MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
JANUARY 18, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL

Attending: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Corey - late; Comm. John Duran, Comm. Robert Ferullo, Comm. Keith Peary, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Edward Tedesco, Chair Joanne Campbell.

Absent: Comm. Myles Collins.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

No. 2017-21

On the request for a speed limit reduction or one way travel restriction on Rumford Park Avenue. Comm. Duran stated that the city has been looking at a number of streets that have do not enter restrictions, and that this matter is in proximity to one of the areas under review. Comm. Cassidy stated that the truck exclusion route study will be commenced shortly, that the study will not analyze individual streets as to how truck traffic will impact a particular street, that the study will look at truck traffic generally and how this impacts the city, and that she believes the study will be commenced in approximately thirty days but is not certain how long the study will take. Comm. Ferullo stated that he has no objections to travel restrictions as long as the resident only signs are removed, that any time restrictions on travel have to apply to all drivers including residents of the particular street, and that there is no easy way around if the direction of travel is restricted except to School Street or a route including a U-turn at the busy Mishawum Road intersection. Comm. Duran stated that there was a similar issue on Maura Drive for a speed limit reduction and restricted travel and the neighbors disagreed on what would be the best solution. Comm. Campbell stated that the process had a good result as the neighbors came to understand that the posted speed limit was appropriate. Comm. Peary stated that there was a no parking restriction near Gonsalves Park that was then reversed when neighbors decided that the restriction did not work well for them. Comm. Ferullo stated that he is concerned about the length of travel neighbors would have to go if a one way restriction was implemented. Comm. Tedesco stated that there could be a temporary one way restriction imposed from Mishawum Road to Pine Grove Avenue. Ken Parlee, 43 Rumford Park Avenue stated that the overall concern is for pedestrian travel, that there are choke points on the street, that a one way restriction from Forest Park Road to Mishawum Road could help because of the cut through pedestrian traffic, and that the width of the road and density of lots are issues. Comm. Ferullo is concerned about enforceability of a temporary restriction. Alderman Michael Anderson stated that the request would be for a 24 hour per day one way travel restriction. Comm. Ferullo stated

that the resident only restriction could be removed and have a one way of travel restriction in place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Alderman Anderson stated that the trial period for the one way travel restriction could be between 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and between 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Parlee stated that there are a group of neighbors who are actively concerned about this issue. Comm. Corey arrived at the meeting. Mr. Parlee stated that he would suggest a one way travel restriction on Rumford Park Avenue from Forest Park Road to Mishawum Road between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and a one way travel restriction from Mishawum Road to Forest Park Road between 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Comm. Ferullo stated that Police Department statistics indicated the bulk of travel is in the opposite direction at those hours. Mr. Parlee stated that he would defer to the Police Department information. Motion made and 2nd that pursuant to Section 3-6 of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, a temporary do not enter restriction be imposed from March 1, 2018 through March 30, 2018 onto Rumford Park Avenue at the intersection with Forest Park Road easterly to Mishawum Road between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and onto Rumford Park Avenue westerly at the intersection with Mishawum Road to Forest Park Road between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Duran opposed), 1 absent (Collins absent).

No. 2017-40

On the request for a truck restriction and restricted hours of travel on Mountain Street. Comm. Corey stated to restrict truck travel there has to be an alternate route that is approved by MassDOT, that a request for proposals will be put out for a citywide truck study, and that the city should move forward with the truck study and make this part of the study. Comm. Cassidy stated that if this is related to a truck exclusion or truck travel it should be part of the study. Comm. Tedesco stated that the truck exclusion request could be placed on file. Motion made and 2nd that the request for a truck exclusion request be placed on file to be reviewed when the citywide truck study is completed, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Comm. Tedesco stated that he spoke to residents on the street who are aware that a travel restriction would apply to residents as well, and that he wanted to know if a thirty day trial restriction would work on this street. Michael Dionne, 64 Mountain Street stated that it would be acceptable to have a temporary travel restriction than no progress at all. Comm. Ferullo stated that this restriction will move the traffic to other area streets, and that the Commission should be aware of that impact. Comm. Cassidy stated that she is concerned about even a thirty day restriction which creates uncertainty in the neighborhoods which them may have to be unwound, and that a traffic count study may be helpful in making a determination. Comm. Corey stated that the Traffic Safety Officer has the information as to traffic counts from a prior regulation imposed on Townsend Street and Kearsarge Avenue, and that this restriction could have a much bigger impact than the restrictions on those streets. Comm. Campbell stated that this matter has been on the agenda for several months, that a thirty day trial restriction makes some progress, and that she understands that this will push traffic to other streets. Comm. Ferullo stated that trucks heading west on Montvale Avenue from I-93 cannot take a right turn until Main Street and that trucks heading south on Main Street from I-95/128 cannot take a left turn until Salem Street, and that these restrictions block the ability of vehicles to travel through the city. Mr. Dionne stated that there is no comparison with the impact of traffic on the other area streets which are wider than Mountain Street, that a truck restriction was requested five years ago and it was said that there would be a

truck study, and that public safety should be more important than allowing trucks to travel down the street. Bridgid Grammer, 5 Williams Lane stated that there conditions along the road are not safe, and that it is not safe traveling in a car when two vehicles are passing in opposite directions or when walking. Karen Dionne, 64 Mountain Street stated that there is no pedestrian safety with the speed of vehicles and trucks traveling on this narrow street. Comm. Ferullo stated that the majority of the roadway has a 20 m.p.h. speed limit, and that he will see that the signs are posted. Comm. Duran stated that a sign restricting travel will have to be obtained, that installing the sign will be difficult as there is two feet of frost in the road now which makes installation difficult, and that he cannot commit the board signs to these locations in the event of a weather incident requiring the signs in an emergency. Comm. Peary stated that if the sign board can only be placed in one location it should be on Mountain Street because of the conditions. Comm. Ferullo stated that this restriction can be made to work without sign boards. Motion made and 2nd that pursuant to Section 3-6 of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, a temporary do not enter restriction be imposed from March 1, 2018 through March 30, 2018 onto Mountain Street at the intersection with Main Street westerly to Winter Street between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and onto Mountain Street easterly at the intersection with Winter Street to Main Street between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Joyce Gray, 57 Mountain Street stated that it will be difficult to travel onto Mountain Street because of the traffic on Main Street, that the restriction will not help students walking home from school in the afternoon, that at one time there was a do not enter restriction at both ends of the street which did not work but helped, that without someone enforcing the restrictions they will not work, and that one way travel from Mountain Street to Main Street would work. Ms. Grammer stated that a one way travel restriction would work better because there road is not wide enough for two cars to pass. Comm. Tedesco stated that he could reconsider the motion the motion and file for a one-way travel restriction at the next meeting. Mr. Dionne stated that the petitioner was for restricted travel times, and that there was not much neighborhood support for a one way travel restriction. Comm. Corey stated that a public hearing should be held on a one way travel restriction or time of travel restriction. Mr. Dionne stated that at every house he visited when someone answered the door they signed the petition, and that the temporary travel restriction would be a start. Comm. Corey stated that the same issue was raised on Brentwood Road but once a public hearing was held the consensus changed. Comm. Campbell stated that if the temporary restriction was established there will be a good sense of what works in the neighborhood, and that the Commission should move forward with what was approved. Ms. Dionne stated that the restriction will be an inconvenience but if it is what needs to be done for public safety then it should be done.

No. 2017-37

On the request for no parking on Porter Street at Lawrence Street. Comm. Ferullo stated that if the ordinance that a vehicle not park opposite of a driveway on a substandard street is to be aggressively enforced half of the on-street parking in the area will be lost, that the winter overnight parking regulations eliminates another half of street parking, and that this is a neighborhood issue. Comm. Campbell stated that this is an issue that continues. Comm. Peary stated that if the ordinance states that a vehicle cannot be parked opposite a driveway then the ordinance can be enforced. Comm. Ferullo stated that this is an ordinance where a sign giving

notice to the public can be posted, that it is difficult to enforce these ordinances, and that it is difficult to enforce the ordinance because of the issues that will be created. Comm. Campbell stated that this continues to be an issue on the street, and that there is only a distance of two parking spaces involved. Comm. Duran stated that with the no parking within 20 feet of the intersection and this additional restriction on-street parking is eliminated in that area. Comm. Campbell stated that not doing anything is not a solution. Comm. Ferullo stated that it is not realistic to say any driveway in the city with this issue could be enforced. Comm. Cassidy stated that a woman testified at a previous meeting that she parked at the location for many years without issue and now there is an issue. Comm. Campbell stated that the resident moved to the area two years ago, and that the resident has to drive over the curb to get out of the driveway. Comm. Duran stated that property owner could widen the driveway and curb if allowed under the zoning code which could resolve the issue. Comm. Campbell stated that a sign reading do not block driveway could be erected. Comm. Ferullo stated that the sign would be on the opposite side of the street and would not address the issue raised. Comm. Duran stated that the owner could put a sign on their property stating not to block the driveway. Comm. Ferullo stated that he will visit the area with the Superintendent of Public Works. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table to the February 15, 2018 meeting and that the Police Chief and Superintendent of Public Works visit the area visit the area and report their findings, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent).

No. 2017-35

On the request to move MBTA bus stop near 4 Montvale Avenue. Comm. Ferullo stated that if the bus stop is moved he does not want the stop moved past the bowling alley so as not to block the intersection. Comm. Duran stated that the building permit was not issued for that building. Comm. Cassidy stated that the Commission could request information from the MBTA which provides more definitive information. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the petitioner requesting a copy of the approval from the MBTA to move the bus stop, information as to exactly where the bus stop will be moved, and an update on the building permit, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table until information is received from the petitioner, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent).

No. 2017-36

On the petition for review of traffic calming on Salem Street at Cedar Street. A communication dated January 18, 2018 was received from Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen as follows:

Dear Chairman Campbell and distinguished members of the traffic commission:

I am sorry that I cannot be in attendance today and I respectfully request that the following be read into the record on the matter regarding the Salem Street/Cedar Street traffic calming measure.

I concur with the observation that traffic does back up at certain times of day since the installation of the traffic calming "Island". It is my understanding that this was installed at Mass DOT recommendations and the details should be available in the traffic study provided by the petitioner and the corresponding peer review.

I travel this road regularly and the traffic, specifically in the AM and PM peak hours does back up considerably.

I also concur that island is not visible at night. I have had several calls about this and as a matter of safety, it seems that signage with proper reflectors should be installed if the island is to remain. I also believe the curbing should be higher around the perimeter which will deter people from jumping it.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh on this matter and for the work that you do to keep our citizens safe.

Very Best Regards, Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Woburn City Council, Ward 5

Comm. Peary stated that he visited the site a couple of times, that he did not see any issue, and that installing a reflective sign would not hurt but the area is visible. Comm. Duran stated that this intersection is under MassDOT jurisdiction, and that any change would have to be approved by MassDOT. Comm. Ferullo stated that a slip lane was lost at the intersection, that this has caused some traffic back-up, that no progress has been made with MassDOT to address the issue, that the sign in the middle of the intersection is often knocked down, and that any safety measure such as a reflective sign would help. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to MassDOT requesting a reflective warning sign be installed at the intersection of Salem Street with Cedar Street due to safety concerns, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent).

Comm. Ferullo left the Council Chamber.

No. 2017-39

On the petition for installation of crosswalks on Merrimac Street at 8th Road and at Dartmouth Street. Comm. Ferullo stated that the Traffic Safety Officer's opinion is that these are not safe locations for crosswalks because of poor line of sight with vehicles coming down a hill and around a bend. Comm. Duran stated that Merrimac Street is under consideration for paving, and that there would be a review of crosswalk locations at that time. Motion made and 2nd that the petitioner be denied, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Ferullo absent).

No. 2017-19

On the petitioner for review of safety zones and thickly settled area speed regulations. Comm. Cassidy stated that the subcommittee prepared information to be placed on maps, that personnel changes in the Engineering Department delayed the work, that the plan needs to be finalized, and that the intention is to have a recommendation at the February 2018 meeting. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table to the February 15, 2018 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Ferullo absent).

Comm. Ferullo entered the Council Chamber.

No. 2018-1

On the petition for no parking on Silvermine Road. Amy Miele, 10 Silvermine Road stated that she has resided there for five years, that since the summer of 2017 there have been several cards parked on the roadway including delivery trucks and trash trucks, that the vehicles cannot turn around on the street and instead use her driveway and neighbor's driveways, that this makes accessibility to the fire hydrant difficult, and that she understands the city cannot force someone to park in their driveway. Comm. Peary stated that he visited the location, and that the area was probably designed as a turnaround and vehicles should not be parked in that location. Comm. Cassidy stated that there area that is designed to be a turnaround should be kept free for such purposes. Comm. Corey stated that the turnaround would be available for public use. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table to the February 15, 2018 meeting to allow the Police Department time to perform a site visit, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the Planning Board for a copy of the Silvermine Road subdivision approval plan, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent).

No. 2018-2

On the election of Chair of the Woburn Traffic Commission. Comm. Campbell nominated Comm. Tedesco to be Chair of the Traffic Commission and the commissioners proceeded to a voice vote, Cassidy – Tedesco, Collins – absent, Corey – Tedesco, Duran – Tedesco, Ferullo – Tedesco, Peary – Tedesco, Socorelis – Tedesco, Tedesco – Peary, Campbell – Tedesco. Comm. Tedesco was elected Chair.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Collins absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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