

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MARCH 17, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. John Corey, Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. Anthony Langone, Comm. Charles Stokes, Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Absent: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Joseph Foley, Comm. Peter Socorelis.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent).

Motion made and 2nd to suspend the rules to take the next matter under New Business out of order, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent).

2022-03

On the request for school bus stop signage at 355 Salem Street, Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated two residents near the 355 Salem Street school bus stop brought this concern to her. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated that there is an issue with vehicles driving passed school busses when stopped and lights flashing. Councilor Mercer-Bruen suggested changing the direction of the bus when picking up or dropping off the students, but it was not feasible. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated she believes a school bus stop sign in that area would be an easy fix. Comm. Corey stated there are other such signs being used in Woburn. Comm. Corey stated the sign would be put up 100 ft. from stop that would say bus stop ahead. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated there is a pole in front of 355 Salem Street, and that she was not aware of stops on the opposite side of the street. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated it is Bus No. 16. Comm. Langone stated it is dangerous near that bus stop. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated there are signalized crosswalks and she is hoping for an easy solution. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated there are two children and the father walks across the street. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated she observed same in afternoon. Comm. DiMambro stated that a similar event happened on School Street and the bus was then directed to loop around on Alice Street. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated she was unsure if that would create more of a problem, and that she is looking for the path of least resistance. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated there are a couple months of school left and she wants to rectify the situation. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated that there are young children riding the bus that are in Second and Third grades. Comm. Corey stated that the caution sign does not need a second reading but would suggest that the sign be within 100 ft. of the bus stop with a caution sign. Motion made and 2nd to

direct the DPW Superintendent to erect caution bus stop sign adjacent to bust stop at 355 Salem Street, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent).

Motion made and 2nd to return to the regular order of business, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent).

2021-18

On the request for a handicapped parking space at 14 Mt. Pleasant Street, the petitioner, John Lafferty, 14 Mt. Pleasant Street stated that there is a sign on the opposite side of the street during the summer. Mr. Lafferty stated that in the winter when he comes home at night during the winter ban he has to park on Green Street and walk to his house. Mr. Lafferty stated there are about 10 to 15 vehicles that can park. Mr. Lafferty stated he has four vehicles for his family and that there are three other handicapped vehicles in the area. Mr. Lafferty is aware that he could park in that spot during a snow ban. City Clerk Higgins stated that there is no exception under state law for such spots during a snow emergency or parking ban. Comm. Corey stated that if the handicapped parking was allowed during a snow ban it would defeat the purpose for the snow ban. Mr. Lafferty stated he did not understand the purpose and that his wife is also handicapped and parking is tough. Comm. Corey stated it could not be approved during snow ban because it is detrimental to emergency vehicles. Mr. Lafferty stated there is no driveway at 14 Mt. Pleasant Street and his tenant has no driveway either. Comm. DiMambro stated there needs to be a compromise because he wants to accommodate Mr. Lafferty. Comm. Dillon stated that hopefully much more able-persons can park further away and that it may not exactly help out. Comm. Dillon stated that hopefully one spot would work out and then could always revisit if necessary. Mr. Lafferty stated he preferred the spot to be at 14 Mt. Pleasant Street. Upon inquiry form Comm. Dillon, Mr. Lafferty stated he understood that once the overnight parking ban is in effect, the ban takes precedent over the handicapped parking spot. Motion made and 2nd that the following have a first reading, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent):

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

MT. PLEASANT STREET – Handicapped accessible parking space be established at 14 Mt. Pleasant Street.

City Clerk Higgins stated that this is the first reading, the second reading will be at the next meeting, and if approved, the order would then have to go on to both the City Council and Mayor for approval. City Clerk Higgins stated she would call the petitioner and give him updates.

2022-01

On the request for no parking signs on East Dexter Avenue, Comm. DiMambro stated there were two residents here to speak on the matter and reiterated the concerns on East Dexter Avenue. City Clerk Higgins stated she wanted to give the commission an update on the communication the commission voted to send the condo association reminding them of the restrictions in their by-laws. City Clerk Higgins stated the condo association had no such restrictions on the special permit. City Clerk Higgins stated she discussed this with Comm. Dillon. City Clerk Higgins that as chair, Comm. Dillon instructed her no communication needed to be sent since there was no restriction. Comm. Corey stated that the amount of restriction should be to the corner at least to the top of the hill. Comm. Corey stated that if you restrict all or 200 feet it would be difficult. Comm. Corey stated that the traffic on the opposite side of the street or down around the corner moving around the corner. Comm. DiMambro stated that if there were no parking on the even side it would help out the resident at least at 100 East Dexter Avenue. Comm. DiMambro stated that Comm. Foley was going to bring down the fire apparatus to do the turn radius. Comm. DiMambro stated that the even side is not a bad idea and that Mr. Burke wanted two traffic pole length of no parking. Comm. DiMambro stated he spoke with Comm. Stokes about no parking over Monkey Hill. Comm. Corey stated that the entire subdivision going anywhere and that the vehicles are parked all over. Comm. Corey stated that East Dexter Avenue is the best source of egress and would be in favor of restricting the entire street. Comm. DiMambro stated he agreed. Comm. Corey stated the street width is much bigger than anywhere in the area. Comm. Stokes stated there if there was a restriction of no parking on the odd side, then in the winter there would also be no parking on the even side as well. Comm. Corey stated there should be no parking on the odd side (northerly side) of East Dexter Avenue at North Maple Street westerly to Chester Avenue. Jim Burke, 100 East Dexter Avenue, stated he has two driveways directly across from him. Mr. Burke stated he has difficulty with his snow trailer and that he talked to Comm. Foley about the trucks. Mr. Burke said he is on a dead-end road that is a paper street that the City plows. Mr. Burke stated that the crown of the hill is dangerous as well and that he spoke to the neighbors about this. Addrienne Buchholz, 28A Chester Avenue, stated that she moved to Chester Avenue in 2020 and that she wants the parking ban on both sides. Ms. Buchholz stated that the condo residents are parking closer to her house. Ms. Buchholz stated the vehicles cut through on Chester Avenue. Comm. Corey stated the ban should do from Chester Avenue first and then can reevaluate. Comm. Langone stated that it is best to do the incremental approach first. Comm. DiMambro stated to do the odd side all the way down and that the he did not believe the commission would go for banning on the even side. Motion made and 2nd that the following have a first reading, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent):

ORDERED

Be it ordered that Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

EAST DEXTER AVENUE – No parking on the northerly side from North Maple Street westerly to Chester Avenue.

2022-02

On the request for no parking here to corner at 9 Boline Place, Comm. Dillon stated he spoke with the petitioner and stated that this request will not help her issue, and that he will assist her with the issue. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be received and placed on file, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent).

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, all in favor, 5-0-4 (Cassidy, Duran, Foley, and Socorelis Absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Lindsay E. Higgins
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission