



Thomas F. Rocca
Chief of Police

CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson
Sergeant
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Thomas F. Rocca, Chair
Ryan Nicholson, Provisional Fire Chief
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher
Mr. Robert Airasian

January 4, 2024

November 29, 2023 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Ryan Nicholson, Steven Magoon, Gregory St. Louis, Kelly Gallagher, Robert Airasian

The meeting was chaired by Chief Nicholson. Traffic Commission members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Mr. Magoon made a motion to approve the October 25, 2023 Traffic Commission meeting minutes; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – The Commission reviewed a request by Ms. Rebekah Zincavage of Boylston Street for the installation of No Idling signage on both sides of all roadways abutting the Hosmer School. Ms. Zincavage reported that she lives at the corner of Boylston Street and Concord Road. During the Hosmer School pick-up and drop-off times, vehicles arrive early and idle for long periods of time. For example, on Tuesday November 28, 2023, Ms. Zincavage counted 72 cars that arrived at the school at 1:45 pm. Ms. Zincavage stated that the idling vehicles are not good for the environment, air, or kids. Due to the lack of signage, Ms. Zincavage does not feel that she can say anything to the motorists about idling; she requested numerous signs and occasional enforcement of the idling laws.

Sgt. Sampson reported that the Commission once approved No Idling signs for Coolidge Avenue. At that time, the difficulty of enforcing the signs/regulation was discussed. The signs were installed with a goal of increasing voluntary compliance. Sgt. Sampson explained that enforcement would also be difficult at the school due to the high volume of vehicles in the area.

Mr. Magoon reported that he was sympathetic to Ms. Zincavage's concerns, but also wanted to be cautious about a proliferation of signs in the neighborhood; if there are too many signs, motorists tend to ignore them. Mr. Magoon suggested some representative signs in the neighborhood to raise awareness and provide some education about this issue.

Mr. St. Louis explained that typically, signage is spaced 200-250 feet apart. In terms of education, Mr. St. Louis suggested highlighting this issue to the school, and asking that they place the information in their newsletter.

Mr. Airasian agreed with Mr. Magoon and Mr. St. Louis. He further explained that traffic related conversations between the school and neighborhood are ongoing.

Ms. Gallagher agreed with the comments as well and thought that a reasonable number of posted signs is warranted.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to install one (1) No Idling sign on Hancock Street, one (1) No Idling sign on Chauncey Street, one (1) No Idling sign on Boylston Street in the vicinity of the front of the Hosmer School, and two (2) No Idling signs on Concord Road; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- a. Mr. St. Louis provided an update of the Mount Auburn Street Project. MassDOT had their bid opening for the project and are evaluating the bids. After a contractor is awarded, Mr. St. Louis would then expect the contractor to meet with various community groups and begin the “public facing” phase of the construction project. Mr. St. Louis noted that the City was responsible for the design and right of way acquisition, but the project is being transferred to MassDOT who will run it. The DPW will continue to liaison with MassDOT, and Mr. St. Louis expects more conversation as the project advances.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. David Sampson
Assistant to the Traffic Commission