

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

December 20th, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Elena Proakis Ellis, Alderman Gail Infurna, Dan Krechmer, Tom Rossi, Elizabeth Peart, Sgt. Jon Goc (voting in place of Chief Lyle) and Amy Heidebrecht – Clerk

ABSENT: John Vetere and Chief Mike Lyle

Meeting opened at 5:35 PM

I. Continued Business:

1. Approve minutes from Special Meeting on October 3rd, 2017

Minutes approved

2. Update on West Emerson data from October 3rd, 2017 Special Meeting

Sgt. Goc explains the study done, the total cars and average speed of 26 MPH from 264 W. Emerson (see attachment). Chair Proakis Ellis says that the City has approved the purchase of 4 more illuminated signs.

3. Discuss “No Parking Opposite Driveway” sign across from 117 Trenton Street

Chair Proakis Ellis Explains that the driveway immediately to the left of the house is not the driveway for 119 Trenton Street and asks if other Commissioners were confused when the vote was taken at the last meeting. We pass around pictures (see attached). Alderman Infurna and Liz Peart both say they voted based on the correct driveway. We will not put it back on the agenda unless specifically requested by a resident in the future.

II. New Business:

1. Request for “No Parking Opposite Driveway” sign to be replaced across from 201 First Street

Chair Proakis Ellis makes a motion to combine Item 1 and 2 for public participation. Alderman Infurna seconds. All in favor. Motion to combine Item 1 and 2 and open public participation approved.

No attendees for public participation for Items 1 and 2. Alderman Infurna moves to close public participation. Liz Peart seconds. All in favor. Public participation closed at 5:44 PM.

Sgt. Goc suggests a "No Parking Here to Corner" instead of "No Parking Opposite Driveway." Chair Proakis Ellis adds that a third house, 197 First Street, has requested to add a "No Parking Opposite Driveway" sign too. Alderman Infurna thinks that we should deny the "No Parking Opposite Driveway." Liz Peart says that she pulled in and out of the driveways in her minivan without any issues. She also mentions that it should only be an issue during school hours.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to deny the "No Parking Opposite Driveway" sign across from 201 First Street. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Motion is denied.

2. Request for "No Parking Opposite Driveway" sign to be replaced across from 207 First Street

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to deny the "No Parking Opposite Driveway" sign across from 207 First Street and add the "No Parking from Here to Corner" on the existing sign post across from 207 First Street. The sign will be posted to reinforce the required parking setback from Ashcroft Road. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Motion is denied.

3. Request to extend "No Parking" signs to the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue from Potomac Street to Mt. Vernon Street and to add "No Parking Anytime" signs on Potomac Street and to add a "No Parking Opposite Driveway" sign across from 103 Mt. Vernon Avenue

Chair Proakis Ellis reads letter from resident at 103 Mt. Vernon Avenue (see attached).

Alderman Infurna motions to open public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Opened at 6:08 PM.

Kelly Epstein from 109 Mt. Vernon Avenue speaks in opposition of any "No Parking" signs to be added to her street. She says she has a steep driveway and it is sometimes dangerous in the winter to unload her kids in her driveway so she uses the front of her house. She also says that it would make it hard for people to visit or contractors to do work if they cannot park in front of her house.

Meg von Lossnitzer from 117 Mt. Vernon Avenue also opposes Item 3. She mentions that having cars parked on the street helps slows traffic down. She also says that she has ill family members that visit and need to park in front of her house.

Sarah Hillios from 127 Mt. Vernon says that her house is on the corner of Boston Rock and Mt. Vernon and she also opposes Item 3. She adds that the only people who park in those areas are the people who live in those houses, not commuters or people outside the neighborhood.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. Public participation closed at 6:15 PM.

Alderman Infurna says that the pictures provided were taken before the "No Parking From Here to Corner" signs were put up and that she has been observing this area for a long time because of the request from the resident. She adds that she has passes through the area in the mornings, afternoons and evenings and has not seen the problem. She says that the issues may be sporadic and asks the residents to report issues to the police if there are cars impeding traffic. Chair Proakis Ellis says that parked cars slow down traffic and there is no reason to restrict parking in this area. She further explains that the existing signs have improved the intersection at Potomac Street.

Alderman Infurna asks that we replace the "No Parking 6AM - 10AM Except Saturday Sunday & Holidays" signs in the neighborhood that are faded and hard to read.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to deny Item 3. Liz Peart seconds. All in favor. Motion is denied at 6:22 PM.

4. Request to make Malvern Street a One Way from Lebanon Street to Linwood Avenue

Alderman Infurna motions to open public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Opened at 6:37 PM.

Charles Waystack, from a two-family on 27 – 29 Malvern Street, speaks in opposition of Item 4. He says that it has never been an issue and emergency vehicles can get through.

Mark Dustin from 9 Potter Street is also in opposition of Item 4. He adds that because of the park, a lot of cars park there and asks that we add some parking to the park.

Kerry and Kevin DeWolf from 27 Malvern Street also oppose making Malvern Street a one way. They say it will be a huge inconvenience. They mention that parking is limited when there are games, like pickle ball at the park, and they have seen a fire truck have a little difficulty making the turn but do not think it is enough to warrant making it a one way street.

Michael Dustin from 82 Porter Street grew up in that neighborhood and opposes Item 4. He says that it is only an issue in the summer when pickle ball is being played. He says that it would be a huge inconvenience to go all the way around onto Grove Street because Lynde is a one way and right turn only onto Lebanon Street.

Cheryl Ringen from 127 Lynde Street also opposes Item 4. She says that the street is wide enough and that people need to be more courteous.

Herb Cotterly from 30 Mt. Hood Terrace speaks in favor of Malvern Street becoming a one way. He explains that he was in a car accident on September 18th on Malvern Street and he thinks that the street is too narrow and was probably created for the horse and buggy days.

Dan Krechmer motions to close public participation. Alderman Infurna seconds. All in favor. Public participation closes at 6:38 PM.

Liz Peart does not think this warrants a one way street. Tom Rossi agrees. Dan Krechmer says that the street is wide enough. Sgt. Goc mentions that Malvern Street does not have any issues.

Tom Rossi makes a motion to deny Item 4. Dan Krechmer seconds. All in favor. Motion denied at 6:40 PM

5. Request to make Reading Hill Road "Resident Parking Only"

Liz Peart makes a motion to open public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Public participation opened at 6:42 PM.

Richard Frazier from 22 Reading Hill Avenue speaks in favor of making his street "Resident Only." He explains that during construction of the dentist office there was no parking on his street. He adds that the dentist office created more spots during construction but now the local businesses park there, so they are still having the issue of customers parking all along their street. He mentions that emergency vehicles have a difficult time getting through because of all the cars parking on his street. He adds that he would be happy with "Resident Only" or some sort of time limit for cars parking on his street.

Robert Sikkeme from 52 Fairview Avenue says his driveway is on Reading Hill Avenue and he is the only house with a driveway on that stretch. He says that cars often have to back up to get out of the way for oncoming cars and he is in favor of Item 5.

Michelle Dickson from 12 Reading Hill Avenue is in support of Item 5. She works from home and travels in and out of her driveway all day. She says she has not parked on her street in over a year because she has gotten blocked in. She says that people who work at local businesses are parked there and are not observing the signs that are there. She has been in a car accident in that area and believes that it has become a place for commercial overflow parking.

Doug Martile from 39 Reading Hill Avenue says that cars park all the way up the curve, which creates blind spots. He is in support of Item 5. He mentions that when cars park on the corner of Main Street and Reading Hill Avenue and you are trying to get out onto Main Street, you are blocking all transit. He also brings up that the area is a cut through and asks the Commission if something can be done to deter cars from cutting through.

Sean Heneghan from 31 Reading Hill Avenue says that cars park on both sides of the street which makes it difficult to get out of his driveway. He says that cars being parked on the street do not slow down traffic and asks the Commission for advice on how to slow down cars in that area.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Dan Krechmer seconds. All in favor. Public participation closes at 7:01 PM.

Tom Rossi suggests adding time limits instead of "Resident Parking Only." He mentions that if we have "Resident Parking Only," that would mean we would need to create a

pass that residents would apply for and the police would have to enforce. He also mentions that it might set a precedent.

Sgt. Goc asks the residents how many spots were added to the dentist office. Sgt. Goc mentions that "2 Hour Parking" would help eliminate cars that park all day if that is the biggest issue.

Chair Proakis Ellis mentions that there are businesses in the area and asks if we are just shuffling cars from one neighborhood to another. Dan Krechmer agrees with Sgt. Goc that it should be a time limit. Alderman Infurna asks if it is a zoning issue. Liz Peart does not support "Resident Parking Only" but does support "2 Hour Parking."

Alderman Infurna makes a motion deny "Resident Parking Only" and to add "2 Hour Parking from 8 AM to 6 PM Except Sundays and Holidays." Tom Rossi seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes 7:31 PM.

6. Proposed weekday parking restrictions on Sargent Street from Franklin Street to West Highland Avenue to prevent long-term commuter parking/business parking

Alderman Infurna moves to open public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Opened at 7:33 PM.

Frank Ferrick from 17 Sargent Street says that there are several long-term parkers on his street. He says that guests do not have a place to park and that he worries about kids running through the parked cars from the Franklin School. He says that the street sweepers cannot get to his area and need to weave in and out on his street.

Rick Lemay from 34 Sargent Street is in support of Item 6 and asks if West Highland can be added because that is the side his driveway is on. He says that we are just pushing cars from one street to another.

Chris Hancock from 24 Sargent Street does not have an issue in the middle of the block but he empathizes with his neighbors at the end of the street. He mentions that he has in home care for his son and is worried if parking is restricted where they will find parking. He also thinks that the businesses need that area to park and asks the City to come up with a plan for those people to park. He is opposed to adding any parking regulations on his street.

Shaun Hannifan from 5 Sargent Street says he has three cars that park on his street every day and he sometimes has to back up to let other cars through at the Franklin Street end. He is in favor of "2 Hour Parking" because that will allow it to be an active community but limit long-term parking. He has pictures (see attached).

Dan Krechmer makes a motion to close public participation. Alderman Infurna seconds. All in favor. Public participation closes at 7:45 PM.

Chair Proakis Ellis suggests adding parking restrictions to east side of the street to alleviate the traffic issues near Franklin Street. Sgt. Goc asks the residents if it is businesses or commuters. The residents agree that it is mostly business employees. Liz Peart mentions that she experienced the situation that Shaun from 5 Sargent Street mentioned when approaching Franklin Street. Alderman Infurna asks if we can restrict parking on one side, which solves a safety issue. Dan Krechmer suggests that the planning department take a look at Franklin Square parking in general.

Chair Proakis Ellis makes a motion to add "2 Hour Parking Only Except Sundays & Holidays" on the east side of Sargent Street from Franklin Street to West Highland Avenue. Alderman Infurna seconds and mentions that we can revisit it if it ends up not working for the neighbors. All in favor. Motion passes at 8:18 PM.

7. Request to remove "Resident Parking Only" sign/s from Brazil Street and replace with "2 Hour Parking from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Monday – Friday"

Chair Proakis Ellis gives some background on Item 7. She mentions that she was told by City staff that the "Resident Parking Only" was added because of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. She further explains that now that they have closed, our intention is not to take away something that the residents already have, it is just to replace it with something that is more consistent with what we have on nearby streets to prevent long-term commuter parking.

Liz Peart moves to open public participation. Alderman Infurna seconds. Public participation opens at 8:22 PM.

Mike Greski from 23 Brazil Street opposes Item 7. He says that with all the new construction and developments, they have limited parking in their area. He says that parking is even more of an issue now then it was when the RMV was open.

Rick Greski from 23 Brazil Street opposes Item 7 because he believes the amount of people in the Oak Grove area has increased by 150%. He continues to explain that the apartments in his neighborhood only have enough parking for the people that live there, so all the people visiting would end up on his street. He also says that the old RMV building is a leased building, so the tenants could change again which could cause more parking demands. He says that the way Brazil Street is now works and does not want it changed. The only issue he has on his street is speeding, not parking.

Michelle Ryan from 60 Brazil Street is also opposed to Item 7.

Linda Philpot from 51 Brazil Street is also opposed to Item 7. She was hit by a car on Washington Street while walking her dog in 2010 because of all the traffic. She says the streets are more populated now and that it is a safety issue.

Denice Greski from 23 Brazil Street is opposed to Item 7. She says that her dog was hit outside her house and died because of all the traffic on the street. In addition, her car was hit recently and says that it is a safety issue. She says she has five children and she talks to her neighbors and parks her cars with them. She is only concerned about speed, not parking. She says that that area is much more crowded with the high-rises and that the cars speed around the corner on Washington Street. She also mentions that cars do not stop at the stop sign and crosswalk at Washington Street and Pleasant Street. She also has a handwritten note from a neighbor who is also opposed to Item 7.

John Ryan from 60 Brazil Street agrees with everyone else. He does not want to change parking on his street. He is opposed to Item 7.

Alderman Infurna has a letter from John Consolo to add to the record (see attached). He is also against Item 7.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Public participation closes at 8:35 PM.

Alderman Infurna says that we did not include a clause years ago saying that if RMV disappeared, then the signs would disappear too. She says that the residents are used to it and they are a quiet neighborhood. She further explains that since it is not a public safety issue, we should put the decision back on the neighborhood. Her opinion is to keep it the way it is. Tom Rossi says that if this was a new request to add "Resident Only" parking, he would have an issue with it like he did on the Reading Hill Avenue request. Since this has been in place for a long time and there does not seem to be a benefit to changing it, he agrees that it should stay the same. Sgt. Goc says that that any of the visitors for those apartment buildings will just end up parking there. He says that based on what the residents said tonight, it sounds like it is working the way that it is now.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to deny the change from Resident Only Parking to 2-Hour Parking. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Motion is denied at 8:45 PM.

8. Request to change intersection of Dell Avenue and East Foster Street to a 4-way stop instead of a 2-way stop

Tom Rossi makes a motion to open public participation. Dan Krechmer seconds. All in favor. Public participation opens at 8:47 PM.

Christopher Theile from 139 Grove Street is in support of Item 8 and made the original request (see attached). He says that if you are going north on Dell Avenue, the house on the southeast corner is really close to the road and there is a slight kink in the road

which makes it very difficult to see cars coming west bound until you are more or less in the intersection.

Jim Taber from 26 Dell Avenue is in favor of Item 8. He has witnessed accidents and says it is a dangerous intersection with high volume traffic, high speed and blind spots. He says that people are using Dell Avenue as a bypass to avoid the lights and congestion on Main Street. He goes on to say that it is the only street with speed bumps, which he believes is telling. He also thinks that a contributing factor is that East Foster is a wide road, without a center line and it's a straightaway and people pick up speed. He understands that there are some downsides to making it a 4-way stop, like bottle necking and adding crosswalks, but overall he thinks that safety should come first and that something needs to be done about that intersection before someone gets hurt.

Page Wilkins from 88 East Foster Street opposes Item 8. She lives one house up from this intersection and she thinks it will increase congestion and that the residents need to park in that strip. She says that she thinks the cars will be lined up in front of her house, stopping and starting all day and night. She says it is going to be loud and it will be very difficult to back out of her driveway. She wishes she had speed bumps like Dell Avenue. She asks why traffic has increased so much on East Foster Street. She asks the Commission to do more research and try to find another solution.

Carolyn Payton from 62 Dell Avenue has lived there for 20 years and adds that she has seen multiple accidents in that area, including one with her husband. She is in support of making the intersection a 4-way stop because she thinks it will deter people from using the street. She also says that the way the intersection is now is dangerous.

Joseph Mapes from 58 Dell Avenue says that the intersection is very dangerous because it goes from being very wide to narrowing down. He says that it takes him three or four minutes to cross Dell Avenue every day to get to work because cars are flying up Dell Avenue and East Foster Street and down towards Main Street. He explains that telephone poles and trees block the view. He has witnessed an accident where a woman almost took out the telephone pole from hitting it so hard. He says that this could have been prevented if there was a 4-way stop at that intersection. He says that it is a safety issue and that the City needs to cut down trees and move telephone poles or make this a 4-way stop.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. Public participation closes at 9:03 PM.

Sgt. Goc says that he has nine reported accidents in five years and we would need to have 200 cars an hour for any eight hour period to warrant a 4-way stop sign. He agrees that the sight lines are difficult. Chair Proakis Ellis asks how this area compares to other

areas accident wise. Sgt. Goc says that it is not in the top ten. Alderman Infurna says that we need to do some data collection and connect with Mass Highway to see if we meet the criteria and come back in March. Liz Peart says there is a national standard. She continues to say that those warrants are based on volume data, safety concerns, how many crashes there have been, and sight distances. There is a measure of accidents per million entering vehicles to measure how safe a location is. She explains that if there is a warrant analysis done, we would need data that is different than what Sgt. Goc can collect. For example, turning movement data needs to be collected. Liz says that studies have been done to show that placing a stop sign where one is not warranted can actually decrease safety. As a Traffic Engineer, after observing the intersection, she believes that the intersection does not warrant a 4-way stop sign based on the volume calculation alone. Chair Proakis Ellis suggests that the City should at least collect the volume data to determine whether this intersection's accident history and volume might meet the warrants.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to place Item 8 on hold. Liz Peart seconds. All in favor. Item placed on hold at 9:18 PM.

9. Request to review the parking regulations on West Foster from Main Street to Berwick Street to explore more on street residential parking beyond the 2 hour maximum

Alderman Infurna moves to open public participation. Liz Peart seconds. All in favor. Opened at 9:20 PM.

Renata Taber from 134 West Foster Street made the request to add this item to the agenda. She would like us to remove the 2 hour parking on her side of the street. Her driveway fits 3 cars parked in tandem and that is where they park at night. She is only concerned with parking for the residents during the day. She would like the residents be able to park in front of their houses without being ticketed.

Lavon Fairclough from 134 West Foster Street is in favor of Item 9. She said she was not notified that the parking had changed to 2 hour parking and found out by being ticketed. After doing some research, she was told to park on Berwick Street and says that it gets filled with residents who live in that area, which leaves her with no options. She feels that as a resident she should be able to park in front of own house. She says that Melrose is busting at the seams with new residents and that parking is a much bigger issue that needs to be addressed by the City. She believes that the businesses get preferential treatment over the residents. She understands that the parking situation is a bigger issue that will take time for the City to solve and suggests that they issue 134 West Foster Street a resident placard in the meantime.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Public participation closed at 9:37 PM.

Chair Proakis Ellis explains the 2 Hour Parking/Merchant Parking program. Tom Rossi says that we can remove the restrictions on their side of the street and see what happens. He goes on to say that it may solve the issue or it may mean that other people end up parking there all day. Sgt. Goc says that we are not in the position to make special exemptions for a household that has a driveway but is inconvenienced by moving their cars. Liz Peart further explains that on street parking is public parking.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion pending the Planning Department's approval, to increase the "2 Hour Parking" to "4 Hour Parking" on the south side of West Foster Street from Berwick Street to Myrtle Street, with the sunset clause until June 2018. Liz Peart, Dan Krechmer, Tom Rossi and Chair Proakis Ellis are in favor. Sgt. Goc is opposed. Item passes at 10:05 PM.

10. Request to extend the current fire lane that runs along Stevens Place around the corner to encompass the frontage of 8 Eastman Place (on Eastman Place)

Chair Proakis Ellis explains some of the history on this agenda item. We were planning on having this item on the March agenda so the Commission would have time to get a legal opinion as to whether the Traffic Commission can vote on the fire lane. We do not have a formal legal opinion yet.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to open up public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Public participation opens at 10:08 PM.

Sheng Wu from 9 Fields Court is not in favor of adding a fire lane. Her condominium does not have parking for her and some of the other residents. She says she researched national fire code and it is 26 feet and that the street is only 20 feet wide, which means it is not wide enough for a fire truck to go in there. She adds that there are two fire hydrants close to the area in question, so she is not concerned with there being an issue if there is a fire.

Dave Adario from 8 Eastman Place and has witnessed many fire trucks not be able to make it through in his 25 years on that street. He says that they have to back up to make the turn and he believes that is dangerous that an emergency vehicle should not have to do that on a call. He asks if anyone brought a copy of Chief Leary's request. Chair Proakis Ellis reads it out loud (see attached). He says that Fields Court and Eastman Place are 23 feet wide according to the survey done by the City of Melrose in 1976. He continues that Fields Court is 12 feet wide and Eastman Place is 15 feet wide with a 12 inch strip of land in between them where a fence used to be. He explains that the Chief's request is just to extend the fire lane that already exists in that area. He further explains that people park adjacent to the fire hydrant and they added bollards but it does not have the signage saying not to park so cars still park there.

Emily Borek from 10 Fields Court, which is a four family, says that they were under the impression that there would be a place to park on the street when they bought their units. She asks how the City approves a four unit building without parking. Chair Proakis Ellis responds that she believes the zoning for the downtown area allows for some exemptions of the parking requirements. She adds that Emily should contact the Planning Department for more information because this is second hand knowledge. Chair Proakis Ellis says the City is trying to get some legal clarification on private streets, but that they also should contact a lawyer to help determine what their rights are as homeowners on private ways.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to close public participation. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Public participation closes at 10:22 PM.

Alderman Infurna makes a motion to place on hold. Tom Rossi seconds. All in favor. Motion placed on hold at 10:23 PM.

III. Discussion Items:

1. Request to add curb ramps at the crosswalk on Upham Street in front of the Gulf Station between Ardsmoor Road and Woodcrest Drive

Gil Gaeta from 410 Upham Street says that she has contacted the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Office about the issues on Upham Street. She says that she finds it nearly impossible to cross Upham Street with a stroller and with a toddler. She says that it is scary and unsafe. She adds that if you are wheelchair bound you cannot leave the street alone and that is discriminatory and against the ADA.

Chair Proakis Ellis responds that we are required to upgrade crossings when we are working in that location. She continues that we are required to have a plan in place for how we are going to be upgrading across the City, but we are not required immediately put in curb ramps everywhere we do not have them. She explains that there is a cost associated with that and that would not be feasible for the City, but we have Upham Street included in two different programs that are in the planning stages at the moment: Complete Streets and the Federal TIP Program.

Ryan Bagwell from 444 Upham Street asks when they can expect the programs to be funded that will cover crosswalks and curb ramps on Upham Street. Chair Proakis Ellis says that the Federal TIP Program is probably five to six years and the Complete Streets Program depends on whether we get funding for each year for the projects that are ahead of it in line.

Gil Gaeta says that the area was blocked off and thinks that there was sewer work being done. She goes on to say that there are fines from the Federal Government associated with not being ADA compliant and she thinks that the fines are way more expensive than what the work would cost. Chair Proakis Ellis responds that she is not aware of any excavating being done in that immediate area as part of our water project. Alderman

Infurna asks that we connect with the two Ward Alderman to try and expedite this and asks Chair Proakis Ellis to make this a priority.

Tom Rossi comments that there is a crosswalk at Highview Avenue between Ashcroft Road and Ardsmoor Road and is asking if it makes sense to move that over to East Street where there is a bus stop. He mentions that East Street has a ramp, but the other side does not.

2. Request for a crosswalk on Upham Street between the one mentioned above and Ashcroft Road

Chair Proakis Ellis explains that she met with the Mayor's Office and the DPW Director about this. She says that she was informed that it is intentional that there is not another crosswalk there between the existing crosswalk and Ashcroft Road. This is a deliberate decision based on the school crossing guard being at the Ashcroft Road crosswalk and the City wanting to encourage students to cross in that area.

3. Request for a crossing light at the corner of Franklin Street and Vinton Street

Anthony Santoriello from 33 Woodland Avenue provides some history on this discussion item. He says that there are lots of children who walk to school from that area and that crossing Franklin Street is very dangerous. He explains that the crossing guard retired, and the new crossing guard was injured and has not been back since before Thanksgiving. He says that since we expanded the sidewalks there, there is a sign knocked down or a tree dented every couple of weeks. He says that there are a lot of accidents in that area due to glare and cars flying down Franklin Street. They have been in contact with the school and Superintendent's Office and they have trouble getting crossing guards. They have also contacted Chief Lyle, who will put police there when he can. They would like to add a crossing light where you press the button and the light turns red.

Chair Proakis Ellis asks Sgt. Goc if it is a dangerous area and he says that it is. Liz Peart is asks to pull data to see what would be best for that area. Liz further explains what that process entails. Chair Proakis Ellis is going to try to seek the funding to do the traffic study which will determine what the options are and if the intersection meets the warrants.

4. Request for addition of speed limit signs on Grove Street

Chair Proakis Ellis asks the Commission for their opinions as to whether we can put up the white 25 MPH regulatory signs where no traffic studies are done or whether we have to go through Mass DOT. Sgt. Goc asks if we were allowed to replace the existing 30 MPH signs with the 25 MPH signs since we passed a City wide speed limit of 25 MPH. Chair Proakis Ellis thinks that we can only put up the regulatory signs if there is a change (e.g. Traffic Safety Zones) and/or if it is at City limits, unless there is a speed study done and Mass DOT approval issued. There is some discussion about how we could put up a yellow advisory with thickly settled underneath it for someone who requests a 25 MPH sign.

Tom Rossi makes a motion to adjourn. Alderman Infurna seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourns at 10:51 PM