

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Present: Jim Danila (Transportation Engineer), Danielle Delaney (Clerk), Jerome Grafe (Resident member), David Koses (Transportation Planner), Jim Norcross (Police) and Greer Tan Swiston (Alderman). Also present: Ald. Ciccone, Gentile, Harney, Lennon, and Sangiolo.

TC15-09      ERNEST ZUPANCIK, 37 Cheswick Road, Auburndale requesting resident sticker parking on Cheswick Road, Auburndale. (Ward 4)

**ACTION:**      **Denial (3-2, Grafe, Swiston). This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.**

**NOTE:**      Mr. Zupancik said that Cheswick Road residents have had many parking problems. Students and visitors park on the street for long periods of time, and residents feel that resident permit parking would solve the problem. Neighbors also noted that there are serious problems during snow season. Tom Koerber, representing Lasell College, noted that resident parking would make it difficult for visitors to the college.

Sgt. Norcross said that one of the issues looked at before resident permit parking is approved is whether other restriction put in place have been judged to have not worked, and he was not sure that this has been demonstrated. He said that he would be reluctant to support resident permit parking. Since the first of the year, sixty-seven tickets have been issued on Cheswick Road. He stated that streets are for public use and only if a public safety issue were present would he feel that resident permit parking would be necessary.

Mr. Koses said that residents of Windermere Road, located one street to the east of Cheswick Road, asked last year for resident permit parking and then, before it was discussed at Traffic Council, rescinded the request. Residents of Windermere Road stated that Lasell College worked with residents of the street and that the parking situation there had improved.

Jim Danila's noted that the street is 24 feet wide. The west side has no parking 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. all days; plus a 1-hour parking limit 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on weekends and holidays. There is no parking 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. all days on the east side. During 14 site visits, which including weekends, an average of one car was observed (5% of parking capacity on the street). There were never more than 3 cars observed during the 14 site visits. Mr. Danila said there does not seem to be a safety issue or a huge demand for on-street parking based on current restrictions and was against resident permit parking.

Some neighbors indicated that students have visitors that park on Cheswick Road all weekend. However, Traffic Council members indicated that City Ordinance states that resident parking shall not be in effect: "*...on legal holidays, on Sundays from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturdays or on religious holidays on streets abutting any house of worship during hours of religious*

*services at such house of worship, or during municipal or Newton Public Schools or Newton Community Schools events or functions in areas affected by said events or functions."* As City Ordinance seems to allow parking on resident-restricted streets on Saturdays, Mr. Danila indicated that even if excess parking were to have been observed on weekends, a resident permit program would not solve the problem.

Mr. Koses noted that the ordinance does not seem to allow for Lasell College to be granted resident or visitor permits. The ordinance also does not seem to allow Traffic Council to consider the inconvenience caused by very restrictive parking regulations as a factor when approving or denying a request for resident permit parking.

There was a motion to deny the request (3-2, Grafe, Swiston). This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.

TC31-09      MARTIN CHARNS requesting resident parking stickers on Brae Burn Road.  
(Ward 4)

**ACTION:    Approve as Amended (5-0). Parking prohibited on Brae Burn Road, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, both sides, entire length. This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.**

**NOTE:**      Martin Charns was present and told the Committee that a number of years ago a parking ordinance was put into place to restrict commuter parking on weekdays on Brae Burn Road from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Cars rarely park on the street. The residents are asking for an exemption from the 8 to 10 am parking restriction so to allow them to park in front of their own homes, and so that visitors could park there as well. The request is for residents to be exempted from the 8 to 10 am parking ban.

Mr. Danila said that Brae Burn Road is 24 ft. wide and parking is allowed on both sides. Arapahoe Road had the same issue and the TPR was changed to a 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. parking prohibition, which seemed to be positive. Several site visits were made and excess parking was never observed.

A resident of 35 Brae Burn Road said it was a problem for him as he works out of his home and cannot park on the street in the morning.

David Koses said it was important for commuters to have places to park, and favors allowing some commuter parking on streets, not a continuous street-by-street prohibition of commuter parking.

Sgt. Norcross said that 26 parking tickets were issued on Brae Burn Road during 2009. He explained that there is a special permit for workers coming to work on residences, at a cost of \$10.00 for a thirty-day period. Parking does not appear to be problematic on this street and he would not support resident sticker parking on this street.

Jerome Grafe favored the least restrictive approach, which might be the same restriction as was approved for Arapahoe Road, which could be a partial benefit.

A motion was made by Jerome Grafe for parking prohibited on Brae Burn Road, 9:00 a.m. to

10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, both sides, entire length. The vote was 5-0.

TC4-09 ALD. LENNON on behalf of Patricia Walsh Greene, 39 Jefferson Street and other residents of Nonantum Place requesting parking restrictions on Nonantum Place to discourage commuter parking, (Ward 1)  
HELD 5-0 on 09/24/09

**ACTION: Approve (5-0). Resident restricted areas, Nonantum Place, (1) east side, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., from Jefferson Street southerly 142 feet. (2) east side, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from a point 292 feet south of Jefferson Street to Charlesbank Road. This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.**

NOTE: See TC35-09.

TC35 -09 ALD. CICCONE AND LENNON on behalf of Steven Groleau, 45 Jefferson Street, Newton requesting a thorough discussion regarding parking restrictions and potential one-way traffic flow for Jefferson Street, Newton Corner. (Ward 1)

**ACTION: Hold (5-0). Establish a 60-day trial. Tow zones to be installed at the judgment of the Engineering Division, to allow access in and out of residents' driveways. This item will be scheduled for Traffic Council's January 2010 meeting.**

NOTE: TC4-09 and TC35-09 were discussed together. Ald. Lennon said that he would like to encourage the Council to move forward with resident parking on Jefferson Street. He said that a new business on Jefferson Street appears willing to support whatever the neighbors would like to put in place. Ald. Ciccone felt strongly that the neighbors did need relief.

Jim Danila addressed the Committee and said that Nonantum Place is 20 feet wide with parking allowed on the west side. According to the TPR-85 in the City Ordinance, Jefferson Street is a one-way street from Centre Street to Williams Street. In practice, the driveway leading to and from the office building at 235-241 Washington Street creates a two-way road between Centre Street and the office driveway. Jefferson Street residents living between Centre Street and Nonantum Place use the street as a two-way street, although technically it is a one-way street. There did not seem to be much interest among residents regarding one-way or two-way modifications to the TPR or signage on Jefferson Street. Residents indicated that the current signage works, and residents were much more focused on parking on the street.

Residents of 26 Nonantum Place said that the 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. parking restriction has been very positive. One resident suggested creating a small one-hour parking zone to allow access to the park. Sgt. Norcross said that it appears that 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. restriction has helped. Mr. Danila and Mr. Koses noted that they visited Nonantum Place 25 times over the trial period, and the maximum number of cars ever observed was seven (there are a total of 13 parking spaces available on Nonantum Place). Mr. Koses noted that the trial seems to have achieved the desired result, which is to create some parking on the street, to provides spaces to residents of the street, to allow access most of the day to the park, and to relocate commuters to park at the adjacent metered spaces or elsewhere.

Ms. Green, 39 Jefferson Street, said the trial has worked on her end of the street. She noted that she often has trouble entering and exiting her driveway.

A resident of 31 Jefferson Street (north and west of Nonantum Place) indicated that he does not have the same problems as the neighbors and would favor the least restrictive relief. All residents indicated that they would like to see the new business on the corner prosper

Mr. Danila said speed data was not taken for Jefferson Street but wanted residents to know that if no or few cars were to park on Jefferson Street, speeds would tend to increase.

Mr. Grafe added that if Jefferson Street remained one-way, speed would tend to be fast. He noted that he was in favor a two-way direction to make use of the Centre Street light and as a means to slow traffic.

Mr. Danila said that "no parking 5-feet of driveway" signs could be helpful. Ald. Swiston asked if there could be a trial at this location. Mr. Koses suggested a trial on Jefferson Street to create no parking zones per the judgment of the Traffic Engineer, to allow access in and out of driveways.

There was a motion to hold and establish a 60-day trial. Tow zones to be installed at the judgment of the Engineering Division to allow access in and out of residents' driveways. This item will be scheduled for Traffic Council's January 2010 meeting. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

TC26-09      FAIRLANE CHAPEL, LLC, 15 Broad Street, Boston, MA (owner of 59-83 Chapel Street, Newton) requesting 2-hour parking in front of 59-83 Chapel Street where 1-hour parking currently exists. (Ward 1)

**ACTION:      Approve (5-0). Parking prohibited Chapel Street, east side, all days, from California Street to Watertown Street. Parking prohibited, Chapel Street, west side, all days, from California Street southerly 225 feet. Two-hour limit, Chapel Street, west side, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except weekends and holidays, from a point 225 feet south of California Street to a point 170 feet north of Watertown Street. Parking meter zone, Chapel Street, west side, from a point 150 feet north of Watertown Street to Watertown Street. This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.**

**NOTE:**      The Manager of Fairlane Chapel said they have off-street parking for 160 parking spaces. He said there is a shortage of parking, and tenants have left because of parking issues. One-hour on-street parking is inadequate for visitors who are attending meetings. All residents of Chapel Street were notified of the meeting, and none were in attendance. No letters or emails were received from residents.

Mr. Danila said there are discrepancies in the TPR and actual on-street conditions. He made a motion to prohibit parking on Chapel Street, east side, all days, from California Street to Watertown Street. On the west side of Chapel Street, the motion is to prohibit parking all days, from California Street southerly 225 feet, to establish a two-hour limit between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., except weekends and holidays from a point 225 feet south of California Street to a

point 170 feet north of Watertown Street, and to create a parking meter zone from a point 150 feet north of Watertown Street to Watertown Street. The motion was approved unanimously.

TC18-09 ISABELLE TREACY, 337 Washington Street, Apt. 5, requesting southbound Centre Street approach to Washington Street under yield control be signalized.

**ACTION: Denial (5-0). This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009. (Ward 1)**

**NOTE:** Mr. Danila reported that there have been zero reported crashes at this merge. This location would not meet any traffic signal warrants. Ald. Ciccone said signs would be more confusing. All Traffic Council members agreed that the existing conditions, although not ideal, are as good as can be.

The Council voted to deny the request for a traffic signal 5-0.

TC30-09 DAVID KOSES requesting to add pedestrian-activated warning signals in TPR 19-146 at the following locations for which funding was approved on 10/6/08, board order #319-08.

- (1) Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue
- (2) Washington Street and Harvard Street
- (3) Waverley Avenue and Franklin Street
- (4) Waverley Avenue and Arlington Street
- (5) Centre Street near Pelham Street

**ACTION: Approve as Amended (5-0). Flashing warning beacons shall be placed in the TPR for the following locations:**

- (1) Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue**
- (2) Waverley Avenue and Franklin Street**
- (3) Waverley Avenue and Arlington Street.**

**This decision is subject to appeal through the end of the business day, December 9, 2009.**

**NOTE:** There are ongoing discussions regarding whether pedestrian warning beacons need to be listed in the TPR. The Clerk's office and the Law Department believe that they should be included. Department of Public Works has stated they are not enforceable and should be removed. Mr. Danila noted that any locations that have flashing yellow beacons are really warning devices and are not regulatory. It is the position of the Public Works Department that these items do not need to be in the TPR, and rather than add additional beacons into the TPR, Mr. Danila said they would like to remove the yellow beacons that are currently listed in the TPR. Mr. Danila would like a written opinion by the Law Department. It was suggested by Ald. Swiston to add the beacon locations that are scheduled to be installed soon into the TPR for the time being, and to docket an item for Post Audit and Review to study the issue of listing warning beacons in the TPR.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koses, Traffic Council Chair

