



Michael P. Lawn
Chief of Police

CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



David Sampson
Sergeant
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Michael P. Lawn, Chair
Robert Quinn, Fire Chief
Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Ms. Kelly Gallagher

February 1, 2022

January 26, 2022 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Michael Lawn, Robert Quinn, Gregory St. Louis, Steven Magoon, Kelly Gallagher

At the January 26, 2022 Traffic Commission meeting, members addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Chief Quinn made a motion to approve the October, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting minutes; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Item 2 – The Commission reviewed a request by Mrs. Houry Boyamian, Principal of St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School at 47 Nichols Avenue for a "No Idling" sign for the school's pick-up lane.

No representatives from St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School attended the meeting; Sgt. Sampson summarized the request. During afternoon pick-up, motor vehicles often idle in front of the school. Mrs. Boyamian requested a sign to deter engine idling. At the time of their conversation, Sgt. Sampson explained the challenges of enforcement to Mrs. Boyamian, and suggested that the School send notice to all families asking that they refrain from idling. The School could also purchase their own promotional signs encouraging motorists to not idle in front of the school.

Chief Lawn would like to see the School take more internal steps to reduce idling, and potentially purchase their own signs

Chief Quinn agreed with Chief Lawn and suggested that the School purchase their own signs for their parents and make notification to the families about the issue.

Mr. Magoon reported that the Traffic Commission has long been cautious of having too many signs in the City; he felt that City installed signs should not be the first option to reduce vehicle idling, and would encourage the School to explore all other options first.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to deny the request for a "No Idling" sign for the school's pick-up lane; Chief Quinn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – The Commission reviewed a request by the Hosmer School to modify drop-off/pick-up areas and parking regulations in the vicinity of the Hosmer School to accommodate continued construction efforts. Assistant Principal MaryKate Fitzpatrick and Early Childhood Director Karen Feeney explained that in order to accommodate the new building, the School would like to return the drop and go zone to Concord Road, move the Handicap Only parking spaces to Hancock Street, and move the bus stop to Chauncey Street.

Sgt. Sampson explained that in order to accommodate both school programs, a new drop and go zone would be added to Winthrop Street, a Handicap Only parking zone would be added to Hancock Street, the bus stop would be on Chauncey Street, and the Hosmer drop and go would be returned to Concord Road. The School provided the Commission with a drawing of the area to specify locations and distances.

Chief Quinn made a motion to approve the traffic plans to accommodate the School; Mr. Magoon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 – The Commission reviewed a request by Sgt. Sampson of the Watertown Police Department to include the isolated stop sign on Fairfield Street for westbound traffic at Boylston Street, and the sign on Chester Street for northbound traffic at Mount Auburn Street in Schedule IV of the Traffic Rules and Orders.

Sgt. Sampson explained that the stop sign on Fairfield Street was installed as part of the recently completed MassDOT Safe Routes to School project. The sign on Chester Street has been in existence for many years, however it is not listed in Schedule IV of the Traffic Rules and Orders.

Mr. Magoon made a motion to include these existing isolated stop signs in the Traffic Rules and Orders; Chief Quinn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – New Business

Mr. St. Louis reported that the City is proceeding toward 75% design plans for the Mount Auburn Street project. Mr. St. Louis informed the Commission that approved plans could result in a multitude of changes to the Traffic Rules and Orders.

No other new business was brought before the Commission.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to adjourn; Chief Quinn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

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