

**CITY OF NEWTON**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2009**

Present: David Koses, Chairman, Ald. Danberg, Nina Nang (Assistant Traffic Engineer) and Sgt. James Norcross (Newton Police Department)

Absent: Jerome Grafe

Also Present: Ald. Mansfield and Sangiolo

City Staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), Fran Towle (Commissioner Parks & Recreation Department), Ben Solomon-Schwartz, Planning Department

TC 19-09      ALD. DANBERG, MANSFIELD, PARKER requesting consideration of a trial of replacing two parking spaces in front of JP Licks in Newton Centre with outdoor seating during the summer months. (Ward 6)

**ACTION: Amend docket item to permit seating in the “Triangle Lot” by bagging meters there instead of on Langley Road 4-0 (Grafe not voting, Wang voting for DPW). Hold 4-0. Grafe not voting, Wang voting for DPW). Hold for 60-day trial, which will allow DPW to bag four parking meters (L51-L54), to create an area for public seating and bicycle parking. The trial may begin as early as July 1, 2009.**

**NOTE:** Ald. Danberg stated that she docketed this item to bring more activity to Newton Centre and to have places where people can sit, have a cup of coffee or ice cream and enjoy themselves. Ward 6 Aldermen, traffic professionals, DPW and the police have looked at the spots and realized that a trial in the triangle lot would be safer. Ald. Danberg noted that a private donor would provide funding for the picnic tables.

David Koses proposed amending the original docket item to permit seating in the triangle lot by bagging meters in the lot instead of on Langley Road. The Committee voted 4-0 in favor to consider bagging meters in the triangle lot.

Chairman Koses opened the discussion to members of the public who were present.

*Public comment:*

Sean Roche spoke in favor and suggested bike racks in all village centers. Pictures were taken showing bicycles parked on the sidewalk, which demonstrated a need for bike racks.

Kay Alexander would like to see more of a seating area along Langley Road and was not in agreement with using jersey barriers.

David Koses said that he was interested in the opinions related to bagging four meters in the triangle lot, putting in picnic tables, possibly installing a bike rack, or leaving a space available for bicycle parking and putting planters in for a summer trial.

Nina Wang expressed concern regarding pedestrians crossing Langley or Beacon and how that area would be maintained. She also stated that if a section of the triangle lot were to be barricaded, it may be difficult to keep clean as the sweeper could not be used. Trash was cited as another concern.

Sgt. Norcross noted that there is a city ordinance that states if you are within 300 ft. of a crosswalk that is controlled by a light, it must be used. An additional crosswalk would probably not be a possibility.

Ald. Danberg liked the idea of closing one entire side of Langley Road for July and August, which could be done with flowerpots. If the whole street were to be bagged, Ald. Danberg wondered who would pick up the tab for lost meter revenue. She said she was in favor of doing a trial for the four meters. Chairman Koses said a quick calculation of lost revenue would be, at most, \$1,000 for a trial which would bag four meters over the summer.

Ald. Mansfield was in agreement with Ms. Wang regarding keeping this area clean. Ald. Mansfield asked who would evaluate this trial. Chairman Koses noted that, if approved as a trial, the item would return to Traffic Council for evaluation and further discussion.

Ald. Danberg moved giving the authority to DPW to bag four meters (L51-L54) for a trial period beginning as early as July 1. The vote was 4-0.

TC 21-09      ALD. GENTILE, HARNEY AND SANGIOLO requesting a review of parking, vehicular flow, and pedestrian access to Lyons Field along Commonwealth Avenue, and associated changes to improve existing conditions.

**ACTION: Approve (4-0 Grafe not voting, Schuckel voting for DPW). Create a one-way traffic flow in the eastbound direction on a section of the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway between Islington Road and the section of the carriageway opposite Ash Street. Install a stop sign at the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway, in the eastbound direction, at the carriageway opposite Ash Street. Supported removal of the barricade, associated signage, and the creation of a “No Parking” area on the east side of Islington Road, beginning at the intersection of the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway and extending to a point up to 75’ north (can be done administratively).**

**NOTE:** Ald. Sangiolo said that parking is a problem, with people are parking too close to corners. Cars travel through the area too quickly.

A resident of Islington Road felt there should be a meeting with Islington Street residents. Marie Abernathy has lived on Islington Road for 44 years and noted that there have been public meetings in the past. Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, joined the Committee for discussion on this item and presented Committee members and the public with a memo.

Clint Schuckel said that the maximum parking demand associated with three games/practices occurring simultaneously at Lyons Field is between 60 and 70 cars. Approximately half of

these cars park in the median and along the Commonwealth Ave. carriageway east of the Ash Street traffic signal and half park in areas west of the signal, adjacent to the field.

Night lighting was approved for Lyons Field by the Parks and Recreation Commission and are is currently under construction. The parking demand associated with an additional nighttime game is expected to be 25 to 30 cars. During the day, 8 to 10 parked cars have been observed. A primary issue of concern relative to the nighttime lighting of Lyons Field would be overlapping games, and the associated increased parking demand. It appears that the Little League would be amenable to scheduling changes so to avoid that overlap.

The Little League President noted that two games have been moved from these fields to have less traffic pulling in and out of the Carriageway. He said that they were in favor of a “one way” street with some stipulations. Since it is used at night, the Little League would like to have speed bumps installed. Ald. Danberg explained that City Ordinance allows speed bumps on two streets in Newton (Clark and Tyler Terrace) and currently prohibits the installation of speed bumps on any other Newton street.

Sgt. Norcross questioned how it would be defined that cars could not continue westbound on the Carriageway west of the Ash Street signal. Mr. Schuckel said that “Do Not Enter” signs would be posted at the end of the eastbound section.

Ald. Sangiolo felt that there may be a need for a crosswalk. Ald. Danberg questioned if this is a location for a possible raised crosswalk. In response, Chairman Koses said that, compared to other locations in Newton, this area would not score very well in terms of the traffic calming scoring system. There is no school nearby, few or no crashes, no significant speeding problem, and a comparably low pedestrian volume. Sgt. Norcross also said that he could not support a raised crosswalk at this location.

Mr. Schuckel said that the current volume of parked cars is only 30 to 40 cars. He further noted that there is the possibility of increasing the number of legally parked vehicles without expanding pavement by creating diagonal parking on the north side and eliminating parking on the south side of this section of the Carriageway.

Mr. Schuckel noted that it would be beneficial to install a stop sign in the vicinity of the gate, which will be removed to create a one-way traffic flow.

There was a motion to change the TPR so to create an eastbound traffic flow on the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway between Islington and the portion of the Carriageway opposite the Ash Street traffic signal, install a stop sign at the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway in the eastbound direction, and associated signage. “No Parking” signage would be installed administratively, on the east side of Islington Road, from the intersection of the Carriageway to a point up to 75 ft north. The vote was approved 4-0-.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Koses, Chairman