



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC & PARKING

George Teso
Director

Traffic Board Meeting

June 23, 1976

Present: Chairman Vincent Panico, Captain Lawrence Brutti, Deputy Chief Ernest Gelinas, Fred Cellineri, Lt. Joseph Borelli, John Pitkin, David Bryant and Lauren Preston.

1. Visitor Permits:

It was brought to the Board's attention that an attorney on Third Street has Visitor Permits to which he is not entitled. Lauren Preston said that he knew of no special permission given to this attorney for Visitor Permits but that he would look into it. The only exception we have made yet is for doctors who have offices in a restricted area.

2. Parking Garage:

Receipts for the Parking Garage has had no noticeable increase in the past two months. It was again brought up that the garage should be publicized and more enforcement in the areas surrounding the garage. Information signs will be installed on the major streets directing motorists to the garage.

Rates for parking in the garage:

\$.50 for overnight parking.

\$35.00 per month 7 days a week

\$30.00 per month 5 days a week 7:00 AM to Midnight

The businessmen in Central Square want a rate of \$20. to \$25. per month, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The Board reached the conclusion that at this rate the garage would run at a loss. It should be brought to the attention of parkers that the garage is much cheaper than tickets at \$2.00 for overtime at meters and an additional \$3.00 if over two hours. Only two businesses in Central Square are using stamps for free customer parking.

3. Tickets:

During Harvard's Commencement week, the Parking Control Officers will not ticket meter violations in the area of Harvard but will ticket other violations. The police are concerned about pedestrian traffic. On April 14 Cambridge has it's first fatal accident this year. An 88-year-old male pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle. The police waited for a medical report before listing it as a fatal. At this time last year we had seven fatals. Motor vehicle accidents are down 15% over the same period of 1975. There will be more summonses on traffic tickets going out in two weeks; these will be for 1974 violations. If we send out summonses for 1972 and 1973, it will be a one shot deal with no follow-up. When we receive information from the computer on motorists with over five unpaid tickets, we will have a meeting with the Court and Police to see if we can put into effect the tow and hold law. There are still personnel problems with the Boston computer service. Now that our Parking Control Officer force has increased to 16 Officers and from 4½ to 14 routes, we expect to issue in the vicinity of 50,000 tickets per month. If the personnel problems in Boston continue, this will cause a backlog.

4. It was decided that if we receive no satisfaction from Boston that we write the City Manager and request that he purchase a computer of our own. It was brought to the Board's attention that there was a computer at the high school that is not being used.
5. Vincent Panico wanted to know why he could come from the Arlington line to Linnaean St. before getting a red light. Dave Bryant explained that this was done on purpose to slow down the traffic before it reached Harvard Square. As it was done for safety reasons, the objection was dropped. Dave also explained that the traffic signals on Quinlan Avenue were not synchronized due to construction and that the problem would be solved when the loops were replaced.

6. Resident Sticker Program:

The Resident Sticker case is due to go before the State Supreme Court during the month of September of 1976. The State Attorney General will sit in on the case as a "friend of the court". The EPA (Federal Government) does not intend to enter the case; they will just act as the role of advisor.

7. Parking Lot #10:

There is a problem in the Bennett Street Parking Lot. Motorists are parking in the centre strip, thus blocking legally parked cars. The police cannot pull men out of Harvard Square to enforce the ban in the centre strip, especially on Saturdays. It was suggested that the size of the centre strip be reduced or that a fence be built the length of the strip. There is a question as to how long the City will have rights to this lot and would it be feasible to invest much money. The Department has two Parking Control Officers in Harvard Square every Saturday to enforce this ban. No sooner do they have one group of cars towed than a new group moves in. At 12:00 Noon, the Auxiliary Police move in and stay in the lot until 5:00, keeping cars from parking in the centre strip.

8. The Board agreed to have one summer meeting either at the end of July or the first of August. The meeting is to be held whenever the Traffic Director's schedule will permit him to be present.

The next meeting of the Traffic Board will be held on Wednesday, August 4, 1976 at 10:00 am in the Traffic Director's office, City Hall Annex, third floor, Broadway and Inman Streets.

J.A.S.
Secretary to the Traffic Board

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Comm. from the Dept. of Traffic and Parking
transmitting the Traffic Board Meeting notes
for June 23, 1976.

In City Council,

September 13, 1976

9/13/76
Placed on File