

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
APRIL 20, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending:, Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Corey, Comm. Lindsay Higgins, Comm. Raymond Mooney, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Chair Comm. Joanne Campbell.

Absent: Comm. John Duran, Comm. Tim Ring.

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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**No. 2016-19**

On the petition for review of safety zones and thickly settled area speed regulations. Comm. Cassidy stated that the subcommittee met last week, that discussion on the matter has concluded, that a map reflecting the final report is not complete, that the report recommends portions of roads suitable for reduced speed, and that a presentation with recommendations will be ready for the next meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the May 18, 2017 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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**No. 2016-16**

On the petition relative to resident traffic and through traffic only restrictions. A communication dated March 21, 2017 from the Traffic Commission to Alderman Michael Anderson, Alderman Mark Gaffney and Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen was read into the record as follows:

Re: Resident only traffic and through traffic time restrictions

The Traffic Commission has been reviewing locations in the city where there are resident only traffic and through traffic time restrictions. At this time, the Commission is focusing on those streets with time restrictions that are in conflict with each other at each end of the street. For example, a street that restricts travel to resident traffic only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at both ends of the street.

The Traffic Commission requests your attendance at a public meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017 in the Council Chamber at Woburn City Hall regarding this issue. In particular, the Commission will be reviewing the restrictions on Washington Circle (Ward 5), Cummings Avenue (Ward 3), Brentwood Road (Ward 4), Intervale Street (Ward 4) and Colonial Road (Ward 3). These roadways have the same time restrictions at both ends of the streets prohibiting access to the street except for residents. It is the intention of the Commission to hold an additional meeting with notice to the residents of the affected streets and for the Police Department to provide recommendations as to the appropriate direction of travel and hours of restricted travel for each of the streets.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

At the request of the Traffic Commission, Alderman Michael Anderson and Alderman Mark Gaffney attended the meeting. Alderman Mercer-Bruen wrote that a conflict in her schedule prevented her from attending the meeting. Comm. Mooney stated that the issue are residents only travel restrictions and conflicts in the times when vehicles are prohibited from entering a street at the same time from both ends of the street, that the intention is to work with residents regarding the issues and to develop an understanding that any travel restriction applies to the residents of the street as well, that the intention is not to make conditions harder for the residents but to make the restrictions legal and to remove any liability that may be on the city, that Colonial Road has the same restriction on entering the street at both ends of the street, that the City Solicitor advised that the signs have to be removed, that the Police Department has not been able to enforce the restrictions, that having a time restriction on the direction of travel is acceptable, that the restriction will be imposed on residents of the street as well, that installing appropriate signs will allow the Police Department to do enforcement, that this will reduce cut through traffic during the restricted hours which are typically rush hours, and that Kearsarge Avenue is an example of where residents agreed to certain travel restrictions which applied to them as well and which reduced the traffic and excessive speed of vehicles as vehicles were no longer cutting through. Alderman Anderson asked whether this matter was raised as a result of the sign survey being conducted. Comm. Mooney stated that this was a Police Department initiative, that from personal observation the traffic on Brentwood Road in the morning is heading from Main Street to the industrial area and in the afternoon is coming from the industrial area to Main Street, that the traffic on Intervale Street increases when vehicles queue upon Brentwood Road, and that the Police Department can conduct a traffic count on the streets. Alderman Anderson stated that he would like to do a mailing to the residents of the affected streets as to the reason for the change and asking for a response as to the preferred direction of travel. Comm. Mooney stated that some residents may say no restrictions on either end the street may acceptable, that the restriction signs do act as a deterrent, and that the recommended hours of restricted travel on Brentwood Road and Intervale Street would be between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Comm. Campbell stated that the intention is to have a public meeting to hear from the residents on the proposed changes. Comm. Cassidy stated that if the signs are correct then the restriction will be enforceable. Comm. Mooney stated that the citation for violating a valid travel restriction is \$105.00 and will be a moving violation, and that once the community understands that the restriction will be enforced they will abide by the restriction. Alderman Anderson stated that vehicles do travel at excessive speeds on Brentwood Road. Comm. Mooney stated that when drivers are using a street as a cut through they are trying to make good time and therefore this leads to excessive speeds. Alderman Gaffney stated that he has never received complaints about the restrictions on Colonial Road or Cummings Avenue, that he will speak to the residents of those streets, and that Colonial Road appears to be a quicker way to get to Wyman Street rather than traveling along Winn Street as opposed to avoiding traffic. Comm. Mooney stated that if it is determined over time that the restriction should be imposed in the opposite direction then the restriction could be changed. Alderman Gaffney stated that there are other streets that may benefit from the restriction such as Shields Street, Elijah Street and Valley Road. Comm. Mooney stated that he understood that this matter would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Comm. Higgins stated that notice of the meeting could be sent to the residents along with information concerning the issue through the office of the City Clerk. Comm. Cassidy stated that it may be better to delay action until the June meeting to allow the Aldermen to contact the residents. Alderman Gaffney stated that there are not many residents on Colonial Road or Cummings Avenue. Alderman Anderson stated that the matter could be heard at the May

meeting and if necessary at that time continue the matter to a later date. Comm. Mooney stated that he would prefer to move forward sooner rather than later. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the May 18, 2017 meeting and that a public hearing be held at that time with notice and information to the residents of Brentwood Road, Intervale Street, Cummings Avenue and Colonial Road, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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**No. 2016-14**

On the petition relative to the request for traffic calming on Beacon Street at intersection with Sturgis Street. Comm. Corey stated that he will prepare an on-ground survey for presentation at the next meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the May 18, 2017 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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**No. 2017-4**

On the petition relative to Veteran's Agent request to establish Purple Heart parking spaces. Comm. Cassidy stated that she would like to invite the Veteran's Agent to the next meeting to hear more about this issue. Comm. Mooney stated that the petition indicates that this would not be an offense for which a citation would issue, and that it would be difficult to challenge someone to determine whether they are a Purple Heart recipient. Comm. Cassidy stated that there may have to be a requirement that the vehicle have a Purple Heart registration plate. Comm. Corey stated that the intention is good and that he honors the service of the Purple Heart veterans but he is concerned whether these honorary spaces would be requested by other groups or causes. Comm. Socorelis asked if a Purple Heart veteran was a passenger in a vehicle whether they would have to display a placard. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the May 18, 2017 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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**No. 2017-5**

On the petition to establish resident only restriction on Shields Street. Comm. Mooney stated that there is an opinion from the City Solicitor that resident only restrictions are not enforceable. Alderman Gaffney stated that he will speak to the petitioner and inform him that these restrictions are not permitted. Comm. Mooney stated that time restrictions on direction of travel is permitted by not a resident only restriction. Alderman Gaffney stated that Shields Street may be an appropriate location for a restricted hours of travel ordinance. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file and that the Ward Alderman inform the petitioner of such action, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Duran, Ring absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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William C. Campbell, City Clerk  
and Clerk of Traffic Commission