

CITY OF BEVERLY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

BOARD: Parking and Traffic Commission
SUBCOMMITTEE: None
LOCATION: Virtual meeting
DATE: October 5, 2021
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Benevento (Chair), Darlene Wynne (Vice Chair), Michael Collins, Jonathan Salt, George Binns, Capt Ryan Laracy
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Sgt Michael Henebury, John Lozada
OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Siemasko, Thad Siemasko, Julie & Jeff Arcari, Rebecca Brown, Councilor Todd Rotondo, Mike Tremblay, Richard Vincent, G Rathe
RECORDER: Sharlyne Woodbury

Benevento chairs and opens the meeting at 8:30 am.

This is a virtual meeting with special meeting format as required to honor Governor Baker’s State of Emergency declared due to the national crisis of COVID-19.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the September 14, 2021 meeting will be reviewed at the November meeting.

2. Recommendation to Planning Board: Site Plan Review #151-21- 143 Brimbal Avenue – 143 Brimbal Avenue LLC, c/o Glovsky & Glovsky LLC

Miranda Siemasko represents the client. Reviews the prior visit to the PTC back in March 2021. Siemasko reviews the iterations of the project plans. The original design detailed an extended building into the parking lot which would require a special permit since the business aims to have less parking than is required by ordinance. The revised project details the building going up instead of going out. The parking will be preserved and no longer require a special permit. Siemasko explains this retail establishment requires more square footage for storage and showroom space. Siemasko is looking for less relief and grounds for appeal. Rebecca Brown will provide an updated traffic assessment.

Thad Siemasko presents the updates plans discussing landscaping, ADA ramps, the parking segments for customers and staff, and dumpster location. Siemasko reviews the added loading dock which is behind the building. The most significant renovation is the front elevation with a large glass window showcasing the product.

Rebecca Brown reviews the parking demand and trip generation study. The areas of concerns are the roundabouts, the site driveway, the Whole Foods driveway, and 131 Brimbal Ave driveway. Brown reviews the trip generator noted a reduction in traffic with this proposed retail spaces as opposed to the space’s prior use as function hall of the Vittori Rocky Post. Brown reviews the full traffic study from the Salem location including product delivery and customer trips. The previous proposal did not meet zoning requirements for parking. The new proposal does meet zoning requirement for parking. Brown presents the updated turning analysis for delivery vehicles. Brown reviews the updated site line analysis for driveways. Benevento inquires about truck sizes; Brown replies WB40. Brown uses an SU40 to

demonstrate turning radius for firetrucks in her analysis. Benevento inquires if the business will need to use trucks larger than WB40. Brown confirms no.

Benevento has comments and questions. Notes the crash rate was used for intersections with no signal. Benevento believes there must be crash rates specifically for intersections. Brown replies there currently is not. Benevento reviews the Dunham Hill road traffic and how it impacts the roundabout traffic. He notes the traffic was reviewed independently of one another where perhaps they should have been reviewed jointly. Benevento has more concerns with blocking the left-hand turns and blocking the queues. MASSDOT was concerned about the roundabout upon initial construction. MASSDOT owns the roundabout, Benevento inquires if they are seeking a permit from them. Brown answers they do not meet the volume requirements nor are they impacting the construct of the roundabout. The request for determination confirmed there is no need for a MASSDOT permit. Benevento's main concern are the queues at the roundabout. Brown expands upon those trip analyses for the roundabout. Benevento discusses the delivery trucks coming from Rte. 128 not downtown Beverly. Benevento also questions the cars fitting side by side for the left-hand turn lane. Jeff Arcari interjects and confirms the installers drive large SUVs and small trucks plus reviews the delivery schedule and types of vehicles to reassure the commission's concerns. Miranda Siemasko also interjects noting the left-hand turn is a concern, she reminds the commission that same area was used for a covid clinic with surprising success.

Collins provides comments and does not have many concerns about the roundabout traffic. Wynne notes Benevento covered most of her questions and suggests the MASSDOT response should be forward to the commission so they have it on file as well. Laracy inquires if the street will need to be ripped up for any new utilities coming in. Thad Siemasko confirms the current water line and sewer lines are adequate. Laracy's concern was the addition of a fire hydrant. Benevento questions the applicant if they have a problem with deliveries being restricted no earlier than 9 am. Benevento inquires if the striping needs to be redone. Collins confirms MASSDOT restriped.

Wynne moves to recommend the planning board approve the application subject to a condition that WB40 trucks or larger have restricted deliveries between 9 am – 2pm. Motion amended: the condition will include no deliveries between 7-9 am and 4-6 pm. Binns seconds. The motion carries 6-0.

3. **Discussion: Amend Ordinance §270-41 by adding parking prohibited at all times on west side of Elliot Street from 485 to Beverly/Danvers city line – requested by Ward 1 Councilor Todd Rotondo**

Councilor Rotondo addresses the commission. He asks to restrict parking on Elliot Street. Residents coming off Sunset Drive experience obstructed views while trying to join west bound traffic. Rotondo reports neighbors are in favor of this restriction. Sgt Henebury assisted Rotondo with a site walk and offered information on restricted parking. No objection to neighbors on the westbound side. Rotondo explains the east bound side is not a safety issue. Benevento inquires if the parking restriction could be compromised with no parking between the hours of 8 am – 6 pm with overnight parking permitted. Rotondo believes 24 hours restriction on the west side is appropriate. The gas station utilizes on street parking for their garage and auto repair services. Rotondo confirms the church parking lot owners are not amendable to permitting the parking lot use for the gas station.

The members discuss the plans for bike lanes and the requirements and buffer zones which would eventually lead to prohibited parking on either side of Elliot Street over time. Rotondo inquires if the members are amendable to the restricted parking since these bike lanes are part of the Beverly MP.

Members further discuss the restricted parking to assist with site distance issues. Members are concerned if the parking is restricted will the gas station go into the neighborhood and side streets.

Salt discusses the fact this is a Danvers business where the church is in Danvers who could permit parking as a solution. Benevento explains because this is a hybrid issue the commission has limited jurisdiction. Wynne and Salt concur this is a quality life issue for the Beverly citizens. Rotondo confirms the Danvers business is not violating any ordinances or restrictions. Rotondo confirms there is no illegal activities taking place. The cars are parked temporarily on a public street while they service them. Salt asks if this is a matter of public storage or public parking.

Laracy inquires if the gas station owner is using is operating license as a dealership. Rotondo confirms he is not, he's strictly using it as a service station. Binns believes this is a Danvers problem and they should handle the solution. Rotondo reiterates he attempted mitigation between the church parking and the gas station.

Benevento moves to make a recommendation to the city council to amend the parking ordinance and restrict parking 24 hours on the west bound side of 485 Elliot Street to the Danvers city line. Discussion on the motion. Salt believes this pushes the issue now to the east bound side. Rotondo acknowledges the west bound side is more of a safety issue and acknowledges a few neighbors do use on street parking. Commissioners review the on-street parking with Wynne presenting the GIS real time street view. Upon view, Benevento is not comfortable enforcing a parking restriction without a site walk. Salt believes the commission should approach the business owner to see what he is going to do about causing this problem. Wynne brings the discussion back to the site line issue. Binns comments the business owner uses the east bound side more than the west bound side. Binns concurs with Benevento a site visit is appropriate. Collins clarifies his earlier comment with restricting parking on either side of the road. Collins suggests for a better solution more time is needed to discuss concerns with the business owner and perform a site walk. Rotondo offers final comments reiterating the site lines and safety issues as well as prior discussions with the business owner. Wynne withdraws the motion. The commissioners agree to perform a site walk.

Binns moves to table the discussion to the next meeting. Wynne seconds. The motion carries 6-0.

4. General Business

a. Bicycle parking ordinance

Updates scheduled for the November meeting.

b. Russell Street parking

Wynne provides the updates and notes there are many sides to the parking issue. Wynne notes Sgt Henebury provided a letter to the commission on the issue. Firetrucks are not able to get through. Wynne suggests the commission perform a site walk with safety being the most important component as consideration. Benevento suggests meeting with the school to improve circulation with the school property.

Jasper Lamarr Crabbe, Russell Street resident

Crabbe addresses the commission. He discusses the new sidewalks. They are larger than the previous sidewalks. As a resident his main concerns with not being able to park on the street. Crabbe is amendable to restrict parking on one side.

Collins does not know the content of Sgt Henebury's letter and will not speak to it at the moment. Collins briefly discusses the newly constructed sidewalks maintaining city-wide continuity. Collins notes they are trying to have better enforcement for parents illegally lining up both sides of the street where they are not supposed to be parking. Collins inquires if the neighbors prefer which side of the street is restricted.

Mike Tremblay, 14 Russell Street

Tremblay addresses the commission. Tremblay's main concern is Russell Street used as a cut through to avoid traffic on main streets like Cabot and Herrick Streets from normal traffic. He also discusses the new sidewalks noting the odd numbered street side measures 7 ft wide; while the even numbered street side measures 8 ft wide. As a result of the larger sidewalks buses cannot navigate down the street. They end up causing bottlenecks choking off the flow of traffic. Tremblay expresses safety concerns with firetrucks not being able to access or get down the street. He is a strong advocate for no parking on the street. Tremblay was able to speak with all but two neighbors on his street who agree to no parking. Tremblay would like to see the commission address the fact that large buses and trucks cannot use it as a short cut. Residents should be able to use their street they live on. Tremblay suggests large truck and bus restriction. They can use Sohier Road, Herrick Street, and Cabot Street. Those streets were designed for large traffic.

Benevento acknowledges this is a multifaceted issue that requires a multipronged approach. Collins also brings attention the railroad crossing on Cabot Street. The commission will further review and explore mitigation options.

There being no additional comments; no further action required at this time.

5. New business

a. Sohier/Tozer Roads intersection design

Salt inquires if the commission has any say in the Sohier/Tozer Roads intersection design. Benevento recaps the project progression noting it came before the commission awhile back. Collins provides the updates. Members discuss the project in its current stages. Collins discusses the shared use path and its possibilities especially for safety and connectivity. Salt notes the BBC would be anxious to see the final plan product. Salt informs Wynne that Dan Brosnan is waiting to hear back on updates for the bike parking and ordinance. Salt also notes the BBC is still looking to pursue bike infrastructure in joint coordination with the commission and engineering department.

b. Welcome Richard Vincent

Benevento welcomes Mr. Richard Vincent as the replacement for Leslie Gould.

c. ADA sign compliance

Benevento noticed the painted handicap symbol is not compliant with ADA. Benevento notes Needham was fined with not being compliant using the proper symbol. Benevento will send information to Collins on updated literature.

6. Adjournment

Salt moves to adjourn. Binns seconds. The motion carries 6-0.
Meeting adjourned 10:40 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for 11.9.21.