

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 18, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Robert Ferullo, Comm. Anthony Langone, Comm. John Nee, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Charles Stokes, Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Absent: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Corey, Comm. John Duran.

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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, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent).

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**2021-14**

On the request for no truck traffic on Poole Street, the City Clerk stated that the petitioner would like someone to call to the petitioner to discuss the matter. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to open discussion to the public, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent). The petitioner, Fran Fugazzoto, 32 Poole Street, who was in attendance with her husband Mr. Fugazzoto, stated they had moved to this location 50 years ago and they were the youngest family, and now they are the oldest family. Ms. Fugazzoto stated that trucks from a Wilmington company use Poole Street to bypass Route 38, and that it is noisy and dangerous to get to the Altavesta School walkway. Ms. Fugazzoto stated they want peace and quiet, safe neighborhood which the trucking does not allow, and they would like no trucking signs or lowering the speed limit. Ms. Fugazzoto stated she is also representing Ryan Essman, 37 Poole Street, as he could not attend as he works second shift. Upon inquiry from Councilor Ferullo, Ms. Fugazzoto stated that 18 wheelers, cement trucks, and construction trucks were driving down the street and that she had not been down Chestnut Street. Comm. Langone stated that perhaps this is a temporary issue related to a construction project. Ms. Fugazzoto stated there is no trucking on Mountain Street and she tried to reach out to the Alderman well over a year ago. Upon inquiry from Comm. Dillon, Comm. Ferullo stated that it takes an act of Congress to get a no trucking sign and there needs to be an alternative route. Comm. Ferullo stated that he does not know where the trucks are coming from, on Mountain Street it was because of the bridge, however, if it is a company then the city can go up there and ask them to stop, and it will be at least a year to get a no trucking sign. Comm. Stokes stated he was concerned how the 18 wheelers were making the turns, and that he would do a survey and see what is going on up there, and perhaps it was the project on Main Street causing the issues. Comm. Dillon stated that the Main Street project has restrictions. Comm. Ferullo also stated there are left turn restrictions. Upon inquiry from Comm. Stokes, Ms. Fugazzoto stated that traffic is bad during rush hour, and it is truckers, laborer, big trucks anytime. Upon inquiry from Comm. Ferullo, Ms. Fugazzoto stated that she did not pay attention to the company names on the trucks, but that one is a cement company in Wilmington. Comm.

Ferullo stated that they need to solve the issues because signs get ignored, so need to find the company. Ms. Fugazzoto stated that the speed limit should be lowered. Comm. Stokes stated that he can dedicate resources and do selective enforcement down there, but that speed issue would be a different petition, but he can track. Comm. Dillon stated that the Traffic Commission can address this issue at the January meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be continued to the January 2022 meeting, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent).

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### 2021-15

On the request for crosswalk on Winn Street at intersection with Linden Street, Comm. Dillon stated he spoke with the petitioner, and that the petitioner will be at the next meeting. The petitioner, Joanna Dardonis, 8 Linden Street, stated she wanted a crosswalk along Winn Street because the closest crosswalk is at Quimby Avenue. Ms. Dardonis stated there are seven children on Linden Street that are crossing from Elijah Street and taking lives into hands. Ms. Dardonis stated that it is hard to walk down the street and there are two crosswalks further down at Quimby Avenue and Thistle Road. Upon inquiry from Comm. Ferullo, Comm. Dillon stated there are sidewalks on both sides of the street. Comm. Dillon stated he spoke to Comm. Duran who looked at the area, but does Comm. Duran told him that he did not want it in that location because if a vehicle is coming from Woburn Center, there is a dip in the road, creating a visibility issues, that perhaps it would be possible to have a crosswalk by Sheridan Street where it flattens out. Ms. Dardonis stated she would like a crossing sign with lights. Comm. Dillon stated the signs with lights are usually used at crossings with high amount of foot traffic, and this one does not seem to warrant such a sign. Comm. Stokes stated that he would defer to Comm. Corey and Comm. Duran because of specifications on sidewalks. Ms. Dardonis stated there was a crosswalk. Comm. Ferullo stated the area looks like there is an older driveway, and that the new one has to be handicapped accessible. Richard Cutts, 15 Linden Street, stated there are seven children around and he is concerned with 8 graders crossing the street. Mr. Cutts stated he wants a direct crosswalk to Elijah Street, with a flashing light, that the 35 m.p.h. speed limit needs to be enforced, and that law enforcement enforcing the speed would help. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the Superintendent of Public Works, determine a site for the crosswalk for the January 2022 meeting, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent).

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### 2021-16

On the request for No Parking Signs on Pilgrim Road and Lowell Street from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Comm. Dillon read the following communication dated November 18, 2021 from Councilor Joseph E. Demers into the record as follows:

Chairman Dillon:

I am writing to you today to inform you that I will be unable to attend today's Traffic Commission meeting. However, I would like my email to be submitted as part of the permanent record with regards to the issues regarding Pilgrim Road and Lowell Street.

I want to thank you, Superintendent Dr. Crowley, Principal Kristen Maloney, Sgt. Stokes and Officer Pacheco for meeting to discuss these issues on Monday and observing school drop-off at the Hurd Wyman. It was a productive discussion that conveyed the concerns of the neighbors and also brainstormed possible causes of the issues but also possible solutions to the problem.

I would like to offer my perspective on the following issues in the hopes that we can help alleviate these issues and enhance the safety of our students:

### **Lowell Street**

I would respectfully request that the Traffic Commission approve of "No Parking" signs on the northern side of Lowell Street (odd numbered) from Hart Place to Marion Avenue. While Marion Avenue is on the opposite side of the street, it's a reference point that addresses the distance along Lowell Street where the no parking restrictions should be implemented.

### **Pilgrim Road**

In discussions with Sgt. Stokes and Officer Pacheco, it was agreed upon that the beginning of Pilgrim Road via Lowell Street should have "No parking from here to corner" up to 20 feet from Lowell Street. While I understand and respect the concerns of the neighbors, and their proposal to limit parking on Pilgrim Road to certain time frames, I'm mindful of the fact that there should be a sweeping consensus amongst the neighbors with regards to further parking restrictions on Pilgrim Road. I have not seen how many residents had signed on to the petition, however, I would prefer that a significant majority of the residents be in favor of such a drastic change before the Traffic Commission moves forward on particular/specific traffic restrictions. However, due to the fact that I am unable to be present at today's meeting, I will defer to the Traffic Commission and residents' discussion.

### **School department**

I also want to thank the school department for their willingness to assist in making sure that the neighbors quality of life issues are addressed. I believe that the cause of the increased traffic on Pilgrim Road is due to Covid protocols put in place that requires the 2 Kindergarten classes in the rear of the Hurd Wyman to have drop off directly at their exterior classroom doors. It is my hope that once the elementary school mask mandate is lifted by the School Committee (hopefully in January) and we return to a more normal operation of our school facilities, the closure of the two rear entrances will lead to parents utilizing the main drop-off on the school site, thus alleviating issues that Pilgrim Road has been facing.

As with many issues that we face as a city government, it's very difficult to please everyone. However, I have no doubt in the genuine effort of all parties involved to find a sensible solution that moves us toward a positive outcome.

Thank you for your consideration, s/Joseph E. Demers, Councilor – Ward 4

Comm. Ferullo stated that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Comm. Dillon stated he went to the Monday morning meeting at the school and that he watched morning drop off and school release, and it seemed that some suggestions could alleviate the problem. Comm. Dillon stated he did not see anything that he would consider hazard to students, that it looked like a

reasonable drop-off. Comm. Dillon stated during pick-up there was more parking on Pilgrim Road on stockade fences, with one parked there in the morning, and two or three in the afternoon. Upon inquiry from Jim Borys, 33 Lowell Street, Comm. Stokes stated there was some traffic pattern beforehand, but COVID has played into it because prior to COVID all access was by the front door. Comm. Stokes stated it was a lot closer to go to the back door and this has been going on for two years, and requested patience until COVID is done to prevent crisscross. Mr. Borys stated since COVID, the traffic has been fast cars, it was much better when the traffic pattern was in place, and wanted the principal to come up with a different pattern. Comm. Stokes stated that this may be a school committee issue. Comm. Dillon stated that he is focused on Pilgrim Road and Lowell Street. Comm. Stokes stated that the entrance on Lowell Street is blocked off and that he wants students dropped off in the parking lot. Mr. Borys stated that the principal needs to be part of the solution. Tom Dunn, 4 Pilgrim Road, stated that since 2018 his lawn has been hit twice, and that he has pictures of his tire marks and his car on it. Mr. Dunn stated he is worried about the valve roads on the ground irrigation system, and that there is a bucket drive who drives down the street on the phone. Comm. Dillon stated that since Mr. Dunn's house is first around the corner, there is no parking 20 feet from the corner. Comm. Stokes stated he is fine with signage going there, and upon inquiry from Mr. Dunn, he stated curbing is a DPW issue. Comm. Dillon stated it is quicker and easier to use the other side and not that of Watson Lane. Upon inquiry from Mr. Dunn, Comm. Stokes stated the pavers in the back of the building are not traffic grade, so vehicles would ruin/damage the driveway. Mr. Dunn stated he has pictures, and that different days bring different problems. Comm. Ferullo stated the idea is to force the students to a crossing guard, and that the intentional omission of crosswalks was to make them go to a crosswalk. Comm. Ferullo stated that the area by Marion Avenue is not an entrance to the school, but an entrance to the recreational walkway. Comm. Dillon stated that the majority of people are driving because of COVID and not wanting the students on the bus. Comm. Ferullo stated that there were five busses when school first opened. Comm. Stokes stated there are now three buses. Mr. Dunn stated that there is a valve cap flipped over on Lowell Street after Marion Avenue right at the house. Cheryl Lee Comunale, 11 Pilgrim Road, stated there is a man that flying around Pilgrim Road, that she is going to ask the neighbors to park on the street so everyone has to slow down, and that there are no sidewalks. Ms. Comunale stated the lady in the white Lexus flew around the neighborhood again. Ms. Comunale stated she sees the issues all the time while delivering the mail, at 41, 45, and 47 Lowell Street, and that she saw a vehicle pull into the driveway and backed out without looking and almost hit a Hamilton Road man. Ms. Comunale stated that a woman was driving 42 m.p.h. because she could see the flashing speed sign. Comm. Dillon stated that seeing the speed to get a better sense of what is going on, but would refer to Officer Stokes on speed, and the whole general area patrolled for speed, and it is a problem. Upon inquiry from Comm. Socorelis, Ms. Comunale, stated the traffic issues are school related, and that she can see when she looks out her kitchen window. Comm. Dillon stated these are public streets. Comm. Ferullo stated, the city will lose Chapter 90 money if have resident only signs. Ms. Comunale stated everyone signed on Pilgrim Road and surrounding streets and that Marion Avenue is double wide. Comm. Stokes stated the police will keep speed enforcement, that the problem is getting addressed, and agree with Councilor Demers suggestion for a resolution. Upon inquiry from Ms. Comunale, Comm. Ferullo stated there is a three bus cutout for busses to pull in, the traffic flow because of COVID has changed, but once it is over they will drop-off through the Wyman. Comm. Ferullo stated he was involved in first phases of design, but that is should go back. Upon further inquiry, Comm. Ferullo stated that the

Altavesta has a longer queuing area. Comm. Ferullo stated that Principal Maloney is responsive and she cares, she works and lives in the neighborhood. Comm. Langone stated they need to get back on track and to vote on the parking and it's a clearly fluid situation because of COVID, and continue the conversations with the school. Comm. Dillon stated that Principal Maloney was out there, he has witnessed it and that it comforts him as he grandchildren go there. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the following have a first reading, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent):

**ORDERED** That the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding to Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions the following:

PILGRIM ROAD - No parking both sides 20 feet from Lowell Street.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the following have a first reading, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent):

**ORDERED** That the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding to Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions the following:

LOWELL STREET - No parking on northerly side from Hart Place westerly to Marion Avenue.

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## 2021-17

On the request for safety improvements to crosswalk at intersection of Salem Street and Bow Street, Comm. Ferullo stated there is a crossing guard there. Comm. Dillon stated there is no clear cut fix because of all of the streets that are there Beach Street, Bow Street, and Salem Street. Comm. Nee stated he would like an actuated crosswalk. Comm. Stokes stated the police adjusted the crossing guard for an extra 15 minutes, and that about the actuated light, it is a wide intersection there, and the crosswalk would be right on someone's property. Comm. Dillon stated that before the January 2022 meeting, that they get some suggestions. Comm. Langone stated he was taking to Comm. Cassidy about this matter and Comm. Langone believes that the commission should address this corridor as one issue, combine this on the complete streets request because of the crossing and MBTA and bus routes. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to combine on the complete streets project list, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to cancel the December 2021 Traffic Commission meeting, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Corey, and Duran Absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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Lindsay E. Higgins  
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission