemented, residents and guests could not park in front of their homes.

Council members reviewed and discussed different time restriction possibilities, which side of the street is most appropriate to restrict parking and trash pick-up times hoping to deter commuters. Ald. Harney said that the suggestion of 'resident parking only' or a request of no parking on the west side of Rand Terrace would have to be docketed. Mr. Koses said that some level of parking should be encouraged on public streets, and it should not be a goal to create empty streets. He said that Rand Terrace is not an unusual street, and any parking restriction may negatively impact residents as well. Mr. Baxter suggested amending this item to include different parking restriction times and locations amended to the west side because the fire hydrants are located on the west side and parking restrictions could be posted on the existing utility poles. Mr. Baxter then suggested expanding the Auburndale Parking Plan to include additional streets. Sgt. Babcock clarified to residents that they would still be responsible to adhere to the winter parking ban. He suggested amending this item to prohibit all parking on the west side due to fire hydrant locations and implement a restriction on the east side to deter commuter parking. Ald. Harney then suggested implementing a trial as docketed.

Mr. Koses made the motion to hold a 60-day trial of no parking on the west side of Rand Terrace from Auburn Street to the cul-de-sac. Parking on the east side would remain. This motion failed.

Sgt. Babcock made the motion as Ald. Harney suggests holding this item for a 60-day trial, no parking, west side of Rand Terrace, from Auburn Street to the cul-de-sac and no parking, east side of Rand Terrace, 9am to 11am, weekdays, from the condominium parking lot entrance to the MassDOT gate. Council members agreed 3-1, Mr. Koses opposed.

HP3-13 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, on behalf of West Newton Hearing Center, requesting a handicap parking space eastbound side of Washington Street in front of 1298 Washington Street, to be located next to the crosswalk in front of West Newton Cinema, West Newton. (Ward 3) [08/29/13 @ 9:25 AM]

The Newton Commission on Disability voted on September 9, 2013 supporting the idea of providing an HP space on this block. Traffic Council should recommend the best location.

ACTION: APPROVE (4-0). REVISED VOTE from (3-0, Ald. Harney not voting). Convert the parking space on the eastbound side of Washington Street, east of the crosswalk, in front of Elements Massage into a handicap parking space.

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with background information and photos of two potential locations. He said that area businesses do not provide off-street parking and that there are no handicap parking spaces provided on the south side of Washington Street in this area. Proposed space locations recommend placing the handicap parking space adjacent to the ramp at the signalized crosswalk, the closest parking space to the cinema entrance.

Mr. Baxter then stated that the public parking lot behind the Post Office off Waltham Street provides fifteen parking spaces including two handicap parking spaces. These two handicap parking spaces are in excess of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the City of Newton regulations. He recommends placing the handicap parking space on Washington Street immediately east of the crosswalk by eliminating a parking meter. Mr. Koses suggested docketing an item for Traffic Council's and Commission on Disability (COD) consideration requesting the conversion of one of the two handicap parking spaces in the public parking lot located off Waltham Street to a metered parking space (behind the Post Office) leaving one handicap parking space. Mr. Baxter said that he could conduct a handicap parking utilization study of this location. Ald. Hess-Mahan said that he has not observed many handicap people using these spaces because it is inconvenient and dangerous to cross Washington Street. He suggested the installation of a handicap parking space on eastbound side of Washington Street, to be located next to the crosswalk in front of West Newton Cinema, as docketed to benefit hearing center patients and cinema patrons.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. A businessperson stated that she fully supports and requests this item be approved to benefit patients of the hearing center.

Sgt. Babcock said that the Newton Commission on Disability supports the installation of a handicap parking space on this block. He then made the motion to convert the parking space on the eastbound side of Washington Street, east of the crosswalk, into a handicap parking space because he feels it is the safest location. Council members agreed 4-0. Mr. Koses stated that this approval may not be appealed.

TC78-13 ALD. BLAZAR, DANBERG & SCHWARTZ, requesting a two-hour parking restriction on Woodcliff Road and Rockledge Road (between Centre Street and Boylston Street). (Ward 6) [09/27/13 @ 2:30 PM]

ACTION: **HOLD (4-0). Hold for Trial, No Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, Woodcliff Road, West Side and Rockledge Road, Inside Elbow. No Parking, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Woodcliff Road, East Side and Rockledge Road, Outside Elbow.**

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with existing conditions and photos. He said that observations indicate six to seven cars park on a typical weekday on each road. Both roads are approximately 24' wide. Rockledge Road does not have existing parking restrictions. Woodcliff Road, both sides between Centre Street and Rockledge Road have a current two-hour parking restriction. Rockledge Road can be challenging when cars park on both sides due to the curve.

Mr. Koses summarized emails received some in support; one opposed unless resident parking permits are provided. He then opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Residents expressed their concerns regarding children safety, site distance and visibility difficulties when vehicles are parked on both sides, increase in traffic, trash pick-up difficulties and emergency vehicle access difficulties. They said that winter exacerbates these issues. Residents said that it appears commuters are parking up the area. It is difficult when cars park

on both sides, cars weave to fit through and the street becomes a one-way street. Some driveways are not convenient and residents must park on the street. One resident said that she observed as many as seventeen parked cars. Some residents support this item as docketed others requested a longer parking restriction. Some residents said that if a parking restriction is implemented, residents and guests could not park in front of their homes. Residents requested safety and commuter issues be addressed and resolved.

Residents then asked if a permit-parking plan could be an option. Mr. Koses briefly described the Newtonville Village Parking Plan (the first comprehensive neighborhood parking plan completed).

Ald. Blazar said that this item was docketed due to residents' concerns regarding commuter parking issues. He sympathizes with the residents and stated parking issues will continue until a comprehensive parking plan is implemented in Newton Highlands. He understands these streets are near the rail station, but is hopeful and supports a parking restriction to provide relief to homeowners.

Ald. Danberg said that since the MBTA parking lot began charging a \$4.00 per day fee, commuters are parking up these streets to avoid paying for parking. The residents are not able to park in front of their homes. She is hopeful and supports a parking restriction to provide relief. She asked if a neighborhood-parking district could be created for these streets until a comprehensive plan can be completed. Mr. Koses answered that the City Ordinance states that Traffic Council can establish a neighborhood-parking district on abutting streets. He believes the intent is to create a comprehensive parking plan. Balance is necessary on public streets and it should not be a goal to create empty streets. Mr. Koses then said that parked vehicles have the added benefit of serving as traffic calming. When parking is removed, drivers may speed up.

Council members reviewed and discussed different time restriction possibilities and which side of the street is most appropriate to restrict parking hoping to deter commuters. Council members asked residents what time and days they would prefer a two- hour parking restriction. Residents re-iterated that the issue appears to be commuters parking up the area. They would prefer a two-hour weekday parking restriction.

Mr. Koses made the motion to hold for a 60- day trial, no parking, 9:00am to 11:00am Monday to Friday, Woodcliff Road, west side and Rockledge Road, inside elbow and no parking, 1:00 pm to 3:00pm, Woodcliff Road, east side and Rockledge Road, outside elbow within 50' feet of intersections. Council members agreed 4-0.

TC76-13 ALD. SANGIOLO, requesting a school zone on Hancock Street for the Williams Elementary School. (Ward 4) [09/19/13 @ 9:23 AM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY (4-0).**

NOTE: Mr. Baxter provided Council members with the existing school zone and photos. The existing school zone was not posted when this item was docketed. Signs were posted last week entering the school zone. A southbound sign placed north of Lasell Street and a

northbound sign was placed south of Williston Road. Mr. Baxter recommends voting no action necessary on this item.

Without further discussion, Ald. Harney made the motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 4-0.

Nominations & Election for 2014 Traffic Council Chair

ACTION: David Koses elected as Traffic Council Chair for 2014 (4-0).

NOTE: Mr. Baxter nominated Mr. Koses as the 2014 Traffic Council Chairman. Mr. Koses accepted. Council members agreed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council
 City of Newton
 November 21, 2013

Agenda

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HP3-13: Ald. Hess-Mahan requesting a handicap parking space on the eastbound side of Washington Street in front of 1298 Washington Street, to be located next to the crosswalk in front of West Newton Cinema. 2. TC74-13: Jeanne White, 11 Calvin Road, requesting no parking on one side of Calvin Road 3. TC77-13: Melvin Berger, 251 Mill Street, requesting the stretch of Upland Road from Mill Street to Oakwood Road be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood District Parking Plan. 4. TC82-13: Tim Grieser, 258 Mill street, requesting the stretch of Bullough Park from Mill Street to Dexter Road be excluded from the Newtonville Neighborhood District Parking Plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. TC83-13: Sgt. Babcock, requesting No Parking Any Time on Mill Street between Upland Road and Woodside Road. 6. TC71-13: Ald. Sangiolo, Harney, & Gentile, on behalf of residents of Rand Terrace in Auburndale, requesting parking restrictions for Rand Terrace, east side: No Parking Weekdays 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. 7. TC76-13: Ald. Sangiolo, requesting a school zone on Hancock Street for the Williams Elementary School. 8. TC78-13: Ald. Blazar, Danberg, & Schwartz, requesting a two-hour parking restriction on Woodcliff Road and Rockledge Road (between Centre Street and Boylston Street).
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11.20.13
2
Traffic Council



HP3-13

 1298 Washington Street – West Newton Cinema
 Request for Handicap Parking Space

11.21.13
Traffic Council

Background Information
HP3-13

- ❖ Cinema does not provide off-street parking
- ❖ No other HP spaces provided on south side of Washington Street in the village center
- ❖ Newton Commission on Disability voted on 9.9.13 to recommend providing an HP space on this block, however the specific location shall be decided by Traffic Council.
- ❖ Proposed space location:
 - Located adjacent to handicap ramp at signalized crosswalk
 - Closest space to cinema entrance
- ❖ Small public lot behind Post Office off of Waltham Street provides 15 parking spaces including 2 HP spaces
 - Consider future conversion of one HP space back to regular, consistent with City and ADA requirements for lots under 25 spaces

11.21.13
4
Traffic Council

Proposed Space Location	HP3-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recommend placing the space immediately east of the crosswalk 	
	
11.21.13	5 Traffic Council

<h1>TC74-13</h1> <p>80 6 03 Calvin Road Request for No Parking on One Side</p>	
11.21.13	Traffic Council

Existing Conditions	TC74-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Calvin Road is included in the Newtonville Village Parking Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently posted for 2 HOUR PARKING, 8 AM to 4 PM, SCHOOL DAYS, EXCEPT BY NEWTONVILLE PERMIT, both ❖ Width = 24', typical for neighborhood streets in Newtonville with two sided parking ❖ Observations indicate 2-3 vehicles parked on street during typical weekdays ❖ Hydrants located on north side of roadway. 	
11.21.13	7 Traffic Council



Site Photo	TC74-13
	
11.21.13	8 Traffic Council

TC77/82/83-13

Upland Road, Bullough Park, Mill Street
Request for Changes to Newtonville Village Parking Plan

11.21.13 Traffic Council

Newtonville Parking Plan **TC77/82/83-13**

11.21.13 Traffic Council

Background Information **TC77/82/83-13**


- ❖ Residents have requested to remove Upland Road and Bullough Park from the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking Plan.
- ❖ Residents indicate that student parking on their street is minimal and not an issue.
 - Weekday observations on Upland Road indicated 1-2 cars typically parked
 - Weekday observations on Bullough Park indicated 3-4 cars typically parked
- ❖ Mill Street has been requested by the Newton Police Department to become NO PARKING ANYTIME in order to maintain safe conditions.
 - Mill Street carries heavier traffic volume than the surrounding streets
 - 24' width of roadway requires cars to cross centerline to bypass a parked vehicle

11.21.13 Traffic Council

Upland Road **TC77-13**


11.21.13 Traffic Council

Bullough Park	TC82-13
	
11.21.13	13 Traffic Council

Mill Street	TC83-13
	
11.21.13	14 Traffic Council

<h1 data-bbox="504 1117 688 1172">TC 71-13</h1> <p data-bbox="537 1211 655 1237">∞ 15 ∞</p> <p data-bbox="537 1247 655 1269">Rand Terrace</p> <p data-bbox="457 1276 735 1302">Request for Parking Restrictions</p>	
11.21.13	Traffic Council

Existing Conditions	TC71-13
<ul data-bbox="1167 1010 1780 1286" style="list-style-type: none">❖ Rand Terrace is a dead-end street❖ Width - 24'❖ Field observations indicate 4-6 cars parked on a typical weekday❖ No existing parking restrictions	
11.21.13	16 Traffic Council

Site Photo	TC71-13
	
11.21.13	17 Traffic Council

Area Map	TC71-13
	
11.21.13	18 Traffic Council

<h1>TC76-13</h1> <p>∞ 19 ∞</p> <p>Hancock Street</p> <p>Request for School Zone</p>	
11.21.13	Traffic Council

Existing School Zone	TC76-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Existing school zone was not posted when this item was docketed. ❖ Signs were posted last week entering the school zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southbound sign placed north of Lasell Street ▪ Northbound sign placed south of Williston Road ❖ Recommend No Action Necessary 	
11.21.13	20 Traffic Council

Photos	TC76-13
11.21.13	21 Traffic Council

<h1 style="margin: 0;">TC78-13</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;"> 22 </p> <p style="margin: 0;">Woodcliff Road & Rockledge Road Request for Two-Hour Parking</p>	
11.21.13	Traffic Council

Existing Conditions	TC78-13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Observations indicate 6-7 cars parked on a typical weekday on each road. ❖ Both roads are approximately 24' wide ❖ No existing restrictions on Rockledge Road. ❖ Existing two-hour parking restriction on Woodcliff Road, both sides, between Centre Street and Rockledge Road. 	
11.21.13	23 Traffic Council

Area Map	TC78-13
11.21.13	24 Traffic Council

Site Photo

TC78-13



11.21.13

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Traffic Council