

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

Present: David Koses (Chairman) Nina Wang (Assistant Traffic Engineer) Ald. Danberg, Sgt. Norcross (Police) Jerome Grafe, Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Also Present: Ald. Parker

#TC 11-09 ALD. SALVUCCI requesting two (2) handicap spaces on the west side of ARMORY STREET. (Ward 3)

ACTION: **APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-0 (Danberg not voting)**

NOTE: Ms. Wang noted in that three handicap parking spaces, currently marked on the west side of Armory Street would be appropriate. The marked handicap parking space located on the east side of Armory Street would be removed to avoid to the potential for cars to park across one another on Armory Street. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

#TC9-09 TAMAKO HARRINGTON, 108 Ward Street, Chestnut Hill requesting parking restrictions on WARD STREET between Garrison St and Manet Rd. (Ward 7)

ACTION: **HELD 3-2 (Norcross, Wang)** for a 60-day trial of no parking, north side of Ward Street between Garrison Street and Manet Road, Monday through Friday 8-10am and 2 to 4 pm.

NOTE: The petitioner Ms. Harrington was present. She explained there were no sidewalks in this area. Currently there is one-hour restricted parking on the south side of the street and unrestricted parking on the north side of the street. Cars from the Boston College community fill the north side of the street. Ms. Harrington is aware that the street is a public way, and is not asking that all parking be banned; she feels that parking should be allowed with some reasonable restrictions.

Ms. Wang gave a PowerPoint presentation. This block of Ward Street is one-way in the eastbound direction, with a speed limit of 25 mph and a width of 24 feet. During several site visits, Ms. Wang observed parking on the north side and no parking on the south side. As Ward Street is a one-way street, her recommendation was to maintain the existing parking conditions.

Neighbors who were present noted that because there are no sidewalks, children must walk in the street. Mr. Harrington felt that fire apparatus and trash collection have a problem traversing this street.

Sgt. Norcross did not feel that parking restrictions would solve the problem of the residents.

David Koses suggested a long-term possibility of constructing sidewalks and possibly parking meters. Jerome Grafe had concerns that the street had no sidewalks, and felt pedestrian access should be considered. Mr. Koses suggested a trial for some type of parking restriction on the north side of the street.

Nina Wang suggested a no-parking zone on a section of the north side of Ward Street opposite the driveway of 108 Ward Street.

Ald. Danberg moved a 60 day trial of no parking, north side of Ward Street between Garrison Street and Manet Road, Monday through Friday 8-10am and 2 to 4 pm. The Committee voted in favor of the trial.

TC1-09 ALEXANDER MATHEWS, 42 Chesley Road, Newton 02459 requesting traffic calming and reduction of speed limit on Chesley ROAD. (Ward 6)

ACTION: **DENIED 4-1 (Danberg)**

NOTE: A number of neighborhood residents spoke in favor of trying to make the area safer. Mr. Mathews, the petitioner, explained that Chesley Road was unsafe because of speeding. In his opinion, a mid-block crosswalk would be safer for area children walking to school.

Nina Wang said that a traffic count was done in the area where Mr. Mathews proposed a crosswalk. There have been no accidents over the past three years. The 85th percentile speed, in both directions, is 30 mph. The southbound volume is 130 vehicles and the northbound volume is 270 vehicles. In general Chesley Road experiences light traffic volume (400 cars per average day).

Ald. Parker suggested a crosswalk, along with signage in both directions. Ms. Wang would not recommend a crosswalk because of restricted site lines, and would not recommend a speed limit change.

Mr. Koses explained that Traffic Council does not approve crosswalks, which is completely in the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Public Works. There was a motion by David Koses to deny the request. The Committee voted 4-1 (Danberg) to deny the request.

TC65-08 JOHN SISSON, 45 Greenlawn Avenue requesting recommendations for traffic calming measures to address speeding on Greenlawn Avenue. (Ward 6)

ACTION: **NAN 4-1 (Koses)**

NOTE: The petitioner Mr. Sisson was present and said that the intersection of Greenlawn and Brentwood is wide open and is a cut-through. He is looking for some type of calming measures to address speeding on Greenlawn Avenue.

Ms. Wang made nine field observations and noted that there have been no accidents in this area. Multi-stop sign warrants were evaluated and found that the location does not meet the warrants. Traffic counts were done during the week of March 13th and found that the 85th percentile speed in both directions was 31 mph. The southbound volume is 140 vehicles; the northbound volume is 150 vehicles. This street is somewhat unique as it is already posted as 25 mph (most similar streets in Newton are 30 mph). Ms. Wang did not recommend traffic calming measures, but did recommend moving the location of the posted speed sign to the beginning of the street.

Sgt. Norcross made a motion to vote no action necessary. Mr. Koses noted that while a vote of “No Action Necessary” cannot be appealed, a vote of “Denial” can be appealed to the Board of Aldermen. The Committee voted 4-1 for NAN.

TC67-08 STANLEY WEISMAN, 120 Harwich Road, Newton 02467 requesting a speed reduction on HARWICH ROAD. (Ward 8)

ACTION: **DENIED 5-0**

NOTE: Ms. Wang said her study showed no accidents in the past three years. Traffic counts were conducted during the week of March 13, 2009. The 85th percentile speed was 21 mph northbound and 27 mph southbound. The volume was 100 vehicles southbound and 115 vehicles northbound. This street dead-ends in both directions, and carries only local traffic. During five field observations it was noted that there were only 1-3 cars parked on the street. The street width is 26 ft and Ms. Wang recommended no changes on the existing traffic controls.

All Harwich Road residents were notified of the meeting, but neither the petitioner nor any residents were in attendance. Two letters were received in support of this petition.

Ald. Danberg felt this item could be handled better by a neighborhood meeting and voted to deny. The Committee voted 5-0 to deny.

TC2-09 FRED MARGOLIS, 50 Countryside Road requesting Stop Sign at Mosley Road at Countryside Road. (Ward 8)

ACTION: **DENIED 5-0**

NOTE: Mr. Margolis was not in attendance. Ms. Wang stated there have been no accidents at this location over the past three years. Site lines are adequate at this location and traffic volume is extremely light. The right-of-way is clearly defined

by the T-intersection. Ms. Wang's recommendation was not to add stop signs at the intersection. Two neighbors present were not in favor of the petition filed by Mr. Margolis.

The Committee voted to deny this item 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Chairman