



Michael P. Lawn
Chief of Police

CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson
Sergeant
Tel: 617-972-6547

Michael P. Lawn, Chair
Robert Quinn, Fire Chief
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Mr. John S. Airasian
Ms. Kelly Gallagher

October 28, 2021

October 27, 2021 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Michael Lawn, Gregory St. Louis, Steven Magoon, John S. Airasian, Kelly Gallagher

At the October 27, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting, members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – The Commission and Office of the Town Manager recognized Mr. Airasian for his service to the Traffic Commission. Mr. Airasian made a brief statement and was thanked by members and Town Manager Driscoll for serving the Commission for over 52 years.

Item 2 – Mr. Magoon made a motion to approve the September, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting minutes; Mr. Airasian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Item 3 – The Commission reviewed a request by Sgt. Sampson of the Watertown Police Department to amend the parking regulations on both sides of Waverley Avenue from Orchard Street to Belmont Street. Sgt. Sampson explained that the Town recently reconstructed and redesigned the upper portion of Waverley Avenue. After completing a public process and receiving input from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, the final design included dedicated bike lanes on the uphill portions of the roadway in both the northbound and southbound directions.

Sgt. Sampson requested to restrict parking on the east side of Waverley Avenue from Orchard Street to a point 40' north of Hilltop Road. On the west side of Waverley Avenue, Sgt. Sampson requested to restrict parking from Belmont Street to Hilltop Road, and again from Lowell Avenue to Orchard Street.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to restrict parking on the east side of Waverley Avenue from Orchard Street to a point 40' north of Hilltop Road, and restrict parking on the west side of Waverley Avenue from Belmont Street to Hilltop Road, and from Lowell Avenue to Orchard Street; Mr. St. Louis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – The Commission reviewed a request by Sgt. Sampson of the Watertown Police Department to remove a reserved Handicap Only parking space in front of 231/233 Arsenal Street. Sgt. Sampson reported that this area of Arsenal Street came to the attention of the police department through a development project planned for 85 Walnut Street. The designers of the project inquired about the existing HP Only parking space in front of 231/233 Arsenal Street. The reserved space was approved by the Traffic Commission in May 2002. Officer Burke of the Watertown Police Department was able to contact the family who resides at 231/233 Arsenal Street and learned that the HP Only space was no longer needed. Sgt. Sampson requested to remove the HP Only space from the Traffic Rules and Orders.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to remove the reserved Handicap Only parking space in front of 231/233 Arsenal Street; Mr. St. Louis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5 – The Commission reviewed a request by Mr. Ted O’Hagan, Senior Highway Engineer for Vanasse and Associates, Inc. on behalf of Atlantic/P3 Life Sciences Holdings III, LLC for a No Turn on Red Restriction on Arsenal Street westbound at the proposed new 85 Walnut Street entrance, and a No Turn on Red Restriction at the proposed new 85 Walnut Street entrance southbound at Arsenal Street.

Mr. O’Hagan reported that as part of the signal improvement plan on Arsenal Street at Louise Street, the driveway that leads to 85 Walnut Street will be relocated and aligned with Louise Street. A traffic signal will be installed at this new 4-way intersection. The signal will include an exclusive pedestrian phase to increase safety for the anticipated volume of cyclists and pedestrians that will use this crossing. Sgt. Sampson reported that he spoke with both Mr. O’Hagan and Town Engineer Matthew Shuman about this proposal. The two No Turn on Red restrictions would increase safety by prohibiting motorists from traveling over the Town’s shared use path except during a green light phase.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to restrict a right turn on red on Arsenal Street westbound at the proposed new 85 Walnut Street entrance, and at the proposed new 85 Walnut Street driveway southbound at Arsenal Street; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – No new business was brought before the Commission.

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

Meeting adjourned.

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