

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MARCH 16, 2017 – 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. Keith Peary, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Chair Comm. Lindsay Higgins.

Absent: None.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-19

On the petition for review of safety zones and thickly settled area speed regulations. Comm. Campbell stated that the subcommittee meeting was postponed until next week, and that the matter should be laid on the table to the next Traffic Commission meeting. No further action was taken.

No. 2016-16

On the petition relative to resident traffic and through traffic only restrictions. Comm. Mooney offered a list of streets including Washington Circle, Cummings Avenue, Brentwood Road and Colonial Road to the Traffic Commission for review. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be received and made part of the record, all in favor, 9-0. Comm. Mooney stated that the signs on these streets are currently before the Traffic Commission because the restrictions on the signs are in conflict with each other at the opposite ends of the streets, that there are other roads that have a time restriction on one end of the road but not on the other end of the road and therefore do not have the same conflict, that the four streets on the list have the same time restriction on entering the road at both ends of the street, and that the Traffic Commission should take the necessary steps to decide which direction of travel should be in place for the particular time restriction. Comm. Higgins stated that there could be a simple fix by alternating the restriction at opposite ends of the street at different times of the day. Comm. Mooney stated that there was a similar issue on Albany Street which was resolved by alternating the direction restriction between the morning and afternoon, and that any restriction will apply to anyone using the road whether a resident or not. Comm. Duran stated that Intervale Street and Brentwood Road may also have to be address. Comm. Mooney stated that there is a restriction on Intervale Street at Main Street but a vehicle can proceed up Brentwood Road and go onto Intervale Street without restriction. Comm. Cassidy stated that action could be held until the issue at Intervale Street is determined. Comm. Mooney stated that he would prefer to go forward with Washington Circle, Cummings Avenue and Colonial Road as there are clear issues with this street. Comm. Cassidy stated that Intervale Street could be brought in with Brentwood Road and the other streets. Comm. Corey

stated that when the restriction was established on Washington Circle traffic going west to east in the morning and east to west in the afternoon, that traffic could be prohibited from entering the street at the appropriate times depending upon the direction of travel, that leaving the matter to the residents to decide may be an issue as there could be disagreement, and that it will have to be made clear that the “residents only” language will have to be eliminated. Comm. Campbell stated that if there is disagreement among the residents on the street the residents may not want any sign in place. Comm. Mooney stated that this was the situation when such a restriction was recently considered for Maura Drive. Comm. Corey stated that some of the signs were installed without resident input. Comm. Mooney stated that he wants to add Intervale Street to the list and move forward to the next step. Motion made and 2nd that a public meeting notice be sent to the Alderman of the wards of the streets affected to come to the April 2017 meeting to gain understanding of the issue followed at the May 2017 meeting with notice to the residents of the affected streets and the Police Department preparing a recommendation on the direction of travel and hours of restricted travel for each affected street, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-24

On the petition relative to safety improvements at Bedford Road and Cambridge Road intersection. A copy of a communication dated February 22, 2017 to the City Clerk was received from Thomas J. Tinlin, Administrator, MassDOT, Ten Park Plaza, Suite 4160, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 as follows:

Re: Woburn – MassDOT Project 608067: Intersection Reconstruction at Route 3 (Cambridge Road), Bedford Street and South Bedford Street

Dear Mr. Campbell:

In response to your February 13th letter regarding the City Council’s request that MassDOT place the referenced project on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the decision to program funding in this region is made by the Boston Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as part of their annual TIP development process. While the Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of MassDOT serves as the Chair, the MPO is comprised of 22 voting members, including MassDOT Highway Division, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA), MBTA Advisory Committee, the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), the Regional Transportation Advisory Council, the Cities of Beverly, Boston (2), Everett, Newton, Somerville and Woburn, and the towns of Arlington, Bedford, Braintree, Framingham, Lexington, Medway and Norwood. The MPO is the federally designated entity charged with developing transportation plans and programs for this region.

During the TIP development process, MassDOT will advocate for this project. The City of Woburn is encouraged to submit written or oral comments to the MPO regarding this project. MassDOT is also developing its Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for state fiscal years 2018-2022. This document outlines MassDOT’s spending program and will reflect projects programmed on the TIP. Comments or suggestions on current or future transportation projects, programs, priorities and concerns can be submitted using MassDOT’s online comment tool available on our website.

If you have further questions regarding this matter or the TIP development process, please contact District 4 Highway Director Paul Stedman.

Sincerely, s/Thomas J. Tinlin, Administrator

Motion made and 2nd that the communication be received and made part of the record, all in favor, 9-0. Comm. Corey stated that no city funding would be involved, and that the city could act as agent for any land takings on behalf of the State. Comm. Campbell stated that residents could make online comments in support of the project at the MassDOT website comment tool. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be forwarded to the Metropolitan Planning Organization in support of the project, all in favor, 9-0. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table until further information is received, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2017-3

On the petition for review of the speed of vehicles and for a reduction in speed limit on Grape Street. Comm. Higgins stated that complaints were received concerning truck traffic and excessive speed of vehicles on Grape Street. Comm. Corey stated that a traffic study was previously conducted on this street, that the Traffic Commission should look at that study data before committing additional resources, and that his recollection was that the traffic count was low. Comm. Mooney stated that drivers do use the street to avoid the traffic signals on Washington Street, and that this is a small street and that even with a low speed of travel will appear high as vehicles pass. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table until further information is received, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2017-2

On the election of a Chair. Comm. Higgins nominated Comm. Campbell. Comm. Corey stated that the chairs have served for one year terms and at other times have continued to additional terms. Motion made and 2nd that Comm. Campbell be elected Chair of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

Comm. Higgins stepped down from the Chair and Comm. Campbell assumed the Chair.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, all in favor, 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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