

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003

Present: Candace Havens (Chair) Ald. Samuelson, (Aldermanic Appointee) Nina Wang (Traffic Engineer) Captain Sbordone (Police) Evelyn Addante Transportation Planner) Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Other Alderman Present: Ald. Sangiolo

The following residents were in attendance:

Linda Sherman, 25 Groveland Street
Suzanne Zellin, 18 Groveland Street
James Broderick, 21 Groveland Street
Rob Kline, 18 Groveland Street
Vincent Pina, 42 Groveland Street
Tom Koerber, Lasell College
Allen Schofield, 75 Central Street
Tom Coan, 34 Whittemore Road
Carol Connolly, 34 Waverley Road
Helen Levy, 61 Central Street
Leo Chang, 30 Groveland Street

#486-02 BOSTON COLLEGE, 116 College Road, Chestnut Hill, requesting a "no parking, tow zone" restriction on the west bound section of BEACON STREET from the Campion Hall Gate to the St. Jude Gate of Boston College.

ACTION: APPROVED as amended 5-0 (See draft ordinance)
NOTE: Tom Keating, Associate Vice President of Government Relations at Boston College and Scott Lynch, Transportation Manager at Boston College, were both present for this discussion. Mr. Lynch explained the reason for this docket item was that this parking restriction impacted the location of a Chapter 766 School for the Handicapped. The school enrolls students who range in age from 3 to 21 who are brought to Boston College on a daily basis. They are dropped off at 8:30 in the morning and picked up at 3:00 in the afternoon. There are approximately 26 handicapped vans that discharge the children. Mr. Keating said Ald. Baker was in favor of this request.

Nina Wang, Traffic Engineer, had met with Scott Lynch and visited the site. Ms. Wang's opinion was it would be too restrictive an approach if parking were not not allowed in that whole area but was in favor of some restriction.

Ald. Samuelson made a motion to create No Parking Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Beacon Street from Campion Hall Gate to the St. Jude Gate. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

#490-02 FAYE RUOPP, 25 Groveland Street, Auburndale, requesting no parking any time on GROVELAND STREET on the north side of the street and no parking Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the south side of the street.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 as amended (See draft ordinance)

NOTE: The petitioner, Faye Ruopp addressed the Committee and explained the parking restrictions were needed for the following reasons:

When cars are parked on both sides of Groveland Street, it is extremely difficult and at times impossible for cars to pass through the street. The increased parking on Groveland Street over the last year has raised much concern since it would be difficult for fire and other emergency vehicles to gain access to the residents on the street. Plowing Groveland Street with cars parked on both sides will not be possible. In addition, garbage trucks have a difficult time both getting down the street, and making turns onto and from Groveland Street. When cars are parked on both sides of the street, residents cannot back out of their driveways. When making a left or right hand turn off of Groveland and onto Maple Street, if cars are parked on both sides of Groveland, turning is often impossible. Cars at times must back down Groveland to allow an oncoming car to turn into Groveland from Maple. Large trucks cannot make turns into residents' driveways if cars are parked on both sides. One resident needed to have a tree removed and the truck was not able to gain access to a driveway and hence the work could not be done that day.

Nina Wang reported that the street width for Groveland Street is a typical street width. Captain Sbordone said that during the winter, even with snow banks, students still parked on both sides of the street and a number of vehicles were towed. Ms. Wang does support parking restrictions. She pointed out that since we are dealing with Maple and Groveland, students will be forced to

adjacent streets and there will then be a problem with the neighboring area.

There was a recommendation to restrict parking on the north side of Groveland Street and on the south side 2 hour restricted parking Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Committee voted 5-0 in favor of this item. (See draft ordinance)

#389-02 LYNN MARGOLIS, 50 Maple Street, Newton requesting restricted parking on MAPLE STREET from Groveland to Central Street on one side and restricted parking from BERKELEY PLACE to Central Street between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except Sundays and holidays.

ACTION: HELD for 60-day trial. (No parking on west side between Groveland to Central 8 to 6 and no parking, east side from Berkeley Place to Central.)

NOTE: Jim Broderick suggested raising fines to deter student parking. Leo Chang suggested towing cars. Helen Levy who said she lived at the corner of Central and Maple said she does not see the traffic problem that is being discussed.

UPDATE ON MASS. TURNPIKE REPORT (Recommendations and Implementation)

Ellen Hume gave a brief summary on the update on the Mass. Turnpike Report.

#487-02 ALD. SAMUELSON on behalf of Pamela Appleton, Principal of the Angier Elementary School, requesting a no parking restriction on BEACON STREET west bound from the bus lane exit to the staff parking lot entrance at Angier School.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Ms. Appleton addressed the Committee and explained that this was a very dangerous situation. There is a very poor site line for cars coming down Beacon, west bound. There have been a number of near misses and two accidents that were precipitated by staff member cars. Ald. Samuelson moved no stopping between the two driveways on Beacon Street on the north side. (See draft ordinance)

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalie Myers, Clerk