

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

Present: Ald. Ciccone; Danielle Delaney, Committee Clerk; Clint Schuckel, Director of Transportation; Jerome Grafe, Citizen Representative; David Koses, Transportation Planner and Sgt. James Norcross, Newton Police Department

Also Present: Ald. Linsky, Johnson and Albright

Others Present: Jennifer Price, Newton North High Principal; Deb Holman, Newton North High Vice Principal and Lisa Mazzola, Executive Assistant Newton North High School

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

TC52-11 PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, requesting the establishment of a permanent TIGER Permit program for students. This program would establish the following: (a) no more than 150 TIGER Permits to be issued to students, per the request of Newton North High School; (b) each TIGER Permit will include an assigned parking space, a permit number, and the effective dates; (c) 40 parking spaces in the Austin Street off-street municipal parking area will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days; (e) the west side of Lowell Avenue between Austin Street and Highland Avenue will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, with no more than 17 permits assigned to this area; (f) the west side of Lowell Avenue adjacent to Claflin Park will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, with no more than 23 permits assigned to this area; (g) residents of Hull Street, Elm Road, and Lowell Avenue between Calvin Road and Highland Street will be eligible for TIGER Permits, which will not count against the student cap of 150 permits; (h) no more than 70 permits will be issued to students that will allow them to override existing time limits and resident parking restrictions and park on public ways that are approved by TC51-11 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, provided the following: (1) students can only be assigned to one side of each street approved by TC51-11, and (2) the maximum number of permits issued to students per street cannot exceed the number of houses that have frontage along the TIGER Permit designated side of the street; (i) consideration of allowing residents of certain other streets to be eligible to obtain TIGER permits. (Ward 2) [09/30/11 @ 12:47 PM]

ACTION: The following was approved with a vote 3-2 (Ciccone, Norcross opposed): (a) no more than 150 TIGER Permits to be issued to students, per the request of Newton North High School.

ACTION: The following was approved with a vote 5-0: (b) each TIGER Permit will include an assigned parking space, a permit number, and the effective dates; (c) 40 parking spaces in the Austin Street off-street municipal parking area will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days; (e) the west side of Lowell Avenue between Austin Street and Highland Avenue will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, with no more than 17 permits assigned to this area; (f) the west side of Lowell Avenue adjacent to Claflin Park will be designated as TIGER Permit only between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, with no more than 23 permits assigned to this area; (g) residents of Hull Street, Elm Road, and Lowell Avenue between Calvin Road and Highland Street will be eligible for TIGER Permits, which will not count against the student cap of 150 permits; (h) no more than 70 permits will be issued to students that will allow them to override existing time limits and resident parking restrictions and park on public ways that are approved by TC51-11 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on school days, provided the following: (1) students can only be assigned to one side of each street approved by TC51-11, and (2) the maximum number of permits issued to students per street cannot exceed the number of houses that have frontage along the TIGER Permit designated side of the street;

ACTION: The following failed to carry with a vote 2-3 (Ciccone, Koses, Norcross opposed): (i) In the event that a student permit is assigned permit to park in front of a particular address, the resident of that address would also be entitled to obtain a TIGER permit.

These items may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

NOTE:

TC52-11 and TC 51-11 were discussed together. See TC51-11 summary below.

TC51-11 PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, requesting that the following streets be designated TIGER Permit areas: (a) Beaumont Avenue, (b) Blithedale Street, (c) Bolton Road, (d) Calvin Road, (e) Charlesden Park, (f) Clyde Street, (g) Dexter Road, (h) Elmwood Park, (i) Fairfield Street, (j) Gay Street, (k) Highland Avenue (between Lowell and Walnut), (l) Kimball Terrace, (m) Kirkstall Road (between Walnut and Charlesden Park), (n) Otis Street (between Walden and Walnut), (o) Prospect Avenue, (p) Pulsifer Street, (q) Trowbridge Avenue (public portion), (r) Walden Street, and (s) Woodside Road. (Ward 2) [09/30/11 @ 12:47 PM]

ACTION: The following streets were approved to be designated TIGER Permit areas with a vote 3-2 (Ciccone, Norcross opposed): Beaumont Avenue between Hull Street and Prospect Avenue, Blithedale Street, Bolton Road, Calvin Road, Clyde Street, Dexter Road, Fairfield Street, Gay Street, Highland Avenue between Lowell Avenue and Walnut Street, Kimball Terrace, Lowell Avenue between Craigie Terrace and Highland Street, Lowell Avenue between Calvin Road and Highland Avenue, Otis Street between Walden and Walnut, Pulsifer Street, public portion of Trowbridge Avenue, Walden Street. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel said that the Planning Department and the Department of Public Works docketed these items upon request from the High School Administration. The High School Administration is requesting 150 parking spaces for students. Mr. Schuckel reviewed with Council members the existing TIGER permit locations, permit-parking overview, proposed locations, streets

where permits are not proposed to be issued, the number of maximum permits allowed and the proposed location for 102 parking spaces allowing the School Department to move permits around as needed. Eighty of the 150 spaces would be located either in the Austin Street lot, or along the two sections of Lowell Avenue. The remaining seventy spaces would be disbursed among several streets. Mr. Schuckel stated that there would be no more than one permit per house and permits would only be issued on one side of the street. During the Newton North construction phase, approximately 100 student permits were issued.

Mr. Koses stated that Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) developed over 26 recommendations to forward to the Executive Department, including one dealing with resident parking, and another that he referred to as a "Share the Streets" recommendation. The TAC recommends the re-evaluation of the resident permit program and a moratorium of new resident permits while the re-evaluation takes place. The TAC also recommended a pilot "Share the Streets" concept where a zone would be identified, parking restrictions would be enacted within the zone, and permits would be made available for residents and others to override the posted parking restrictions. The TAC recommends that a pilot area be selected immediately, and Mr. Koses noted that the neighborhood surrounding Newton North High School could be selected as the Pilot Zone. Mr. Koses also mentioned that the Ward 2 Aldermen docketed an item requesting a comprehensive traffic and parking study be completed in the area of Newton North High School, which has been an ongoing study and has included a review of pedestrian access, pick-up, drop-off, staff and student parking, potential bicycle lanes, and traffic signals.

Ms. Price thanked the residents for their patience during the construction phase. She said that 305 faculty and staff members park on site, 96 faculty and staff members' park on the streets totaling 401. The new proposal would allow for 421 parking spaces including the Lowell Avenue parking lot once construction is complete. Students and parents sign a contract when issued a parking permit. She is concerned with and understands residents' concerns. She said that if a student parking program is not implemented, students will park anywhere – instead, they would play the 2-hour parking game that the Police Department will have to enforce. Prior to construction, students parked on Hull Street, making it difficult for the residents. A proactive plan is necessary to disperse student parking throughout the neighborhood, so to avoid hardships between students and residents. Ms. Price described the criteria used to issue parking permits. Permits are issued in August to students with medical conditions, responsible for siblings or grandparent care and those who work. The second set of permits is issued by class seniority. Students are parking in areas with parking restrictions regardless of whether they are ticketed. She stated there is the demand for 150 student permits including a current waiting list of 20 students. Regardless, Ms. Price is hopeful students would be "good neighbors". Ms. Holman spoke and agreed with Ms. Price.

Mr. Koses opened the discussion for public comment and summarized the thirteen e-mails received on these items, attached to this report. Approximately 24 residents spoke stressing (a list of speakers is attached to this report) their concerns, suggestions and questions including the following:

Beaumont Avenue: A resident said he was concerned of children's safety due to the potential increase of traffic.

Blithedale Street, Bolton Road and Calvin Road: Residents did not speak.

Charlesden Park: A resident asked for clarification as to whether Charlesden Park was being proposed as a potential permit area. A resident asked that Kirkstall Road and Charlesden Park not be included in the TIGER proposal because Kirkstall Road is narrow, deeply sloped, students litter the street, trash pick-up

is difficult, travel is difficult especially for emergency vehicles and there are small children and elderly residents.

Clyde Street: A resident said that parents ignore safety issues when dropping off students. She suggested reducing the proposed 10 TIGER parking permits to be assigned to Clyde Street.

Dexter Road: A resident provided photos depicting the narrow street with parked cars. Drop-off areas result in additional traffic conditions and chaos. Students walk in the street, a major safety issue, since the street does not have sidewalks. Emergency vehicles have difficulty accessing the road especially in the winter months. Residents said that traffic, speed and pedestrian volumes have increased, exiting/entering driveways is difficult, vehicle and pedestrian safety is necessary because there are no sidewalks, which makes walking difficult and unsafe especially when parents are making U-turn's. Safety issues need to be addressed. Residents suggested better snow plowing to allow easier access to exit and enter driveways, better Police Department enforcement and permit parking should be limited to allow for resident and guest parking. They understand the need for a permit program, suggested the area be extended beyond the 1/3 mile radius. Parents are discouraged from using Tiger Drive as pick-up/drop-off location, putting the burden on surrounding streets. Ms. Price said that parents have received numerous letters including maps requesting proper drop-off/pick-up locations.

Elmwood Park: Residents did not speak.

Fairfield Street: A resident said he is concerned about children's safety and vehicular circulation. Buses have difficulty due to parked cars and snow accumulation. Exiting/entering driveways is difficult. Trash pickup is difficult. The resident requested that no permits be issued on this street.

Gay Street and Highland Avenue (between Lowell and Walnut): Residents did not speak.

Kimball Terrace: A resident supports the program but is concerned about student parking. He said that the fence that was installed to reduce foot traffic has been effective, but that if cars are allowed to park on Kimball Terrace, he knows that students will jump the fence. He is also concerned about the increased speed and traffic. There are only six houses on Kimball Terrace and questions why five parking spaces are being proposed. A resident suggested lifting parking restrictions in the winter or perhaps better plowing.

Kirkstall Road (between Walnut and Charlesden Park): A resident said she was concerned students without permits would continue to park in this area.

Lowell Avenue: A resident asked for clarification regarding staff parking on Lowell Avenue Mr. Koses said that staff parking lot has been approved for all three streets forming the perimeter of the high school. The resident suggested reconsideration of this as Lowell Avenue is a speedway with high traffic volumes. Evening parking is also chaotic and requested better Police Department enforcement. High volumes of trash are also problematic.

Otis Street (between Walden and Walnut): A resident said exiting/entering driveways is difficult, especially in the winter. She asked how many additional TIGER permits are being proposed for Otis Street. Mr. Schuckel said there are currently nine spaces in the program that will be reduced to eight spaces.

Prospect Avenue: A resident said that he is pleased Prospect Avenue will not be considered for the permit program. He understood that when the new Newton North High School was being built, the previous traffic situation would be put in place. A resident suggested a "donut" pattern where students cannot park close to the high school, the perimeter starts 1/4 mile out reducing traffic congestion in the school neighborhood.

Pulsifer Street: Residents did not speak.

Trowbridge Avenue (public portion): A resident said that residents should not have to deal with the burden of student parking, trash, noise, loitering, and recommends these items be re-thought.

Walden Street: A resident said that Walden Street residents are concerned with the number of spaces being proposed. They support the program but request the number be reduced. They suggested that the burden be shared by involving additional streets. They also suggest a student community service program in addition to the contract to assist the elders with shoveling or other community activities.

Woodside Road: A resident said that Woodside Road has a parking restriction that does not allow homeowners' to park on the street. She requests that students not be able to park on the street.

Walnut Street: A resident said the City would need to take additional snow removal responsibility to remove snow from sidewalks included in the areas of the permit program.

Mr. Koses said he received a request asking to extend the TIGER permit program earlier than 7 a.m. and later than 4:00 p.m. due to school class schedules.

Ald. Johnson asked Mr. Schuckel to consider the "donut" suggestion made by beginning the perimeter ¼-mile radius outside the school area reducing traffic congestion in the neighborhood, which would also encourage students to walk and spread the burden in the neighborhood. She then said providing permit parking allows students closer parking and entitlement. She feels the parking proposals need additional work.

Ald. Albright agreed. She would also like to have the perimeter begin further. She said that students are capable of walking further than 1/3 mile. It is a privilege for students to park in front of residents' homes. She is concerned about what she has heard tonight about narrow streets, winter travel is difficult, trash pickup difficulty and emergency vehicle access. She is hopeful TAC recommendations would be provided soon to the Executive Department. She asked if the correct streets have been chosen.

Council members expressed their suggestions and concerns on the establishment of the program.

Sgt. Norcross agreed with Ald. Johnson. Children should be encouraged to walk or ride the bus to school. A permit program only encourages driving. He does not agree with issuing 150 permit parking spaces, he only recommends issuing 80 spaces on Lowell Avenue and Austin Street parking lot, which would not affect neighbors.

Mr. Koses suggested approval of a student TIGER permit program trial through June 30, 2012. He believes the concept of share the streets could work in the Newton North area, and time is needed to develop the concept. A trial would allow the program to be tweaked, accommodating both students and residents. He also suggested that a share-the-streets program would allow residents to purchase permits, which would allow them to override parking restrictions. Ald. Ciccone disagreed. Taxpayers should not have to purchase permits to park in front of their own homes. Sgt. Norcross said that he would not support a trial.

Ald. Linsky recommends that residents and students have a reciprocal relationship permitting residents also the opportunity to obtain a permit. He suggests waiting until the spring to determine whether the onsite parking lot fulfill the parking needs, and whether student parking is being accommodated using the 80 spaces on Lowell Avenue and the Austin Street parking lot. Many streets are impacted and winter travel only affects them. Ald. Linsky suggested holding these items for additional meetings. Ald. Linsky thanked the residents, Traffic Council and School Department for their patience and

difficulties they have endured. Mr. Schuckel said that half the streets proposed already have some resident parking restrictions. He identified 102 possible spaces, 70 is the maximum.

Mr. Koses said the Lowell Avenue lot is likely to open in December 2011, and that Traffic Council needs to implement some type of student parking program. He believes that once the Lowell Parking Lot is complete, the High School construction can be considered to be complete, thereby ending the old TIGER program. At a previous meeting, Traffic Council made permanent the TIGER permit program for staff on streets forming the perimeter of the school. Traffic Council has not yet approved a TIGER permit program for students. If an adequate number of TIGER permits are not approved for students, the result is likely to be continued student parking in residential neighborhood, and with the School unable to know which car goes with which student. Mr. Koses said that this situation would not be good for students or for residents.

Ald. Albright asked Mr. Schuckel if a trial is implemented to consider 1/2 mile radius rather than 1/3 mile. Mr. Schuckel answered yes; the concern is that the further you go out, students will only find a closer alternative. Ald. Johnson agreed with Ald. Albright. She supports these items be held for additional work, and would be disappointed if approved as written.

Mr. Grafe said that he does not encourage additional student parking. Students park anywhere, parking is in demand, and they will continue to park with or without parking permits. He agreed with Sgt. Norcross, that these items encourage driving. He agreed with moving forward with a trial and perhaps limiting the number of spaces, and expanding the area and time of day for the spaces. He is hopeful that the TAC recommendations will come to fruition. He recommends that residents have the opportunity to purchase a permit. He said that residents should have priority over the students. Commuters, employees and students should pay a higher fee for the permit. He understands residents' concerns about the snow, trash, road corners and road conditions. He suggested a trial, expand the geography to spread the burden and enforcement is necessary. He said that he could not support the proposal as written.

Mr. Schuckel said that members would not know if a program would work unless it is put into place. He suggested a split vote on 80 spaces as a separate item from the remainder of TC52-11 (40 spaces in the Austin Street parking lot and 40 spaces on Lowell Avenue, not in front of residents). Mr. Koses took a straw poll to determine if Traffic Council would take action on TC 52-11, Council members agreed 5-0 to take an action this evening. Mr. Koses then asked members whether they support a trial through the rest of the school year. The proposal of a trial for TC52-11 failed 1-4 (Mr. Koses in favor). Ms. Price stated the 80 spaces are occupied with students. If the spaces were not approved, they would have to be revoked.

Mr. Grafe made the motion to approve TC52-11(c), (e) and (f) to approve 80 spaces on Lowell Avenue and the Austin Street parking lot on a temporary basis until the end of the school year or receipt of the TAC recommendations is approved. Sgt. Norcross made the friendly amendment to make the motion permanent because these areas would not impact the neighbors. Ald. Ciccone agreed. Mr. Grafe amended his motion to make the 80 spaces permanent. Council members agreed 5-0.

Sgt. Norcross made the motion to approve TC52-11(a) with no more than 80 parking spaces issued. Mr. Schuckel said 150 permits is less than 10% of the student population. He suggested extending the area by adding (Gay Street, Sheffield Road and Greylock Road). Mr. Koses said that Sheffield Road and

Greylock Road residents were not notified of the Traffic Council meeting, so action could not be taken for those streets at this time. He suggested that additional streets could be added as "TIGER Permit Areas" through subsequent Traffic Council action. Ms. Price said that Newton North High School would invite residents the opportunity to purchase a permit.

Ald. Johnson asked if Washington Street (west south side of Lowell Avenue) was considered when determining parking locations. Mr. Schuckel said Washington Street was included in the program until this school year when the City received complaints from residents and additional parking was available on the site. She suggested this location be considered in order to increase the number of permits by not affecting residents' home fronts. Mr. Koses said that this area does not currently have any parking restriction, so students could already park there, but many don't want to park there because it is too far from the school. Ald. Ciccone stated that Washington Street parking would not burden the neighbors. Ald. Albright asked why the TIGER permit policy has changed, allowing students to park in the neighborhood. Mr. Schuckel said that students choose to park anywhere, taking their chances. Ald. Johnson asked how many student permits currently exist. Mr. Koses answered 100. She then asked why 150 spaces are being proposed. Ms. Price answered that as of the spring the demand is 150, with 20 students on the waiting list. Additional permits will be issued when the Lowell Avenue is open.

Ald. Ciccone asked how many parking spaces are available on Washington Street for this program. Mr. Schuckel answered that Washington Street has no parking restrictions, which would allow many spaces. Ald. Ciccone suggested including Washington Street into the program. The Police Department's plate recognition system could help issues tickets. Mr. Koses said students would not park on Washington Street because it is too far, and they want to park closer. Sgt. Norcross said students can be offered a permit and let them decide if the distance is too far.

Sgt. Norcross modified his motion to amend TC52-11(a) to include 40 additional spaces from Washington Street totaling 120 spaces to be issued to students. Mr. Grafe asked if Washington Street would be reconstructed. Mr. Schuckel answered that Lowell Avenue will be re-paved. Approximately 500' each direction of Washington Street from Lowell Avenue. The parking lanes will remain on both sides of Washington Street. Repaving will not affect this proposal. Council members voted on the motion, which failed to carry (Ciccone and Norcross in favor, Grafe, Koses and Schuckel opposed).

Mr. Schuckel moved to approve 52-11(a) no more than 150 TIGER Permits to be issued to students, per the request of Newton North High School. The 70 additional spaces (not including the 80 spaces previously approved for the Austin Street Lot and the two sections of Lowell Avenue) would include Gay Street and additional streets to be docketed for inclusion. Council members approved the motion.

Mr. Schuckel moved approval of 52-11(b), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (h). The motion was approved 5-0.

Ald. Linsky recommends approving only enough parking for the current number of student needs and hold the remainder of the item. Mr. Schuckel started discussing item 52-11(i) consideration of allowing residents of certain other streets to be eligible to obtain TIGER permits. He suggested that residents may also apply for a permit in locations where the TIGER permit will be approved. Ald. Ciccone asked how residents would be notified of the TIGER permit locations chosen. Mr. Koses suggested that the school write a letter notifying residents before issuing student permits to inform residents they are also eligible to purchase permits if a permit will be issued in front of their home. Ald. Albright said that

problems are not being resolved for residents with parking restrictions on one side of the street. Sgt. Norcross said that it is not fair to tax-paying residents who cannot park in front of their own homes. Ald. Johnson agreed.

Council members voted on 52-11(i), such that once a student TIGER permit is issued in front of a residence, a resident living in that home would be eligible to obtain a TIGER permit as well. Mr. Schuckel described this as a compromise between allowing some residents to park, and a program that would be too large for the High School administration to handle. The motion failed to carry (Grafe, Schuckel approve, Ciccone, Koses and Norcross opposed). Mr. Koses said that these items may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

Mr. Schuckel moved approval of TC51-11, with the following streets to be designated TIGER Permit areas: Beaumont Avenue between Hull Street and Prospect Avenue, Blithedale Street, Bolton Road, Calvin Road, Clyde Street, Dexter Road, Fairfield Street, Gay Street, Highland Avenue between Lowell Avenue and Walnut Street, Kimball Terrace, Lowell Avenue between Craigie Terrace and Highland Street, Lowell Avenue between Calvin Road and Highland Avenue, Otis Street between Walden and Walnut, Pulsifer Street, public portion of Trowbridge Avenue. The motion carried with a vote 3-2 (Grafe, Koses and Schuckel in favor, Ciccone, Norcross opposed)

TC14-10 WILLIAM FRANKLIN, 29 Trowbridge Avenue, requesting a) no parking either side of Trowbridge Avenue 24 hours/day except by permit, b) each household should be issued two mobile permits and c) the street should be posted on either end as residents only. (Ward 2) [05/04/10 @ 6:20 PM]

HELD (5-0) on 09/30/10 for new 60-Day Trial, No Standing, all days, north side of public way section of Trowbridge Avenue; No Parking, south side of Trowbridge Avenue, from Walnut Street to a point 50 feet east of Walnut Street; One-Hour Limit, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., all days, south side of Trowbridge Avenue, from a point 50 feet east of Walnut Street to the end of the public way.

ACTION: Approve 3-2 (Grafe, Koses opposed). Resident parking, public portion of Trowbridge Avenue, south side, 24 hours/day, Monday-Saturday. No Standing, public portion of Trowbridge Avenue, north side. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel stated that no public street has been approved for resident-only parking for approximately ten years. He reviewed with Council members the current parking restrictions, parking data history, average occupancy, City ordinance requirements and criteria for Traffic Council to consider. He said Trowbridge Avenue is approximately 24' wide. The one-hour limit was implemented to deter people from parking to attend evening events.

A resident said that he is pleased that Trowbridge Avenue will not be considered for the TIGER permit program. Trowbridge Avenue is used as drop-offs, turn-a-rounds and cut-throughs. Trash collection has been difficult and police have ticketed cars causing a decrease in illegal parking. A resident said that the residents should not have to deal with the burden of student parking, trash accumulation, noise and loitering. He said that the private way section allows students to park anywhere, and he feels that resident parking on the public section of Trowbridge Avenue is warranted. Ald. Johnson said that Trowbridge Avenue is used for guests from Walnut Street and asked if they would be eligible for TIGER permits. She then said she would be disappointed if this request was not approved.

The City will only get involved on private streets if there are issues with trash, pickups, emergency vehicle access or plowing. Residents can post their own "Resident Parking Only – Tow Zone" to discourage people from parking. Residents are responsible for calling a tow company.

Sgt. Norcross said that he is concerned with the public safety issues on Trowbridge Avenue and supports resident parking on Trowbridge Avenue. In a few months, the department has received in excess of 100 complaints. During a school event, the department closes Trowbridge Avenue to deter people from parking there.

Mr. Schuckel stated that Trowbridge Avenue would have approximately six TIGER permits issued to this street. Mr. Koses said that current data indicated there is an average of two cars parked on Trowbridge Avenue during school days. He suggested that a "Share the Streets" program could work for Trowbridge Avenue. Mr. Koses said that Traffic Council denied previous requests for resident-only parking on streets that experience far more parking. Mr. Koses and Mr. Grafe stated that Traffic Council should strive to be consistent with prior votes.

Sgt. Norcross made the motion to approve this item. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

TC43-11 AMY MACKRELL, 12 Dexter Road and BARBARA MODEL, 7 Dexter Road, requesting the implementation of Resident Permit Parking only on Dexter Road. (Ward 2) [08/02/11 @ 11:21 AM]

ACTION: Approve 3-2 (Grafe, Koses opposed). Resident parking, Dexter Road between Hull Street and Walnut Street, east side, 24 hours/day, Monday-Saturday. No Standing, Dexter Road between Hull Street and Walnut Street, west side. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

NOTE: Mr. Schuckel reviewed with Council members the current parking restrictions, average occupancy, City Ordinance requirements and criteria for Traffic Council to consider. Resident permit parking permits have not been issued on a public street in the City for at least ten years.

A resident said that this item was docketed because Dexter Road is parked up during the day, nights and weekends for school and school activities. She provided photos depicting the narrow street with parked up areas, parking, drop-off areas that result in additional traffic conditions and chaos. Without sidewalks, there is safety issue for students walking in the street. Emergency vehicles have difficulty accessing the road especially in the winter months. A resident said that exiting and entering driveways is difficult. A resident said that since there are no sidewalks, walking is difficult and unsafe especially when parents are making U-turn's on the street. Safety issues need to be addressed. A resident suggested better snow plowing allowing easier access to exit and enter driveways. A resident suggested better Police Department enforcement. Parents are discouraged from using TIGER Drive as pick-up/drop-off locations. Traffic, speeding and pedestrian volumes have increased.

Ald. Ciccone said that he is concerned with the public safety issues on Dexter Road and supports resident parking. Sgt. Norcross agreed and suggested the installation of sidewalks. Mr. Koses suggested making Dexter Road a TIGER-only street which allows residents to obtain a permit, exactly the same restriction as Hull Street.

Ald. Ciccone made the motion to approve this item. Council members voted on the motion above. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

TC29-11 ROBIN STEIN, 74 Kirkstall Road and ELAINE WHITESIDE, 64 Kirkstall Road, requesting “No Parking from 8:00am to 10:00am on School Days” on Kirkstall Road and Charlesden Park. (Ward 2) [06/03/11 @ 10:47 AM]

ACTION: Approve as Amended 5-0. Extend current 1-hour limit 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., both sides, School Days easterly on Kirkstall Road to Pheasant Road, to include Charlesden Park. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

NOTE: The one e-mail received on this item is attached to this report.

Mr. Schuckel provided Council members with the current parking restrictions on Kirkstall Road and the average occupancy count. He said Kirkstall Road is 24’ wide, Charlesden Park is 22’ wide (before the cul-de-sac) with no parking restrictions. TIGER permits are currently assigned to Kirkstall Road but are not proposed as part of the new TIGER Permit program.

A resident asked that Kirkstall Road and Charlesden Park not be included in the TIGER permit proposal because the street is narrow, deeply sloped, winter travel is difficult and there are small children and elderly residents. A resident said this item was docketed hoping to deter student parking and littering by changing the parking restriction. Allowing vehicles to park on both sides of the street limits emergency vehicle access and service vehicle parking. A resident said the Police Department has been notified numerous times when people ignore the signs. Parking on the street makes it difficult for trash pick-up, emergency vehicle access and difficulty entering and exiting driveways. A resident said she was concerned students without permits would continue to park in this area.

Sgt. Norcross said a one-hour parking restriction is difficult to enforce. He said students would park on these streets after 10am; therefore, he made the motion to approve this item as amended. Council members voted on the motion above. This item may be appealed through the close of business November 2, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

Traffic Council

City Hall

Aldermanic Chamber

Thursday, October 13, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. TC52-11: requesting establishment of a permanent TIGER permit parking program for NNHS students. (Ward 2)
 2. TC51-11: requesting that certain city streets be designated TIGER permit parking areas. (Ward 2)
 3. TC14-10: requesting no parking either side of Trowbridge Ave. except by permit. (Ward 2)
(Held for Trial on 9/30/10)
 4. TC43-11: requesting Resident Parking only on Dexter Rd. (Ward 2)
 5. TC29-11: requesting No Parking from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on School Days on Kirkstall Rd. and Charlesden Park. (Ward 2)
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TC52-11

Requesting establishment of a permanent TIGER permit parking program. (Ward 2)

TC51-11

Requesting that certain city streets be designated TIGER permit parking areas. (Ward 2)

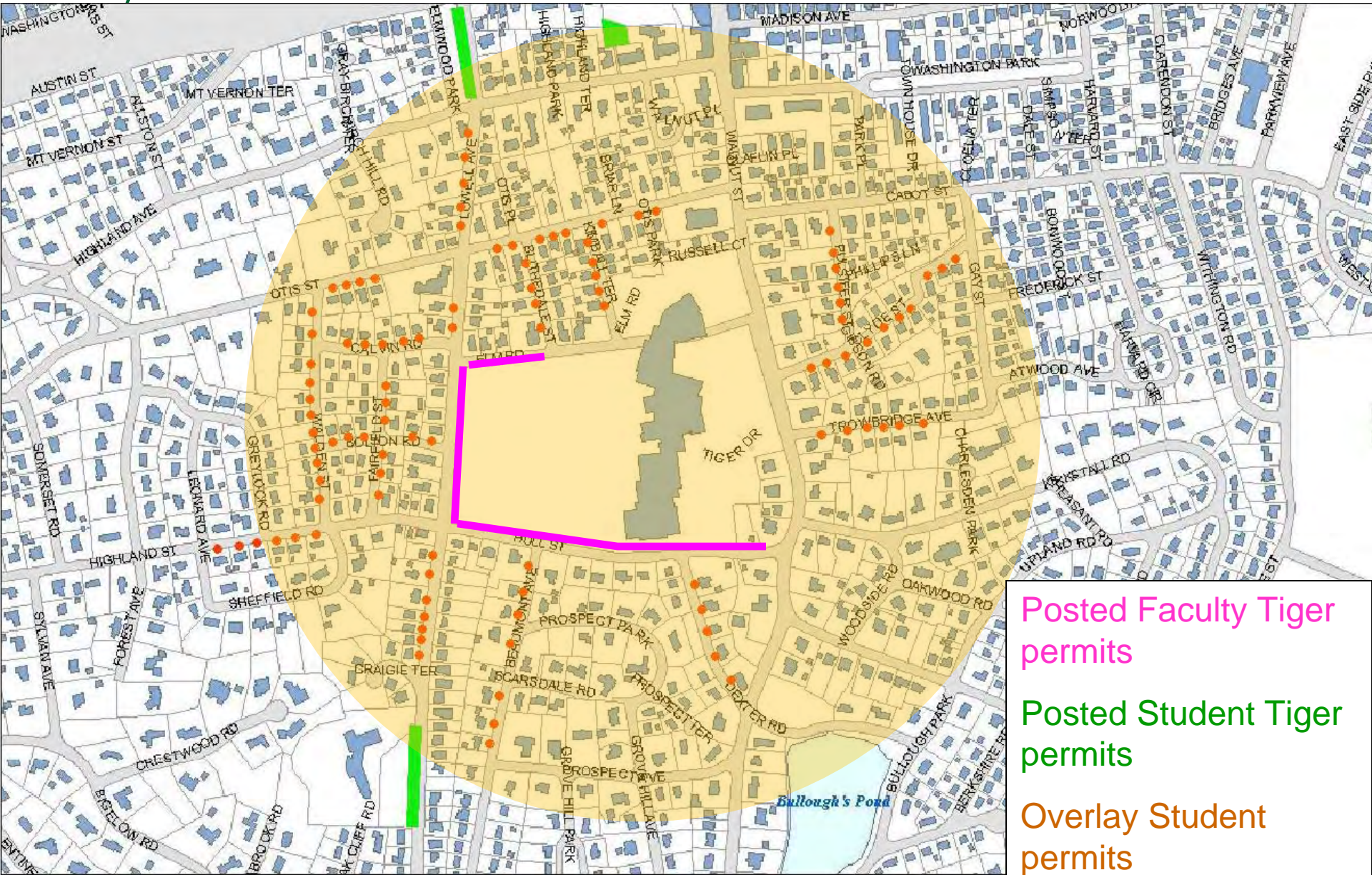
Tiger Permits on Public Streets

- Posted/Faculty (NNHS Permit Only 7-4p, school days)
 - ✓ Hull St (north side) ~48 spaces
 - ✓ Lowell Ave (east side between Hull & Elm) ~ 22 spaces
 - ✓ Elm Road (south side) ~ 20 spaces
 - Posted/Student (NNHS Permit Only 7-4p, school days)
 - Austin St parking lot ~ 40 spaces
 - Lowell Ave (west side b/w Highland & Austin) ~ 17 spaces
 - Lowell Ave (west side @ Claflin Park) ~ 23 spaces
 - Overlay/Student (permit supercedes posted restriction)
 - Various streets= max 70 spaces
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Permit Parking Overview

- Permits will continue to override posted restrictions, including resident permit only.
 - Permits are assigned to specific address numbers on only one side of street.
 - No more than one student permit is assigned per property on one side of the street only.
 - Properties that have Tiger Permit assigned are eligible to receive 1 additional permit for same property.
-

1/3 Mile Radius



Posted Faculty Tiger permits

Posted Student Tiger permits

Overlay Student permits

Overlay/Student Permits

Street	Side of Street	Max # of Permits
Beaumont Ave.	Odd	7
Blithedale St.	Odd	4
Bolton Rd.	Odd	5
Calvin Rd.	Odd	5
Clyde St.	Even	10
Dexter Rd.	Even	5
Fairfield St.	Even	6
Highland St.	Odd	6
Kimball Terr.	Odd	5
Lowell Ave. (Cragie to Highland St.)	Odd	7
Lowell Ave. (Calvin to Highland Ave.)	Odd	7
Otis St. (Walden to Lowell)	Even	4
Otis St. (Lowell to Walnut)	Even	8
Trowbridge Ave.	Even	6
Walden St.	Odd	11

Proposed Permit Location Info

- Provides up to 102 parking spots.
 - Not intended to go beyond 70.
 - Gives school flexibility on where to assign.
 - No permits are currently proposed for the following streets:
 - Allston St., Austin St., Birch Hill Rd., Bullough Park, Elmwood Park, Forest Ave., Gay St., Gray Birch Terr., Greylock Rd., Grove Hill Ave., Grove Hill Park, Highland Ave., Kirkstall Rd., Leonard Ave., Oakwood Rd., Park Pl., Prospect Ave., Sheffield Rd., Somerset Rd., Upland Rd., Washington Park, or Woodside Rd.
-

TC14-10

Requesting a) no parking either side of Trowbridge Avenue 24 hrs/day except by permit, b) each household should be issued two mobile permits and c) the street should be posted on either end as residents only
(Ward 2)

(Held for 60-day Trial on 9/30/10)

Trowbridge Avenue



Parking Restrictions



No Parking Any Time | **One Hour Limit, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Parking Data History

- Spring, 2010:
 - 1-Hour Limit, 8am-3pm, School Days.
 - Average Occupancy: 8 cars.
 - Fall, 2010:
 - 1-Hour Limit, 8am-10pm
 - Average Occupancy: 8 cars.
 - Fall, 2011:
 - 1-Hour Limit, 8am-10pm
 - Average Occupancy: 2 cars.
-

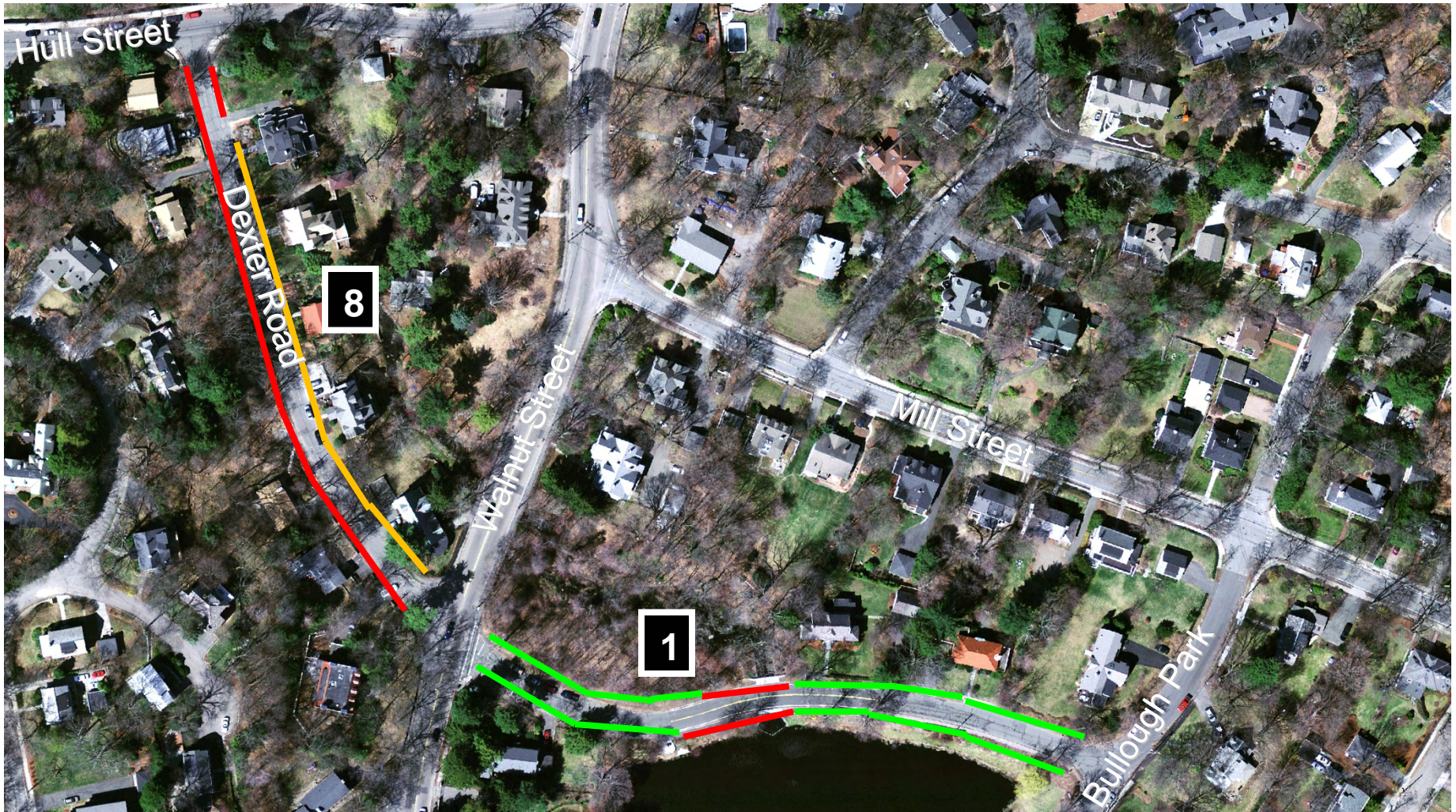
Criteria to be Considered by TC

- Vehicular circulation and safety;
 - Pedestrian safety;
 - Lack of convenient off-street parking for residents of the area of proposed restrictions;
 - Level of demand for on-street parking by nonresidents of the area of the proposed restriction, including analysis of probable displacement of nonresidential parking to adjacent residential areas if the proposed restrictions should be implemented; and
 - Extent to which existing and/or alternative parking regulations are ineffective to deal with parking problems in the area of the proposed restriction.
-

TC43-11

Requesting the implementation of Resident Permit Parking only on Dexter Road. (Ward 2)

Parking Restrictions & Average Occupancy



No Parking | **No Parking 8am-2pm, School Days** | **1-Hour Limit, 8am-3pm, School Days**

Notes

- TPR does not match posted regulations.
 - TPR language:
 - Prohibited, school days, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., both sides, from Walnut Street 190 feet easterly.
 - **Posted: 1 HR limit 8-3 school days**
 - Prohibited, school days, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., both sides, from Bullough Park 235 feet westerly.
 - **Posted: 1 HR limit 8-3 school days**
-

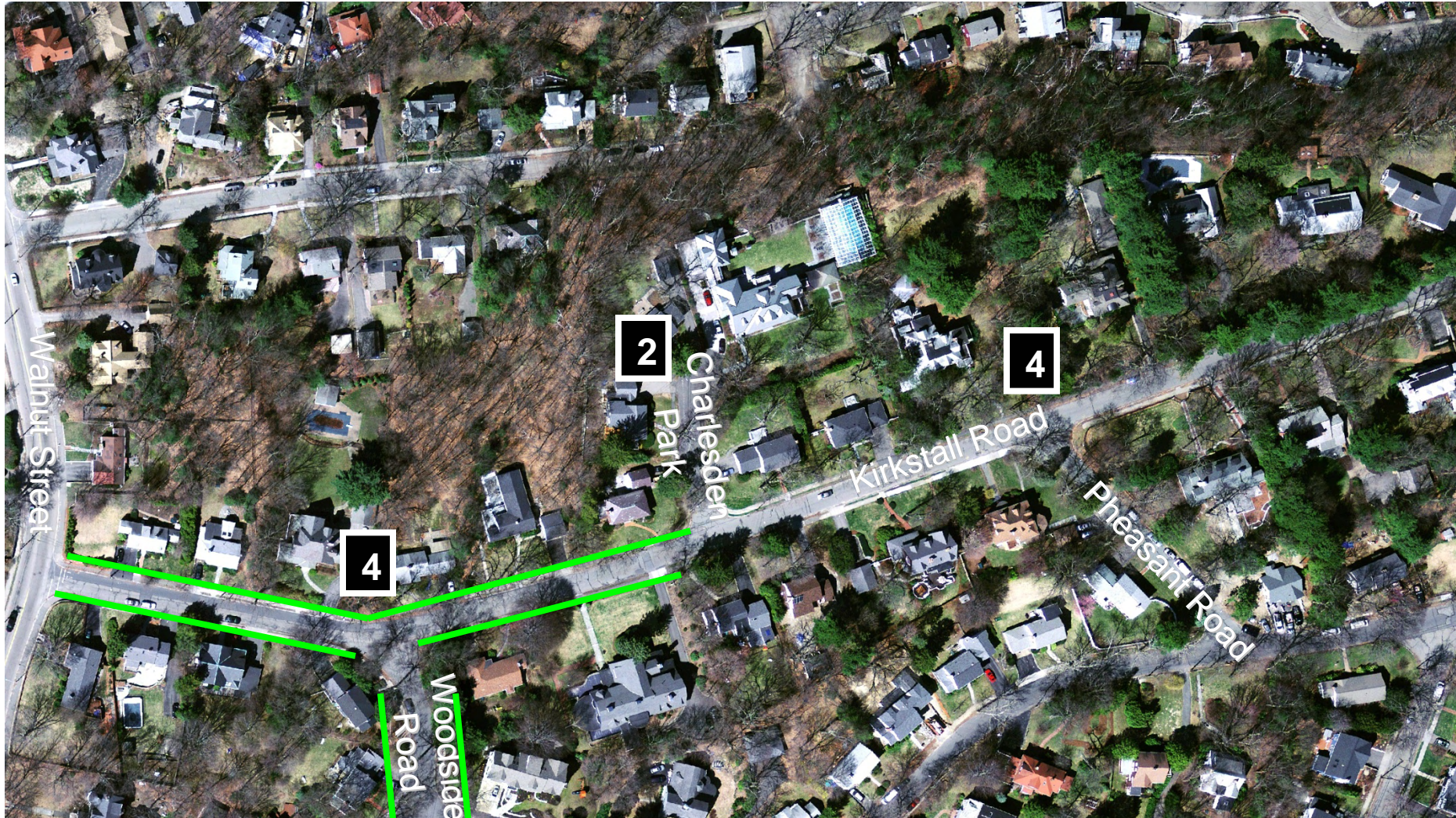
Criteria to be Considered by TC

- Vehicular circulation and safety;
 - Pedestrian safety;
 - Lack of convenient off-street parking for residents of the area of proposed restrictions;
 - Level of demand for on-street parking by nonresidents of the area of the proposed restriction, including analysis of probable displacement of nonresidential parking to adjacent residential areas if the proposed restrictions should be implemented; and
 - Extent to which existing and/or alternative parking regulations are ineffective to deal with parking problems in the area of the proposed restriction.
-

TC29-11

Requesting “No Parking from 8:00am to 10:00am on School Days” on Kirkstall Road and Charlesden Park. (Ward 2)

Parking Restrictions & Average Occupancy



1-Hour Limit, 8am-3pm. School Days

Notes

- Kirkstall Road:
 - 24' wide.
 - Charlesden Park:
 - 22' wide (before cul-de-sac).
 - No parking restrictions.
 - 9 NNHS permits currently assigned to Kirkstall; will be reassigned to Lowell Ave next month; no Tiger Permits assigned here
-

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Tiger Permits**
Date sent: **Thu, 13 Oct 2011 10:49:46**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **"Schwartz, Joel H.,M.D."**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **Tiger Permits**
Date sent: **Thu, 13 Oct 2011 10:13:02 -0400**

We live on the corner of Walnut and Prospect Avenues.
During most of the year, Tiger Permits would be fine on Prospect BUT
After a snow or ice storm, this road is treacherous, with a very steep grade.
Even with the road clear of parked cars, seasoned drivers can often not negotiate this street, crashing
into trees and the curb on either side.

I have had to assist multiple drivers each year.

I urge you to reconsider issuing permits for this street during the winter months or somehow banning the
use of such permits when the road is not likely to be able to be negotiated.

Sincerely,

Joel H. Schwartz
Karen Krag Fulwiler

587 Walnut Street

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but does not contain patient information, please contact the sender and properly
dispose of the e-mail.

-

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Message regarding Trowbridge Ave for Traffic Council**
Date sent: **Thu, 13 Oct 2011 09:26:36**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **"Reenie Murphy"**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **Message regarding Trowbridge Ave for Traffic Council**
Date sent: **Thu, 13 Oct 2011 07:09:04 -0400**

Hi David,

I am not able to attend the Traffic Council meeting tonight, but wanted to pass along some comments regarding the private end of Trowbridge Avenue.

While I am sympathetic to my neighbors on the public end of the street regarding high school related traffic and parking, I am also concerned that changes that may positively affect their end of the street (enforcing resident parking only) may unintentionally bring negative consequences to the private end of the street.

As you can see from the pictures attached, this end of Trowbridge has become a popular parking area for students each day. (For reference, these cars are parked in front of 47, 53 and 59 Trowbridge Ave.)

For the most part the kids are polite, mindful of leaving enough room for emergency vehicles, not leaving trash, and not smoking (I have spoken with just about all of them about this as they are now regular parkers). My goal is to have peaceful relations with the students who park here and so far, I have no complaints. That being said, I think this end of the street is maxed out on the number of cars it can handle on a daily basis. I respectfully ask the Council to consider this in your deliberations this evening.

Sincerely,

Reenie Murphy

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) TC52-11**
Date sent: **Wed, 12 Oct 2011 08:48:00**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **lisahaddad**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **TC52-11**
Date sent: **Tue, 11 Oct 2011 18:20:31 -0500 (CDT)**

My name is Lisa Haddad, and I reside at 71 Walden Street in Newton. I received the information regarding the upcoming Traffic Council meeting at which a proposal for a permanent TIGER Permit program will be discussed. As I will be unable to attend the meeting, I wanted to submit some comments for consideration by the Traffic Council. First, while I understand the need for some students to drive to school, I believe that every effort should be made by the City to accommodate the demand for student parking on the Newton North campus and otherwise in nearby commercial/non-residential areas.

Second, to the extent that a program is established by the City, the parking permits should be distributed in a manner so as not to inconvenience any single street or resident in an inequitable fashion. For instance, there were times during the construction period when two cars were given permits to park in front of my house while other parts of my street had no parked cars. Also, there should be a mechanism for residents to easily report any issues, such that the burden falls upon the City and/or Newton North (and not residents) to police compliance with the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Tiger Permit question (TC52-11 and TC51-11)**
Date sent: **Wed, 12 Oct 2011 08:51:49**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **epseaman**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **Tiger Permit question (TC52-11 and TC51-11)**
Date sent: **Tue, 11 Oct 2011 14:54:14 +0000 (UTC)**

Dear Traffic Council,

I am writing on behalf of St. John's Church, located at 297 Lowell Avenue (the corner of Otis and Lowell), with a question about the proposed Tiger Permit parking plan. As I understand it, the portions of Otis and Lowell that border the church would be posted with the same parking restrictions as present, but students would be issued permits that would allow them to park on the street and override the posted restriction. However, "the maximum number of permits issued to students per street cannot exceed the number of houses that have frontage along the TIGER permit designated side of the street."

Does this mean that just one student permit will be issued for the section of Lowell that borders the church, and one student permit for the section of Otis that borders the church?

As you may know, the church houses a preschool that is very active with drop-off and pick-up of children during the week days. We also have church office staff who park during the week days, and on Tuesday we operate a thrift shop that also has parking needs. For all these reasons, it would cause significant problems if student parking used up the frontage along Lowell and Otis. A total of two permits (one on Lowell, one on Otis) would be fine.

Thank you for any information you can provide. Please feel free to call me if that's easier - 617-251-5629.

Elizabeth Seaman
Senior Warden
St. John's Church, Newtonville

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
 Subject: **(Fwd) Fw: Questions/Concerns**
 Date sent: **Tue, 11 Oct 2011 09:02:43**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **"bob keighley"**
 To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
 Subject: **Fw: Questions/Concerns**
 Date sent: **Mon, 10 Oct 2011 13:52:22 -0400**

----- Original Message -----

From: [bob keighley](#)
To: [Bob Keighley](#)
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2011 1:48 PM
Subject: Questions/Concerns

Good Afternoon:

We do have questions and concerns regarding the traffic problem in our area and probably anywhere in the vicinity of the very expensive Newton North High School.

- . Don't ever remember these parking issues with the old high school.
- . It seems very strange to allocate public parking spots to the students.
- . After all of the unbelievable money spent on building this school, why wasn't student parking an important part of the plan. A garage if necessary. Why are we accommodating all of these student's cars when a bus service is offered to them? Just how much does the tax payer have to be responsible for, especially Senior Citizens?
- . There is not room for them to park on both sides of the street and allow the trash trucks to get by. The Police come knocking on our doors trying to identify the owners, who are always the students. These cars always block the trash bins and therefore they may not get emptied.
- . Anytime I have questioned the students as to why they are parking here they say that all of the parking at the school is for staff? Hard to believe!
- . It seems that the students have been discouraged from parking on Clyde St., but now have moved over to Gay St. and before you know it, they will be on Atwood Ave. which is filled with 3-family dwellings and one side parking. Can 't handle anything more.
- . What happens when winter comes and the plows can't plow or plow properly. We have enough trouble getting out of our driveways without this added interference.
- . We live on the corner of Gay and Atwood and already feel these issues affecting us. Please tell me there is an answer that we would all like to hear.

Many thanks for your time.

Eileen Keighley

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) lowell avenue/newton north parking issue**
Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 15:05:42**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: jaime.clarke
To: "Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>
Subject: lowell avenue/newton north parking issue
Date sent: Fri, 7 Oct 2011 12:54:26 -0600

dear danielle,

my wife and i live at the corner of lowell avenue and austen, but cannot attend the oct 13 meeting about NNHS parking along our street. hopefully this email can be read into the record.

the nexus of austen and lowell is a dangerous one owing to the blind rise of traffic coming up over the pike bridge from washington street. drivers see the crosswalk at the last minute, if at all, and there have been plenty of near misses. additionally, the city often doesn't plow the sidewalk on the small piece of property it owns adjacent to me, at 160 lowell avenue, forcing high school kids and other pedestrians out into the street. all of this makes it difficult for us to get in and out of our driveway, though that's a secondary concern to the safety nightmare of this street. cars parked along lowell will further complicate the situation. perhaps the number of passes can be limited further so that the parking doesn't extend all the way back to austen. or perhaps one of those lighted crosswalk arms that extend over the street can be erected. but something must be done or someone will soon be killed or injured.

best,
jaime clarke

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Tiger Permit Program**
Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 11:25:11**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **Andrew Dreyfus**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **Tiger Permit Program**
Date sent: **Fri, 7 Oct 2011 11:02:32 -0400**

I have four suggestions/concerns about the proposed Tiger Permit program:

1. I would request that the number of permits issued for Otis St. between Walnut St. and Lowell Ave. be sufficiently limited to allow at least half of the potential spaces to be used by residents. We only have tandem parking in our driveway and regularly need to park in the street, especially when cleaning the driveway of snow. Prior to construction when students parked freely here in the morning, it was often impossible to find a spot. Ensuring that the student parking is limited along the street also makes it easier to move traffic during winter storms when the street narrows and the school bus (which stops on Otis.) often has difficulty passing in the face of the high volume school drop off traffic. (Despite the newly constructed fence, parents still drop kids off on the street.)
2. Please issue resident parking stickers for residents so we are not ticketed in front of our own house and visiting parking permits to allow visitors, childcare workers and repair personnel to park on the street. (This only works if the first request is allowed).
3. Please coordinate the parking program with the Public Works department. Prior to construction when students freely parked on the street, the trash collectors would routinely miss our trash picks up (the old recyclable bins would be visually blocked by the cars). This becomes even more important with the new system which requires the trash truck with the arm to pull up at the curb. This problem could be solved by scheduling the trash pickup either before the students arrive or after they depart. The same would be true about street cleaning.
4. Please encourage the school to be vigilant about student loitering, smoking and drug use in the neighborhood. Before construction, we endured regular vandalism, daily trash, and regular drug use on the street. This dropped significantly during construction when teachers -- not students -- parked on the street. Despite periodic requests, the school has not been willing to "police" the broader campus that is the neighborhood. The police themselves will only respond in a serious situation and acknowledge there is very little they can do.

While accommodating student needs to drive to school, please respect resident needs as well.

Thank you

Andrew Dreyfus
62 Otis St.
Newtonville

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
 Subject: **(Fwd) RE: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues**
 Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 09:42:08**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **"Melissa Brokalakis"**
 To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
 Subject: **RE: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues**
 Date sent: **Wed, 5 Oct 2011 19:57:44 -0400**
 hi everyone,

David and Stephen, both, thank you for your responses and suggestions

I have included all the email history here, so we may have the entire correspondence flow for best understanding of how to proceed

I am additionally concerned, hearing that students will be given permits to park in the neighborhoods around the school, when currently, residents on the street nor their guests, can park in front of their own homes for more than one hour without being ticketed

this compounds an already difficult situation for the home owner

I am unable to attend the meeting on Oct. 13, as I will be out of town, but I am hopeful that Jackie, some other family members and neighbors will be able to attend

the need to organize neighbors and petition the Traffic Council puts an undue burden on the homeowner, in order to make common-sense use of the parking spaces in front of their home

if every street in the city has a different set of exceptions, etc. how is it possible for anyone to keep things straight ?

a series of exceptions also costs more time and money for the city

thank you for continuing the dialogue

sincerely,

melissa brokalakis

From Stephen Linsky - Wed 10/5/2011 8:07 AM

Melissa:

I would agree that a uniform system would certainly be easier (at least for me). And I would be supportive. However, if your question is whether Newton is poised to adopt a regulated, permitted system such as Brookline, Cambridge or Boston I would say the answer at this moment is most likely, no. If you and/or Jackie believe the restriction that had been adopted for Woodside is not working, you would need to talk with your neighbors and, if there is consensus for a change, petition the Traffic Council. The Traffic Council is attempting to take a comprehensive approach to Newton North-related parking management. And try as we might to encourage less driving, the parking ultimately needs to be managed in the best way possible. That is at the heart of the discussion scheduled for the 13th rather than a city-wide policy.

Stephen M. Linsky

Alderman, Ward 2
 City of Newton
 mail: 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459
 voice: 617.796.1701
 efax: 617.663.6650
 email: slinsky@newtonma.gov
 web: www.ci.newton.ma.us/Aldermen/pix/ward2.htm (city)

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From: David Koses [mailto:dkoses@newtonma.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 11:36 AM
To: Melissa Brokalakis
Cc: traffic Council Dist List
Subject: Re: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues
 Dear Melissa and Jackie,

Thank you for your email. You are correct that the next Traffic Council meeting has a very full agenda. The main item will be to consider a request by the school administration to try to accommodate a limited number of student permits on streets around the school in a way that minimizes impact to residents of streets around the school. Also on the agenda are requests for various types of restrictions that were filed by residents of various streets. Any street is always welcome to submit a petition for a change to the parking restrictions on their street.

I expect that we will hear various concerns and ideas from residents. It might make good sense to rationalize - or try to make more consistent -- the parking restrictions around the school. On the other hand, as you suggest, there are differences on various streets in terms of road widths, slopes, access, and proximity to the school, etc. I am certain that these are not the last parking-related change that will be considered for the streets around Newton North. Additional items will surely be docketed for discussion and action by Traffic Council and/or the Board of Aldermen.

Thank you,

David Koses
 Chair, Traffic Council

From: **"Melissa Brokalakis"**

To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
 Subject: **RE: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues**
 Date sent: **Wed, 5 Oct 2011 06:47:54 -0400**

hi stephen,

thanks for your thoughtful response

yes, I am sure the restrictions came out of the Newton North-related parking

but *it is important not to kill the patient with the cure*

there has to be a reasonable solution which also meets the needs of residents and their guests to park in front of their own homes

in looking at this agenda, it already seems so lengthy, that the more general topic I am concerned about will not be up for discussion

it appears that there are so many unique situations being addressed – each situation takes a lot of time – wouldn't it make sense to develop a uniform resident parking system which provides a standard, streamlined solution over the city as a whole?

when the Newton North-related restrictions were implemented on Woodside road, I don't think the impact on street residents were considered in a system thinking approach

how can we rectify this ?

we appreciate your guidance

thank you,
melissa & jackie

From: Stephen [mailto:smlinsky@rcn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 12:14 AM

To: 'Melissa Brokalakis'

Subject: RE: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues

Melissa:

Thank you for writing.

You, Jackie, and others are most certainly welcome to attend the Traffic Council meeting on the 13th. If you attend you will appreciate that restrictions are placed on streets upon the requests of residents. I am not aware as to what might have led to the restrictions you refer to, although I suspect it might concern relief from Newton North-related parking.

In the meantime, I've attached an agenda.

Stephen M. Linsky

Alderman, Ward 2

City of Newton

mail: 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459

voice: 617.796.1701

efax: 617.663.6650

email: slinsky@newtonma.gov

web: www.ci.newton.ma.us/Aldermen/pix/ward2.htm (city)

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From: Melissa Brokalakis

Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 7:08 AM

To: trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov; slinsky@newtonma.gov; mjohnson@newtonma.gov;

salbright@newtonma.gov

Cc: melissa.brokalakis,'Jackie Colby'

Subject: recent letter published in the newton TAB regarding parking issues

hi,

below find a letter which was published in last week's TAB – week ending Sept. 30, 2011

even though I live in Weston, and wrote the letter on behalf of my aunt, Jackie Colby who lives in Newton I have received phone calls at my home from other Newton residents on this subject

Jackie has also received a number of comments from acquaintances and friends

is this subject on the meeting agenda for October 13th ?

are there plans to provide a standardized resident parking system?

thank you,
melissa brokalakis

Letter to the Editor, Newton TAB
cc: Mayor Setti Warren's Office

September 5, 2011

I am writing on behalf of my 87 year old aunt Jackie Colby. Jackie has lived in Newtonville for more than 50 years, and is well known for her good works as the Director of the Newton Food Pantry and long time member of FUSN. Recently, Jackie received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Mayor's office in recognition of her many contributions. Jackie lives at the corner of Mill Street and Woodside Road, a lovely Newton neighborhood, which has fallen victim to a nonsensical parking regulation due to proximity to the new High School. Listen to the absurdity, and you will think you have fallen into the rabbit hole. There is a sign in front of Jackie's house on Woodside Road, limiting parking to 1 hour between 8am and 3pm on school days. Jackie has been ticketed for parking in front of her own house. Worse, one ticket apparently blew away, and Jackie paid a \$50 parking complaint due to penalties assessed by overdue notice mailed to her house. Jackie's housekeeper has been ticketed for parking in front of the house. Even members of Jackie's Bridge group have been ticketed while there to enjoy a social afternoon. Shouldn't residents be able to park in front of their own homes, without reprisal, and their guests also be able to park for a social event? When Jackie communicated her concerns to City Hall, a deaf ear was turned. In Cambridge and Boston, there is a system of resident parking stickers and guest permits which allow residents parking privileges. City of Newton, please provide for this necessary and appropriate service for residents in their neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Melissa Brokalakis
62 Montvale Rd.
Weston, MA. 02493

When responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most email is public record and therefore cannot be kept confidential.

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
 Subject: **(Fwd) Fw: Traffic Council/Tiger Permits**
 Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 09:45:40**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **"Paul Lipsitt"**
 To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
 Subject: **Fw: Traffic Council/Tiger Permits**
 Date sent: **Thu, 06 Oct 2011 21:57:34 -0400**

----- Original Message -----

From: [Paul Lipsitt](#)
To: [David Koses](#) ; trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2011 9:54 PM
Subject: Traffic Council/Tiger Permits

Dear David,

I am sorry that my husband and I have a conflict and will be unable to join you on the evening of October 13, but did want to share with you and other members of the Traffic Council (with whom I trust you will share these remarks) our thoughts about the possible decision to institute additional parking restrictions in the neighborhood of Newton North High School.

There are two facts which inform my opinion:

- 1) I served on the Board of Aldermen for twelve years during which period the Board had full control of parking restrictions, and,
- 2) My husband and I purchased a house in the first block of Kirkstall Road in 2008 with the clear understanding that the new high school building would be situated close to Walnut Street.

During my tenure on the Board of Aldermen, most of which I spent sitting on the Public Safety and Transportation Committee which, at that time, had full control of parking restrictions, I took the position that the streets belong the citizens of Newton and those who drive on our roads, and not to abutters. Consistent with that position, I regularly opposed parking restrictions, especially resident permit parking restrictions, except in circumstances where on-street parking meant that residents would have no opportunity to park (rare in this neighborhood, where virtually every home has a driveway and/or garage in which to park a car) or where there was a continuing public safety problem. I continue to hold that position now that it is our own property which is subject to the possible impact of non-resident parking.

Last winter, in the face of heavy and continuing snow accumulation, Charlesden Park, which provides access to my own driveway and the driveways and/or front doors of four other residences, was partially blocked for more than two weeks by a combination of plowed snowbanks and student parkers. The Police Department, with the intercession of our ward alderman Steve Linsky, imposed temporary parking restrictions to allow trash collection. This seems to me the appropriate tool to control parking, rather than a general restriction to be imposed "just in case of a problem."

We purchased a house near the village center, near public transportation. near the high school, with the clear understanding that our proximity would mean some sacrifices in terms of sharing our street frontage with others, and we are prepared to continue to do so. We also recognize that new parking facilities located at Lowell Street have not yet been evaluated for their effectiveness in reducing parking demand. We urge the Traffic Council to move slowly and to impose the fewest possible parking restrictions, recognizing that it is more difficult to remove such restrictions than to impose them.

Thank you for consideration.

Very truly yours,
 Brooke K. Lipsitt
 54 Kirkstall Road

October 6, 2011

Public comment by David Belsley, 33 Bolton Road, Newton, MA 02460 relative to the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Traffic Council, Thursday, October 13, 2011.

I was literally sick at heart when I read that it was being recommended in item TC51-11 that high-school related parking be continued on the small side streets neighboring the high school. This is neither fair nor right. It is not fair because it imposes a de-facto permanent tax on the neighbors of the high school that is not shared equitably by the rest of the community, and it is not right because we were told during the the neighborhood meetings prior to the start of the high-school project by the then Mayor Cohen that the on-street parking would be temporary during the construction period and would end when the high school was completed. I grant that Mayor Cohen is no longer Mayor, but that should not be of consequence in a matter such as this.

I can tell you as a personal matter that the high-school parking on my street (Bolton Road) has significantly lowered the quality of life for me, my family, and my neighbors. This has happened for a number of obvious reasons. Having numerous cars in front of one's house on a small street is a daily imposition and an actual hindrance to traffic. It makes it difficult to impossible simply to park your own car in front of your own house or to provide convenient parking for visitors and guests. It blocks or hinders trash collection, street sweeping, and snow removal. And it often necessitates considerable personal effort, sometimes repeatedly, to have inappropriate and unauthorized parking dealt with.

We were told that the parking would be carefully controlled, but the police, while sometimes wonderfully responsive, have been extremely uneven in dealing with unauthorized parking. It often requires calling traffic control to get officers to ticket inappropriate parkers, and their response is often too late. On several occasions, the students have counterfeited parking stickers and the police have literally refused to corroborate the legitimate from the illegitimate, leaving it to the residents to call the parking director at the high school to deal, not always promptly or happily, with the matter.

On top of all this, the presence of the high-school parking apparently entails the need for the city to plow the sidewalks after snow storms, presumably as a safety matter. To do this, a track-propelled sidewalk plow is employed. This machine, ironically, makes matters worse. Rather than removing the snow, the tracks of this machine compress the snow into immovable rutted ice that allows neither safe walking nor a proper removal of the snow with a snow blower: the sidewalk remains impassible till the next thaw, and the parkers, rather than using the sidewalk, walk in the street. Further, it damages hedges and the sidewalk itself. I called the person at City Hall responsible for this activity, but was told that, despite the fact that it made the sidewalks unsafe, despite the fact that it made it impossible to properly clear the sidewalks to make them safe, despite the fact that it damaged the sidewalks and neighboring foliage, it was required by law to continue this mayhem and ineffectiveness. I implore that, under no circumstances, should use of these sidewalk plows be allowed to continue.

So, please. Enough. We, the neighbors of Newton North High School have endured a significant degree of unpleasantness now for several years. We have done this with a certain degree of willingness because we knew it was of value during the construction of the new high school. But it has been bearable only because we were led to believe that it would end when the high school was completed. Even if the authorized parking is significantly less than we have had to deal with during the construction period, we have paid our dues. It is inconceivable that we should be asked to continue to do so separately from the rest of the Newton community.

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Traffic Council Agenda item TC52-11 (Tiger permits)**
Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 09:38:30**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **Roger Lipsett**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: **Traffic Council Agenda item TC52-11 (Tiger permits)**
Date sent: **Wed, 5 Oct 2011 15:03:48 -0400**

Sirs/Madams:

I recently received a notification that this item would be considered at your October 13 meeting. I will not be able to attend that meeting but do have some comments that I would like considered.

I support the establishment of the Tiger permit system (with the stipulations in the paperwork, particularly regarding the volume of permits). However, as part of establishing that system, I would also like to see established a system whereby those of us who actually live on Beaumont Avenue (one of the affected streets) can park on our own street independent of signed parking restrictions.

A year or so ago, this issue was considered by the Traffic Council, and the existing one-hour parking restriction was modified to state no parking 8-10AM during school days. However, my wife and I both work from home (as, I suspect, do others on the street). Thus having the 8-10 parking restriction effectively means that we cannot leave our cars on the street overnight on school nights.

I fail to understand how it is reasonable that first NNHS teachers (during construction) and now NNHS students should be issued permits allowing them to park on the street during that 8-10 time frame when we, the residents who actually pay taxes to keep up our street (among others) cannot. In the past, the city's response has been that it was a burden to administer a parking permit system. Clearly that burden cannot be too great, as such a system is being implemented for NNHS students.

Presumably the intention of the parking restrictions on Beaumont is to prevent people at the high school from parking their cars on Beaumont and simply leaving them there all day. I support that goal. But it makes no sense, in light of that goal, to include residents in the group being banned from parking.

Thus I support the establishment of this new program, but only if residents of our street are included as exempt from the signed regulations. How the city implements that exemption is clearly your decision.

Roger Lipsett
93 Beaumont Ave
Newton MA 02460

Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) Street Parking Near High School**
Date sent: **Fri, 07 Oct 2011 09:34:59**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: **Andree Haas & Marty Silverstein**
To: **"Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>**
Subject: Street Parking Near High School
Date sent: **Sun, 2 Oct 2011 15:54:17 -0400**

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in regard to the recent notification we received regarding TIGER parking permits near the new Newton North High School. We live at 61 Prospect Avenue and are VERY disturbed by this request and notification. We ask that this request be denied, and if not, then we would like to request a special exemption for parking near our home as we saw other residents in similar situations on different streets have asked for.

When we purchased our home many years ago, there was clear signage that parking was not permitted during school hours (the signage is still present). We recognized the unique situation during the construction of the new High School and therefore understood the need for temporary permits during the construction period. However, there was NEVER any communication that the building of the new high school would change the parking requirements on the streets once construction was complete. It is very inappropriate to, after the fact, communicate to the local neighborhood that the new facility would require street parking for students after the construction was done.

We are not very active in local politics, but this seems like a situation that we need to raise with our local Alderman, if not the Mayor himself. It would be very helpful if you could share with us who our local alderman is. We will call the Mayor's office directly to communicate our concerns.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter, and willingness to communicate it to the appropriate city officials.

Regards,

Martin B. Silverstein and Andree A. Haas
61 Prospect Avenue
Newton, MA 02460

Mr. David Koses
Chair, Traffic Council
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

October 2, 2011

Dear Mr. Koses:

I am writing about the upcoming Traffic Council meeting on October 13th. I would be very interested in attending the meeting to discuss Tiger Permits. However, it is the Jewish holiday of Succot and, therefore, I am unable to attend. I certainly understand the need and purpose of the student Tiger Permits and applaud the Traffic Council for taking up this issue in an attempt to help the students, the school and the adjacent community. I am concerned about one issue that deals specifically with my street, Prospect Avenue.

Prospect Avenue is a steep roadway, with a greater than 13% grade. It is 25 feet wide and is also a bus route for the Newton School System. For much of the school year, the Tiger Permits could work on Prospect Avenue, albeit with difficulty (it is difficult for residents to get in and out of driveways on this steep roadway when cars are parked immediately across the street). However, the issue is during winter snowy weather. During the winter snowy months, this roadway is treacherous and is very difficult to maneuver. If cars are parked along the street, snow plows cannot do their job and school buses have a very difficult time. Last year, I wrote a letter regarding this issue, when the travel way was effectively narrowed to 14 feet and two vehicles could not pass each other (and that was with no cars parked on the street).

I understand the need to provide student parking but I respectfully request you provide these spaces in a safe manner. If the parking permit is valid for the entire school year, I ask you to reconsider inclusion of Prospect Avenue in the program or to consider alternative parking during the winter months.

Thank you,

Bonnie Pomper
5 Prospect Avenue
Newton, MA 02460

TC52-11

TC51-11

TRAFFIC COUNCIL
CITY OF NEWTON
1000 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
NEWTON, MA 02459

DATE: 10/13/11

SIGN IN SHEET

	<u>NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>
1.	John M. Dwyer	50 Bedford Ave
2.	John Manning	59 Kirkstall
3.	Jane Dix	16 Charlesden PK
4.	Richard McLoughlin	60 Clyde St.
5.	VASBARI VASBARI	12 Westchmere
6.	Linda Wolyniec	567 Walnut at Dexter
7.	BARBARA MOORE	7 DEXTER RD.
8.	MARIE KAVEN	553 WACAW
9.	ARIEH DON	45 DEXTER RD
10.	Beverly Spence	44 Hull at (Dexter Rd)
11.	KIM MANN	12 ORCHARD
12.	Holly Lee	26 Dexter Rd
13.	NICHOLAS MORROW	36 FAIRFIELD
14.	John Peters	25 Kimball Ter
15.	Andrea Stoenstrup	21 Kimball Ter
16.	Ralph Stanley	11 Kimball Terr
17.	Elaine Whitende	64 Kirkstall
18.	Paul Arnold	331 Lowell
19.	Vicky Green	23 OHS St.
20.	Mary Silvani	61 Prospect Avenue
	Ofra Segal	23 Trowbridge

TC 52-11
TC 51-11

TRAFFIC COUNCIL
CITY OF NEWTON
1000 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
NEWTON, MA 02459

DATE: 10/13/11

SIGN IN SHEET

	<u>NAME: (PLEASE PRINT)</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>
1.	Jacqueline JACQUELINE COLBY	WOODSIDE Rd / Mill St.
2.	THOMAS FRANK	480 WALNUT ST
3.	WILLIAM FRANKLIN	29 TROWBRIDGE AVE
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Danielle Delaney

To: **ddelaney@newtonma.gov**
Subject: **(Fwd) October 13th Hearing**
Date sent: **Tue, 11 Oct 2011 09:05:00**

----- Forwarded message follows -----

From: [Robin Stein](#)
To: ["Traffic Council Dist List" <trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov>](#)
Subject: October 13th Hearing
Date sent: [Mon, 10 Oct 2011 19:36:52 -0400](#)

To the Traffic Council,

I am one of the residents who filed the Kirkstall Road and Charlesden Park petition regarding parking. I will be out of town on October 13th when the matter is taken up by the Council. However, many other residents will be in attendance to support our petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Stein