

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003

Present: Candace Havens (Chair) Nina Wang (Acting Traffic Engineer) Ald. Samuelson, Captain Sbordone (Commander of the Traffic Bureau) Evelyn Addante (Transportation Planner) Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Also Present: Ald. Johnson, Ald. Linsky

#396-01 ALD. JOHNSON submitting request on behalf of neighbors for 4-hour parking restriction on LOWELL AVENUE between Highland Avenue and Austin Street from 7 am – 4 pm. (Ward 2) (11-15-01)

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (No Parking 7 to 9 Monday through Friday.)**

NOTE: Ald. Johnson explained this item had previously been before the Committee and no action was taken. The neighbors felt they had not been adequately informed. Ald. Johnson docketed this item so it could be discussed with other related parking issues. It was noted that no parking on high school grounds would be made available to students in 2003.

Wayne Chan of 220 Lowell Avenue stated that the current parking situation is not safe. Traffic conditions have progressed to the point where commuters are backing into Mr. Chan's driveway for U-turn's or parking in front of his driveway. Primarily his concern would be to back out of his driveway safely. Traffic Engineer Wang reported that there are currently eleven car spaces available. The site line problem was recognized and the resolution at that time was a suggestion for no parking within 5 ft. of driveway. After installation of those signs, 3 car lengths were eliminated. The parking study showed a parking pattern of cars parking in the morning and then parking there for most of the day. Ms. Wang noted the street is 32 feet wide and that the cars parked are mostly post office workers. She went on to say that four hour parking is difficult to enforce and not the ideal solution. Her opinion was for one hour parking to match with most of the adjacent streets during school hours. The street is wide enough to support parking. If parking is too close to driveways, Ms. Wang said there is an option to call for police enforcement.

Leslie Eisenberg, 77 Highland Avenue spoke in favor of parking restrictions. Residents of 216, 218 and 222 Lowell Avenue were also in favor of restrictions.

Ms. Wang said restrictions, in some cases, could make things more dangerous as cars speed up when they have clear vision. Ald. Samuelson said this is a roadway that has enough width to support parking. She agreed with Ms. Wang that opening up the roadway could make speeding more prevalent. Evelyn Addante also expressed concern that if cars could not park, speeding would be a problem.

Ald. Johnson asked what the response the Council had if there was no parking for plumbers, electricians or any workpeople who needed to make a delivery, visit, etc.

Ms. Wang said her recommendation was No Parking 7 to 9 Monday through Friday. Captain Sbordone made a motion that parking be prohibited between 7 am and 9 am Monday through Friday on the East Side of Lowell Avenue between Highland Avenue and Austin Street. Ald. Linsky felt this suggestion would be the least intrusive and logical approach.

The Committee voted to approve No Parking 7 am to 9am Monday through Friday.

#255-03

MARK R. CESTARI, 484 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, requesting parking restrictions on Lowell Avenue (both sides) between Craigie Terrace and Commonwealth Avenue, Newtonville. (Ward 2)

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (one hour parking 8 am to 3 pm both sides during school hours, school days only.)

NOTE: Mark Cestari, John Garabedian, and David Smyly were present for this Lowell Avenue petition. Fifteen neighbors had signed a petition. The recent restrictions in the immediate proximity of Newton North High School have displaced parking problems into Mr. Cestari's section of Lowell Avenue. He said he would like to see a daytime restriction of one-hour parking from 7 am to 4 pm from Craigie Terrace to Commonwealth Avenue.

Nina Wang reported that students are now parking in this location all day long. Lowell Avenue presently has restrictions with the exception of this portion of the street.

Ald. Linsky, Ald. Ciccone, Ald. Johnson, Traffic Engineer Nina Wang, and Principal of Newton North, Jennifer Huntington met with neighbors on this issue. Jennifer Huntington is in support of educating students and parents regarding the parking policy as well as addressing the discourteous behavior of some students. Anne Larner, Chair of the School Committee,

also supports this especially since there will be no parking at all for students in the fall because there is only enough room for faculty and staff.

John Garabedian, a resident of Lowell Avenue, said there have been times with snow conditions that he could not get out of the driveway. Presently, he feels the situation is not safe.

Ms. Wang recommended one hour parking 8 am to 3 pm both sides during school hours, school days only. The Committee voted 5-0 to approve one hour parking 8 am to 3 pm both sides during school hours, school days only.

#388-02 BETSY & WILLIAM LEITCH, 69 Dexter Road, Newton requesting two-hour parking during school hours from 69 Dexter Road to Walnut Street. (Ward 2)

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Leitch was present and explained that in the fall after the bridge construction was finished, Newton North students started to park in this area creating a parking problem. There is parking right up to the Walnut Street intersection. Mr. Leitch said they would like access to the front of their property.

Lorraine Semorian of Dexter Road also expressed her concern over students parking.

Nina Wang explained the street is a typical width of 24 ft. Students have now found this area perfect for them to park, especially with the new road and new bridge. There is a restriction from Walnut Street to Hull Street of one-hour parking and there is a no parking sign posted on the West Side. Ms. Wang found in her research that the West Side is posted No Parking but the ordinance states one-hour parking limit and this will be corrected. The bylaws state no parking within 20 feet of an intersection and in this case Ms. Wang said it could be even longer. The Committee agreed by a vote of 5-0 that it would be better to hold this item for further study.

#257-03 AMY MACKRELL & VASILIOS VALAES, 12 Dexter Road, Newtonville, requesting to change the current one-hour parking restriction to NO PARKING, 8am - 3pm on school days, the northern end of DEXTER ROAD (#12-26 adjacent to Newton North High School) (Ward 2)

ACTION: HELD 5-0.

NOTE: Amy Mackrell has lived at 12 Dexter Road for 15 years. She understands that living next to a high school presents problems but the last year she has become very concerned about safety. There is presently a one hour parking restriction on the street but it has not deterred the street from becoming an adjunct parking lot to Newton North High School. Chair Candace Havens pointed out that residents should be aware if restrictions would be approved, there would be no parking for guests. Ms. Mackrell said the street is divided on this issue.

Ms. Wang explained the street is 24 ft. wide. Captain Sbordone said one-hour parking is the easiest to enforce. In this instance, the one-hour does not seem to be a deterrent. Evelyn Addante asked about a sign stating, "VIOLATORS WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE".

Ald. Johnson added that the Principal of Newton North, Jennifer Huntington, is in support of traffic regulations. Other residents expressed concern that approving this item would only push the problem further into the street.

Sandra and Gerry Levine sent a letter expressing their opposition to the proposed change in parking policy on Dexter Road stating they felt it was unfair to give special privilege to one half the block by allowing their area to be parking free. This would result in an increase in parking in the rest of the block. There is no reason to believe it would reduce overall parking but merely crowd all the cars previously parked into one half of the block. Mr. and Mrs. Levine feel it would only be fair to implement a uniform parking policy for the entire block.

There was discussion on whether to request resident sticker parking on this street and Ms. Wang explained that only one part of the street would possibly be eligible for resident parking, as there only has been a prior restriction on one section.

Ald. Linsky expressed his concern that extending the one-hour restriction might not improve the situation. Police Captain Sbordone felt that posting towing signs could be helpful. Nina Wang said she would have to research this with the Law Department.

The Committee voted to 5-0 hold items #257-03 and #388-02.

#313-01 LINDA DEFRUSCIO, 815 Washington Street, Newtonville, requesting a change of meters (from nos. 833-795) WASHINGTON STREET, from one-hour to two-hour meters. (Ward 2) (11-15-01)

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Linda DeFruscio was present and explained that she had been in this location for fifteen years. When the meters were changed, approximately 1 1/2 years ago, parking has become very inconvenient.

Nina Wang said the parking study showed 51 cars parked on the stretch in question for approximately 8 hours. Out of the 51 cars, only 4 cars parked beyond one hour. Ms. Wang also said 80% of the cars parked, fed the meter after one hour. Chair Candace Havens felt that one-hour parking is not useful and felt this area should have two-hour parking and have 30 minutes on the end. A motion was made to make seven meters on Washington Street in Newtonville go from one hour to two-hour meters.

#436-00 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting consideration to reduce speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph or some other traffic calming measures for GROVE STREET in Auburndale. (Ward 4) (10-19-00)

ACTION: REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0

#175-01 ALD. LIPSITT, BAKER, GERST, MERRILL & O'HALLORAN requesting reduction in speed limit on WAVERLEY AVENUE between KENRICK/SARGENT STREET & TREMONT STREET.
Ward 7, Ward 1)

ACTION: REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0

#266-02 JENNIFER HAAS, 115 Franklin Street requesting pedestrian activated traffic signal to be installed at Waverley Avenue and Franklin Street. (Ref #175-01) (Ward 7)

ACTION: REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0

#98-00 ALD. MANSFIELD requesting No Parking 7-9 am, on CENTRE STREET, east side from BEACON STREET to LYMAN STREET to allow two lanes of traffic flow and relieve congestion at Centre/Beacon/Cypress intersection. (Ward 6) (02/24/00)

ACTION: REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0

#189-99 ALD. R. LIPOF requesting rescission of parking prohibition on LINCOLN STREET, Newton Highlands (Ord. V186 (Lincoln Street section only) adopted 7/13/98) (Ward 6) (5/20/99)

ACTION: NAN 5-0

NOTE: It was noted that there is no longer a Task Force and there are no recommendations that resulted from the Task Force. The Committee voted to NAN this item 5-0.

#434-02 ELLIE DICICCO, 15 Hale Street, Newton requesting No Left Turn from Elliot Street onto High Street. (Ward 5)

ACTION: **REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0**

#435-02 ELLIE DICICCO, 15 Hale Street, Newton requesting installation of stop sign on ELLIOT STREET at the intersection of OAK STREET. (Ward 5)

ACTION: **REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0**

#436-02 ELLIE DICICCO, 15 Hale Street, Newton requesting installation of stop sign on ELLIOT STREET at intersection with driveway entrance to STONE INSTITUTE. (opposite OAK STREET) (Ward 5)

ACTION: **REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0**

#201-03 MARK DOOLING, 253 Crafts Street requesting "traffic calming" measures on Crafts Street as area is a high-speed straight-away with school-crossing within the intersection of Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue. (Ward 2)

ACTION: **REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANSPORTATION 5-0**

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Myers, Clerk