

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LIAISON
WOBURN CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025, at 6:07 p.m.**

Voting Members present: President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Robert Ferullo, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Charles Viola, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Councilor William Pappalardo, and Councilor Robert Toro. Absent: Councilor Joanne Campbell

Also present: City Engineer Alexander Rozycki and Mayor Michael Concannon

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Reading of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of May 19, 2025; approved, 8-0-1.

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Citizens participation request from Jack and Karen Foley, 86 Beach Street, to discuss the sidewalk extension at the intersection of Beach Street and Salem Street: Mr. Foley said despite the new markings the intersection is still a speedway. He said there have been three accidents since the pavement markings went in. He said the accidents have not been major, but he said there is going to be a major accident if it continues and the city needs to find another alternative. Mrs. Foley said the bend is no good. She said the intersection can't be made any larger because it will create more problems. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she knows there are concerns about the project in general and there will be discussion soon to go over the different options. She said the way she understands it is the markings have been put there to slow down the traffic. Mrs. Foley said the markings have not slowed down traffic. She said cars still come flying around the corner. She said the intersection continues to be very busy. She said it doesn't matter how far the markings come out; the cars are still speeding. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said that corner is terrible, which is why the city needs to address something. Mrs. Foley said if the turn was squared off like every other street, she does not think there would be as much of a problem. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said there will be options. She said there are about three options that will be looked at as a community. She said she is going to hold a smaller meeting before everything is rolled out. She said at the end of the day, it is important for the committee to understand the Foleys' feedback because they are able to observe the intersection due to their proximity. She said their feedback is the lines that were painted are doing nothing. She said she told the Foleys this morning that she is going to find out if there are some metrics. Mrs. Foley said traffic isn't as bad in the middle of the day, but it is worse in the morning and the evening. Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked if that means 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. Mr. Foley said the traffic in the afternoon starts to get bad around 3 p.m. City Engineer Rozycki said he requested speed counts from the police department. He said he would tend to agree the lines on the street don't

slow down cars. He said it would be hard to quantify people actually slowing down. He said taking additional measures to try to slow down traffic is probably warranted at this intersection. He said they may be able to unveil some proposed changes this fall. He said they can go forward to determine the appetite of the community to implement those changes. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said one of the things they were hoping to understand is whether the Foleys are seeing issues because the lines are there. Mrs. Foley said some of those people come around that corner like they're on two wheels. Mr. Foley said people coming out of Beach Street are cutting other people off. Mrs. Foley said a normal street is squared off, and that makes them slow down automatically. She said people come down Salem Street and just fly around that corner. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she wants to make sure she is understanding what the Foleys are saying. She asked if the Foleys are saying that since the lines were put down things have gotten worse. Mr. Foley answered affirmatively. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said maybe the city can take a closer look at that. Councilor Demers said he would like commend Councilor Mercer-Bruen. He said she has been working on this issue for quite some time. He said one of his constituents reached out about the impact the intersection was having on Bow Street and student pedestrians. He said he knows the council is waiting on some more finer point plans. He said he knows City Engineer Rozycki has been working on it. He said the suggestion the Foley made about T-ing off that intersection is on the table, hopefully shaving into the island a little bit, so that line of sight is a lot better. He said that will force a calming effect and reduce speeding up the hill because someone will have to come to a full stop to make that turn onto Beach Street. He said he thinks that is crucial. He said the safety of the pedestrians crossing at Bow Street is the most important aspect of this project. He thanked the mayor for having multiple meetings about this and having the consultants do a lot of work on it. He said it is the most willing everyone has been to get something done. He said he is looking forward to continuing to work on this. He said the positivity of the meetings has been very good. He said he commends Engineer Rozycki as well because he's brought a breath of fresh air and a lot of realism to the meeting in terms of what would best suit the needs of that neighborhood. He said he is looking forward to further work on it. Councilor DiMambro said noticed there has been a problem at that intersection and it has come up at the Traffic Commission as well as the mayor's department head meetings. He said he was there this past Saturday and noticed when he pulled out of Beach Street that all the lines are worn out. He said that is a sure sign that something isn't working. He said he is willing to work with Councilors Mercer-Bruen and Demers to come up with a solution. Councilor Pappalardo asked if a traffic consultant has given recommendations, and if one of those recommendations was painting those lines. Mayor Concannon said the city is working with a traffic consultant. He said they didn't think by painting lines the problem was going to be solved. He said it was really about just trying to gauge what it might look like. He said there are a few different options, one of which is the city would T off the intersection and make that a hard right turn from Salem onto Beach. He said there are also a couple of lesser options that may be palatable. He said TEC is helping the city. Engineer Rozycki said the consultant talked about putting barrels out there instead of the lines. He said that would certainly slow cars down but it gets into a safety versus a visual tradeoff. He said people start hitting the barrels and they are all over the sidewalk, and people may not be able to see them at night. He said if people have been making that right hand slingshot turn for 30 years the lines are not going to stop you. He said T-ing off that intersection makes a lot of sense and adding some pedestrian lighting may be a step worth considering. He said all of those conversations have to take place in the public sphere. He said the city needs to decide on a direction, fund the design process and figure out the construction piece of it.

Councilor Pappalardo asked about a time line. City Engineer Rozycki said in a realistic approach the city goes back to the state for grant funding money in the fall and then construction can begin in the spring or summer when school is out. He said that is a bit of a ways away and the focus know is knowing what the public wants. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said there was a meeting not too long ago. She said Mayor Concannon is helping to keep the ship running. She thanked him for that because projects like this can fall apart quickly. She said there was a conversation about whether it makes sense to have a community meeting. She said it is July and not a lot of people are around. She said the thought process was maybe roll something out around the end of August to show people. She said the city is very close. She said there are three different options. She said she loves that City Engineer Rozycki just laid out the plan for construction. She said they are not talking about 10 years. She said they are talking about design, construction and build possibly next spring into the summer with the goal being the school year does not start without this being done.

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Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola to adjourn; approved, 8-0-1. President Dillon adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Attest: _____

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees