



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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Resident Member
Maura Garrity
Resident Member

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CITY OF CHELSEA, MA

**Traffic & Parking Commission
Minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting.**

The meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission was held in the City Council Chambers, 500 Broadway Chelsea, Massachusetts. The meeting opened at 6:04 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sergeant John Noffle, Deputy Fire Chief John Quatieri, Public Works Field Operations Manager James Caron, and resident members: Maura Garrity, Aaron Kraemer and Carolyn Boumilla-Vega were present. Director of Housing and Community Development Alex Train was absent.

Agenda Item #2 - Public Hearing regarding the approval of a restrictive lane on Everett Avenue, southbound between Arlington Street and the Route 1 on-ramp, between 5:00am – 10:00am Monday through Friday.

No attendees for public comment. James Caron made a motion to approve the lane restriction. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Hearing regarding the approval of the traffic management plan for Chelsea Point at 250 Marginal Street/22 Willow Street.

Todd Hogrefe stated that they are requesting street closures. He stated that Congress Avenue would be closed for seven (7) to eight (8) days. He added that Willow Street would be closed for five (5) days. Todd Hogrefe stated that the company is looking to start closure by October 23rd. He stated that the work hours would be from 7am to 5pm. He stated that Highland Street would be closed; however, this will not affect housing. James Caron stated that as long as residents from 250 Congress Avenue and the emergency apparatus have access, he does not foresee any issues. Todd Hogrefe confirmed that the crane will not be on the road. James Caron made a motion to approve the request. John Quatieri seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #4 - Public Hearing regarding the approval to reverse the direction of the traffic on Chestnut Street, from Fourth to Third Street, on a permanent basis or a six (6) month trial period.

No attendees for public comment. John Noffle stated that in the past the reversal of traffic has worked well. Maura Garrity asked if trucks exit from Fourth Street onto Chestnut Street. James Caron responded that trucks are not allowed to go through there. John Quatieri agreed that in the past the reversal has operated well. James Caron made a motion to approve the request for a sixth (6) month trial period. John Quatieri seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #5 - Approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting.

Maura Garrity made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting. James Caron seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #6 - Communication of August 1, 2023 from David Keene, requesting to the Commission to evaluate the intersection of Hysil and Washington Avenue.



David Keene was not in attendance. James Caron stated that the sign was posted about four (4) years ago. He added that it does not seem like a fence or sign issue. James Caron made a motion to table the request until Alex Train can evaluate the request more in-depth. Aaron Kramer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #7 - Communication of August 2, 2023 from Commissioner of Public Works Cate Fox-Lent, requesting the Commission to establish consistent and appropriate speed limit or clear speed zones for Eastern Avenue and Marginal Street.

John Noffle stated that he ran an accident report for the last five (5) years on Eastern Avenue and the report demonstrated numerous accidents. James Caron indicated that the city's speed limit is 25MPH. John Noffle noted that it used to be a state road. John Quatieri made a motion to table the request to seek clarification. James Caron seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #8 - Handicap sign application of August 10, 2023 from Lidia Ruiz, of 137 Shawmut Street.

Secretary Elsa Quesada stated that previously the item was tabled to seek clarification from the applicant. Elsa Quesada added that the applicant would like her own sign as she is afraid to use other nearby handicap signs. James Caron stated that he did not foresee any issues. James Caron made a motion to approve the application. John Quatieri seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #9 - Communication of August 17, 2023 from Jennifer Hassel, regarding the traffic and safety concerns on Eastern Avenue.

Jennifer Hassel stated that based on the previous meeting she understood that this was a process and she would like to continue following the request. She expressed her concerns with the traffic coming into Chelsea. James Caron stated that they started working on placing the lights on Griffin Way. John Noffle stated that when the weather gets better, he can have a sign board on Eastern Avenue. James Caron made a motion to table the request so that Alex Train may return with more information regarding traffic calming measures. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #10 - Communication of August 18, 2023 from Chelsea business owners (petition lists names), requesting to allocate more "15- Minute" parking spaces in the downtown area to allow business owners to always have parking available for uploading products, delivery drivers and customers and the relocation of handicap parking spaces on Broadway.

Luis Romero that businesses are impacted by the traffic on Broadway. He stated that drivers park on the crosswalk adjacent to the Bank of America ATM. He added that the visibility for pedestrians is limited. He stated that accidents have occurred in the past due to double parking and parking on the crosswalk. Luis Romero stated that his business would benefit from a fifteen (15) minute space. He concluded by asking the Commission to keep business owners in mind when making changes on Broadway. John Noffle asked the Commission if eliminating the outdoor dining was a possibility. Maura Garrity asked Luis Romero to clarify if he was willing to give up outside dining for a fifteen (15) Minute space. He stated that a third of the year his business occupies the space for outside dining. He added that visibility is limited for pedestrians when the patio sitting is setup. He stated that he is willing to give up the seasonal patio for the space as it would be more beneficial. Mayra Romero asked the Commission if they had considered how parking would be impacted by placing handicap signs in the area. John Noffle stated that business owners are able to apply for fifteen (15) minute spaces. Jennifer Hassell stated that she will assist business owners with these applications. James Caron stated that this was brought to the Commission as a motion by the City Council. James Caron noted that an outside company assisted to the placement of the handicap signs on Broadway. He concluded by stating that previously there was no handicap signs in the downtown area. He added that the best solution would be to change the outdoor seating in front of



the restaurant to a fifteen (15) minutes space. Jennifer Hassel asked the Commission if there was any loading zones in the area. James Caron informed her of all the loading zones in the downtown area. Carolyn Boumila-Vega thanked Mayra Romero for expressing herself and she encouraged her to do so in the future. James Caron explained to the business owners the steps and process for this application. James Caron added that the communication will be denied but encouraged them to apply for the fifteen (15) minute spaces. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #11 - Communication of August 22, 2023 from residents of Pine, Beacon and Williams Street (petition lists names), requesting the installation of speed bumps to enhance road safety on Pine Street.

John Podolske stated that he attended the previous meeting and would like to know what considerations had been given. He stated that at the May meeting a speed bump was requested and two (2) signs were approved. He noted that drivers are ignoring the signs. Edward Trainor stated that two speed bumps were approved and that signage is being ignored. James Caron stated that two (2) signs were approved, along with police enhancement to calm traffic. He added that when the traffic is backed up, the drivers use Pine Street as a cut through. James Caron suggested the placement of a speed radar and enhanced police presence. James Caron noted the difficulties DPW, Police and Fire apparatus face with placing speed bumps on every street. Edward Trainor shared his concerns with the situation as he has a sister who is legally blind and in a wheelchair exiting onto this street. James Caron stated that Alex Train is the point of contact with a private company to evaluate these issues. James Caron made a motion to table the request pending further investigation. Maura Garrity seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Agenda Item #12 - Handicap sign application of September 6, 2023 from Donna Frongillo, of 89 Blossom Street.

The Commission reviewed the handicap list. James Carron made a motion to approve the application. John Quatieri seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #13 - Communication of September 19, 2023 from Jaqueline Rodriguez-Louis, regarding speeding concerns on Hamilton Street (from Everett) to Hancock and Franklin Street.

Jaqueline Rodrigues-Louis stated there has been several accidents where she has been impacted. She understands that speed bumps cannot be placed on every street, but says that signage does not seem to be effective. She asked the Commission what is the next thing that can be done before it gets to a speed bump. James Caron suggested a second "Stop" sign. He suggested maybe a three (3) way stop; however, that is something the applicant must request. He suggested that she submit the request to be on the next meeting. James Caron stated that if this does not calm traffic, the Commission will seek other alternatives. John Nofle stated that he assigned an officer to the area. He stated that one of the issues the officer expressed was that drivers are ignoring the "Stop" sign. Jacqueline Rodriguez-Louis believes that the reason for the accidents are due to the fact that Hamilton Street (from Everett) to Hancock Street is a straight shot which intersects with vehicles on Franklin Street. She added that speeding worsens after 9:00 pm. James Caron suggested tabling the request and asked the applicant to submit a request asking to place a speed bump or what she feels that would be more effective. Maura Garrity questioned her next steps with the Commission for any further requests. John Nofle suggested a yield to pedestrian crosswalk in the middle of the road. John Nofle stated that he would continue to enforce in the area. James Caron made a motion to table the request. Maura Garrity seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #14 - Communication from Anthony Martinez on behalf of Citywide Contracting, requesting the closure of the sidewalk and placement of jersey barriers until December 1, 2023 at 59 Pearl Street.



Anthony Martinez stated that the work will approximately be until December 1, 2023. He stated that there will be jersey barriers to allow pedestrian traffic with a safe passage way. He added that there is a four (4) foot fence to block the job site. He added that currently there are three (3) parking spaces being used after the bus stop. John Quatieri made a motion to approve the request. James Caron seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item #15 - Communication of September 25, 2023 from Superintendent Almi Abeyta, requesting to extend the restrictions on left turns from Pearl to Park Street by fifteen (15) minutes each afternoon; from 2:00pm – 3:00pm to 2:00pm – 3:15pm.

James Caron made a motion to approve the request. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.