

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
JULY 21, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

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

Absent: Comm. Timothy Ring.

---

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, 1 absent (Ring absent), 1 abstained (Cassidy abstained).

---

**No. 2016-05**

Relative to a request for a pedestrian-activated crosswalk signal light at 237 at Winn Street. Comm. Corey stated that he thought this matter had been withdrawn, that the issue is the crosswalk has to be handicapped accessible with access pads which this location does not, that the crosswalk is split between Woburn and Burlington, that he spoke to the Burlington Town Engineer who indicated that the Burlington Board of Selectmen will have to approve the request, that the cost for full improvement including the equipment and crosswalk improvements will be \$15,000.00 to \$18,000.00, and that the matter can be moved forward with permitting if the petitioner is willing to pay these costs. Comm. Mooney stated that the proposed signal upon having a button pressed indicates the existence of a sidewalk at the location. Comm. Cassidy stated that the petitioner could be informed of the costs and determine if the petitioner is willing to fund the project. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the City Engineer and Planning Director send a communication to the petitioner outlining the process and expenses for installing the crosswalk signal and to determine whether the petitioner will agree to provide the funding for the project, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to suspend the rules for the purposes of taking the following matter out of order, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-13**

Relative to request for no through traffic restriction on Maura Drive. Appearing was Eugene Foley, 18 Maura Drive and he stated that traffic travels from Lexington Street to Waltham Street particularly during rush hours along Maura Drive, that children wait for the school bus along the street, and that heavy trucks are traveling along the road during the workday particularly from the Winning Farm construction site. Constance Otradovec, 12 Maura Drive stated that Maura Drive is a narrow residential street on a hill with several turns, and that drivers unfamiliar with the street travel swiftly along the roadway. Chris Moniz, 21 Maura Drive stated that on more

than one occasion children have been narrowly missed being hit by vehicles, that there are fourteen children under the age of fifteen residing on the street as well as elderly residents, and that he counted seventeen trucks traveling the street today including dump trucks and trucks with trailers. Comm. Corey stated that the Maura Drive is a public way between two major streets, that the city can restrict the time the road is traveled, and that if trucks are coming from a development then the city can ask that vehicles from the construction site not use the road. Ms. Otradovec stated that it is not clear if the trucks are coming just from the development site, and that a prohibition against heavy commercial vehicles traveling the street would be helpful. Mr. Foley stated that during the morning and evening rush hours the volume of traffic is high in both directions. Ms. Otradovec stated that vehicles speed is an issue during non-rush hours. Comm. Mooney stated that the speed limit is 30 miles per hour unless otherwise marked, that often a vehicle traveling 30 m.p.h. appears to be traveling faster to residents along the street although it is the lawful speed, that time restrictions work from one end of a street but the restriction applies to everyone including residents, that there cannot be time restrictions at both ends of the street, and that there can be no exemption for residents. Comm. Cassidy stated that to determine a special speed limit a traffic study has to show that the average speed of vehicles is for the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of vehicles traveling on the roadway. Comm. Corey stated that the determined 85<sup>th</sup> percentile could result in increasing the speed limit above 30 m.p.h. Comm. Mooney stated that vehicle crashes indicate line of sight issues on a street, and that there does not appear to be many historical crashes on Maura Drive. Ms. Otradovec stated that the traffic has changed recently, and that although there may not be historical crash data current conditions may lead to crashes. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department discourages children from using the street to play particularly with these conditions. Comm. Corey stated that the Engineering Department could prepare a traffic study to determine conditions and compare the street to other roadways. Mr. Moniz stated that vehicles from the new developments in the area will be using Maura Drive as a shortcut, and that children are going to play in the streets. Comm. Mooney stated that this is common for motorists to drive on streets as if it is not their own neighborhood, and that the motorists are using a road as a shortcut and often speed to take full advantage of the shortcut. Comm. Corey stated that if the Police Department puts out the speed counter along the street the data can be analyzed for possible resolutions. Comm. Campbell stated that she has a similar situation in her Ward, that many simple solutions are not permitted under the law, and that it may be necessary to pursue new legislation at the State House to allow relief for people residing in residential areas. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department will work with the City Engineer to install devices to obtain data of the traffic and will add the street to enhanced enforcement efforts. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the September 15, 2016 meeting to allow the Police Department to obtain data for mitigation of the issues and for increased enforcement of current regulations, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

#### **No. 2016-10**

Relative to the installation of crosswalk across Salem Street at Salem Place. Comm. Corey stated that this matter is under the jurisdiction of MassDOT, that there are no suitable sidewalks in that area for a crosswalk, and that there will be some improvements in the area associated with the Benchmark project. Comm. Duran stated that this location is a dangerous spot for a crosswalk. Comm. Corey stated that the City Council could work with the State delegation and MassDOT to address this issue. Comm. Mooney stated that it is a dangerous area for a crosswalk at this location. Comm. Corey stated that a crosswalk greater than 26 feet in length is crossing more than two lanes of traffic and should be located at a traffic controlled intersection. Motion made

and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file until further notice, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-09**

Relative to a delayed green light for westbound traffic on Russell Street. Comm. Higgins stated that she spoke to a representative of MassDOT who visited the location. Comm. Corey stated that the problem is coordination between Lexington Street and Russell Street has failed, that MassDOT is putting new equipment in to address the issues, and that the matter can be continued for monitoring with an additional report to the Traffic Commission. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the September 15, 2016 meeting for further updates from the City Engineer, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-07**

Relative to second reading of the following regulation for enforcement of handicapped parking regulations

**ORDERED** Be it ordained by the Woburn Traffic Commission that the 2016 Woburn Traffic Code be further amended as follows:

1. By adding a new Section 5-15 Improper Display of Handicapped Parking Placard as follows: "A handicapped parking placard shall be properly displayed in a vehicle so as to be readily visible through the windshield of the vehicle and in compliance with M.G.L. Ch. 90, §2."
2. By adding a new line to Section 9-1 Penalties as follows: "Improper display of handicapped parking placard \$25.00"

A communication dated July 8, 2016 was received from Veronica Andrews, Chair, Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission as follows:

Woburn's Commission for Handicapped and Disabled Citizens have reviewed the proposal from the Woburn Police. This is pertaining to the Improper Display of Handicapped Parking Placard. We fully endorse the implementation of this regulation. With this joint venture of the Police Dept/Handicap Commission going so well. We would like to ask when the realignment and reestablishment of the Handicapped Parking Spaces on Main Street will be done?

Thank you, s/Veronica Andrews, Chair, Woburn's Handicap and Disabled Citizen's Committee

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the ORDER be ADOPTED, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-11**

Relative to stop sign restriction at intersection of Mt. Pleasant Street at South Street. Comm. Duran stated that he visited the location, that the three-way stop restrictions at the intersection do

not work, that a fourth stop sign has been installed at the intersection, and that children warning signs have also been installed. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to give a first reading to the following Order:

**ORDERED** MOUNT PLEASANT STREET - That a stop sign restriction be established southeast bound and northwest bound on Mount Pleasant Street at the intersection with South Street.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-12**

Relative to no turn on red restriction at southerly intersection of Elm Street and Main Street. Comm. Corey stated that this intersection is not technically a right turn, that there are many signs and hashmarks at the intersection, and that no further signs are needed. Comm. Duran stated that there are so many signs are confusing at this point at the intersection. Comm. Mooney stated that the situation manages itself, and that an additional sign will not assist. Comm. Corey stated that Main Street and the controller at the intersection is under the jurisdiction of MassDOT but this stop line is under local jurisdiction. Comm. Higgins stated that the intersection is not a right turn and is a continuance moving forward. Comm. Mooney stated that there is an issue at the intersection but this sign will not resolve the issue. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the Traffic Commission does not support the erection of a right turn on red sign at the intersection and that the matter be placed on file, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-14**

Relative to request for traffic calming on Beacon Street at intersection with Sturgis Street. Comm. Campbell stated that many residents have contacted her about the speed of vehicles on Beacon Street, that that intersection of Sturgis Street and Beacon Street is wide and vehicles do not slow down during the turn, and that she would like to look into adding an island that may require vehicles to slow when turning onto Beacon Street or onto Sturgis Street at the intersection. Comm. Corey stated that he could support a bump out at the intersection but wants the Police Department Traffic Bureau, Superintendent of Public Works and other interested parties to meet at the site to discuss alternative resolutions. Comm. Duran stated that these islands can complicate matters, and that the bump outs have worked on Campbell Street but not at Ward Street and Traverse Street. Comm. Corey stated that Sturgis Street is three lanes wide at that point. Comm. Campbell stated that these improvements would also aid in pedestrian safety due to the number of pedestrians who walk around Horn Pond. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the September 15, 2016 meeting, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to suspend the rules for the purposes of adding to the following matter to the Order of the Day as a late filed matter, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

**No. 2016-16**

Relative to turn restrictions on Colonial Road. Comm. Mooney stated that there are enforcement and liability issues on this street, that there are signs posted that indicate do not enter during certain hours of the day at both ends of the street, that the Massachusetts General Laws are clear as to what cannot be allowed for restrictions, that motor vehicle crash liability is determined by right of way, that Washington Circle has a similar issue with a time restriction, that these regulations are in essence creating private ways but residents only restrictions are not allowed, that there can be time restrictions but not at both ends of the street, that resident only restriction signs have to be taken down, that these signs work but are not lawful, that vehicles use the streets in violation of the regulations, that on a Dewey Avenue enforcement action five of the vehicles violating the regulation were residents of the street, that Albany Street has a restriction on turns from Montvale Avenue in the morning and then a similar restriction on turns from Washington Street in the evening, that these type of restrictions work, that emergency vehicles can operate contrary to signs as long as they do so prudently and with lights and sirens operating, that police officers are in a difficult situation when determining liability because of unlawful signs, and that this matter will be on another meeting agenda for any residents who want to be heard on the matter. Comm. Corey stated that the Traffic Commission should take care of the unlawful signs by removing the signs through a vote of the Traffic Commission. Comm. Higgins stated that a list of streets could be prepared and the City Solicitor consulted for the proper procedure in resolving the issue. Comm. Mooney stated that he is willing to listen to the concerns of the residents of affected streets, that the reference to resident traffic only is the issue, and that allowing time restrictions at different times of the day at opposite ends of the street are acceptable. Comm. Campbell stated that notice should be given to the residents of the streets where changes to restrictions might be made. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department will forward the list of affected streets to the Chair before the next meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that a communication be forwarded to the City Solicitor for an opinion as to the proper procedure for taking action on the resident only signs, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent). Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to lay on the table to the September 15, 2016 meeting to allow Police Department to assemble a list of affected streets, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent)

---

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the August 18, 2016 meeting be cancelled and that the next Traffic Commission meeting be held on September 15, 2016, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent).

---

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Ring absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

---

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