

TRAFFIC BOARD MEETING 1016
Minutes
Planning Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall
Thursday, April 14, 2016

Call to Order. Called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Traffic Board Members Present: Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor; William Yeager, Assistant Chief – BPD; Giovanni Scaringi, Councilman; Terry Kellogg, DPW Commissioner

Traffic Board Members Absent: Ray Standish, Engineering

Also Present: William Lescault, BPD Traffic; Dan Correll, Retired BPD; Katherine Davis, Principal Clerk; Tom Sullivan, BMTS; Tito Martinez, Planning, Councilman Joseph Mihalko

Approval of Minutes. Request to approve the minutes **Traffic Board Meeting 1015, held on Thursday, March 10, 2016.**

Moved by: T. Kellogg, G. Scaringi

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

Items Considered

167 Conklin Avenue. The Human Society is no longer pursuing this request. **Item complete.**

Oak Street - Alternate Parking Exception. A resident submitted a request to Councilman Motsavage to have the section of Oak Street from Spring Forest to Cypress Street exempt from Alternate side of the street parking in winter months. The resident states it is difficult to get out in snow and ice when cars are parked on Oak Street are facing uphill. Traffic recommends that it does make sense but everyone agrees that the change shouldn't be made until this season of alternate side parking is finished so that residents who may have gotten tickets don't get upset and complain to the city. Councilman Scaringi will contact the resident and request a petition from other neighbors indicating that everyone would like this change, not just one person requesting it. Councilman Scaringi requested to hold this until May meeting. **Hold until next Traffic Board Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 2016.**

Jarvis Street-Alternate Street Parking. Clinton Street until Grace for parking for seniors. Mr. Scaringi reported that people from the Senior Center are looking for more parking because due to Garo's Garage using a lot of street parking, there are rarely vacant parking spaces on the street. Traffic will look into this further. Traffic reported that there is already a large parking lot available for the Senior Center. Councilman Scaringi reported that he spoke with several residents. They said that the parking lot fills up very quickly during lunch events and parking is scarce. Many seniors are having a hard time finding parking on the street and are having to park far away and then walk to the senior center. He is concerned that if this passes, it would then allow Garo and others to park there even more. He does believe that the net gain is better than the net loss. Traffic will find out how many parking spaces will be gained by passing this request and report back. **Hold until next Traffic Board Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 2016.**

Collier Street. The DA's office is requesting that parking spaces be added to Collier Street since the ramp has been closed. Traffic Board decided to leave as is until demolition of the garage begins. **Item complete.**

100 Eldredge Street. Curb cut. i3 Electronics moved into this location and they are proposing a parking lot plan which would require a new curb cut. Mr. Kraham has concerns about the design plan because the cars are facing the opposite direction of the flow of traffic. It also appears that the cars could overlap the sidewalk depending on the size of the vehicles. Mr. Kraham will email Planning with Traffic Boards concerns, which

include site distance, parking space placement, and the length of the curb cuts. Mr. Jim Simonis said that the company would like to install this parking lot so that its customers can utilize the space so they don't have to walk a long distance from the current parking spaces. Regarding the original request for parking on site, Mr. Kraham believes that Traffic Board should recommend against any additional curb cuts or off street because it is too dangerous. Traffic Board agreed. The Traffic Division recommended the following:

The Traffic Division received a verbal request from Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, to look into the possibility of inserting on-street parking on the south side of Eldredge Street east of Chenango Street and its impact on the traffic pattern.

Eldredge Street is a two way city street serving both commercial and passenger vehicles. There are commercial properties with curb cuts which limits on street parking and requiring a turning radius for delivery vehicles and tractor-trailers accessing and egressing those business, to further limit parking. It also serves as a bus route for several bus lines traveling to and from a downtown bus terminal. If parking is allowed it would have to be inserted away from an intersection where a turning radius could be maintained to avoid conflicts with other traffic, away from driveways and curb cuts to prohibit access or obstruct truck traffic from entering or exiting those driveways, and prohibit allowing parking on two sides of the street opposite each other to narrow the street to avoid congestion.

The Traffic Division in reviewing this request finds that it is possible to maintain a free flowing traffic pattern and allowing on street parking in the suggested area by amending the Traffic Code as follows:

The Traffic Division therefore request that the Traffic Code be amended as follows:

DELETE:

Section 25.2 Fifteen Minute Parking Zone between 8:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

Eldredge Street - North Side – From 1000 feet west of Emma Street to 1050 feet.

Section 23 – No Parking Anytime Zone

Eldredge Street – North Side –From 268 feet west of Emmett Street to 1000 feet west.

*Eldredge Street – North Side – From 1050 feet west of Emmett Street to
Chenango Street*

*Eldredge Street –South Side – From Brandywine Avenue to 50 feet west of
Chenango Street.*

*Eldredge Street – South Side – From the north west extended curb line of
Emmett Street to 186 west.*

INSERT:

Section 23 – No Parking Anytime

Eldredge Street – North Side – From 268 feet west of Emmett Street to Chenango Street

Eldredge Street – South Side – From Chenango Street to 111 feet east.

*Eldredge Street - South Side – from 520 east of Chenango Street to the north west
extended curb line of Emmett Street*

Motion to makes changes per Traffic's Divisions recommendations.

Moved by: G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

Motion for Eldredge Street from Chenango Street to Emmett Street to be except from alternate side parking.

Moved by: T. Kellogg, G. Scaringi

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

13 Grandview Avenue. Request for temporary handicapped parking space while owner's driveway is being repaved. Traffic investigated this but there was nobody home when they went to the property. They did not find that there was a lot of traffic and the need was unnecessary. Mr. Kraham indicated that the city does not install temporary handicapped parking regardless. **Item Complete.**

53 Emma Street. Mr. Scaringi reported that a resident is requesting a handicapped parking space. Mr. Scaringi reported that the resident actually lives on Downs and has recently had back surgery and has difficulty walking to car. She does not have off street parking and would like a new handicapped parking space. Traffic will look into this further and report back in May. **Hold until next Traffic Board Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 2016.**

158 Clinton Street. Mr. Martinez reported that the applicant would like to close two existing curb cuts on Clinton and open a new 24' curb cut on Clinton and widen the curb cut on St. Cyril Ave. He also indicated that it will be a mixed use building. The Traffic Division reported that while investigating they were unable to find the owner to discuss this with them.

Motion to make requested changes.

Moved by: G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

11-13 Henry Street. Request for the parking zone on Henry Street, west of Washington Street to be widened due to new restaurant "The Garage" opening in that area. The Traffic Division recommended the following:

The Traffic Division received the attached correspondence from Jared Kraham, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, requesting that the on street parking on the north side of Henry Street between Water Street and Washington Street be reviewed for expansion of the Two Hour Parking Meter Zone. The request was based on the establishment of a new business, a diner, at the site of the former Metro Garage, 11-13 Henry Street. The west most driveway cut to that property is no longer accessible to the property due to the construction of a raised patio for the diner. The Traffic Division responded to the area. With the insertion of the new patio, access through the west most entrance will no longer be needed and therefore additional on street parking can be inserted as follows:

DELETE – Two Hour Parking Meter Zone

Henry Street – north side – from 76 feet east of Water Street to 194 feet west of Washington Street.

INSERT – Two Hour Parking Meter Zone

Henry Street – north side – from 76 feet east of Water Street to 225 feet east of Water Street.

Henry Street – north side – from 225 feet east of Water Street to Washington Street.

Motion to make changes recommended by the Traffic Division.

Moved by: W. Yeager, T. Kellogg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

Chenango Street. Truesdell Street to Bevier Street, no parking either side. Traffic reported that they investigated this request. They stopped and spoke to a business owner who is concerned that the bike lane will take away parking from his business. Especially in the winter months when there are very few bicyclists anyway. **Hold until next Traffic Board Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 2016.**

Beethoven Street and Leroy Street. Councilman Joseph Mihalko would like this light removed and have a four-way stop put in. There have been several accidents over the past couple of years at this intersection. Mr. Kraham indicated that BMTS has done a previous study on several lights along Leroy Street. Mr. Kellogg proposed that before making the change, perhaps Traffic Board should post the potential change on the city's website for a certain amount of time to see what people's reactions and comments are. **Hold until the traffic light study is accepted by BMTS.**

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and Minerva Avenue. Councilman Mihalko received several phone calls that when school is starting and ending there are some traffic issues on Minerva Avenue. Traffic gets backed up on this street. Hold until the Mayor's Office or the Traffic Division hears more from the local residents and/ or parents.

Stuart Street. *The Traffic Division recommends the following:*

The Traffic Division received a verbal request from Maine's Veterans Memorial Arena to post No Parking Anytime signs on the south side of Stuart Street in front of the Arena, excluding the indented designate 15 Minute Parking Zone from 80 feet west of State Street to 219 west. They advised this unit that motorist park in those areas when the fifteen minute zones are occupied by others purchasing or picking up orders at the ticket windows for an extended period of time or sitting in those zones waiting for others to return from purchasing tickets. This action causes a bottle neck for traffic on that street or prohibits access to the driveways for the off street parking zones on that property.

The Traffic Division, upon reviewing the Traffic Code. found no designation for prohibited parking on the south side of Stuart Street between Washington Street and State Street. Also, the Traffic Division found no signs for prohibited parking on the south side of that street in that area.

The Traffic Division therefore recommends that the Traffic Code be amended as follows:

Insert: No Parking Anytime Zones

Stuart Street – South Side – from State Street to 80 feet west.

Stuart Street – South Side – from 219 feet west of State Street to Washington Street.

Moved by: G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish

Adjournment 9:35 a.m.

Moved by: G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg

Motion carried. (Vote 4-0-1)

Ayes: J. Kraham, G. Scaringi, T. Kellogg, W. Yeager

Nays: None

Absent: R. Standish