

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 20, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. John Corey, Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Joseph Foley, Comm. Anthony Langone, Comm. Dana Gately, Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Absent: Comm. Tina Cassidy, and Comm. Peter Socorelis.

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Minutes of previous meetings. City Clerk Higgins stated there were meeting minutes to approve.

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**2022-09**

On the request for crosswalk and crosswalk sign on Alfred Street at Forest Glen Road, Comm. Duran stated there is limited site vision. Craig Markiewicz, 11 Forest Glen Road, stated there were pictures submitted. Mr. Markiewicz stated five years ago he came but there are a lot more families and people crossing now. Comm. Duran the alderman at the time spoke about this and the issues was the large trees need to be cut down. Mr. Markiewicz stated there is no crossing to Stop and Shop and his children will be going to the Kennedy Middle School soon. Mr. Markiewicz stated putting crosswalk and signs with reduce visibility will be people cross there. Mr. Markiewicz stated there is no access or safe way to cross the street. Comm. Duran stated he does not want to put in a crosswalk unless it is safe because people think they are safe when they are in a crosswalk. Mr. Markiewicz stated a lot of vehicles go fast and that it will be safer with signs, and there is no crosswalk on the north side of Alfred Street. Comm. DiMambro stated it does make sense if it is properly signed. Comm DiMambro stated that the big tree sticks out and is on private property. Comm. DiMambro stated there should be a crosswalk. Comm. DiMambro stated on the opposite side of the street it gets tricky and that the 30 to 40 m.p.h. he can understand the concern. Mr. Markiewicz stated from the north side one point has great visibility. Comm. DiMambro stated that Comm. Gately could look at it. Chair Dillon stated we would need to advocate to the City Council or Mayor for budgeting in signage. Comm. Duran stated he agrees with the southside, but just cannot support the crosswalk. Chair Dillon stated when flashing beacons are requested, the Traffic Commission does not have the budget to install, so you will have to advocate the Mayor for funding. Mr. Markiewicz stated he is not proposing flashing beacons but just signage. Comm. Langone stated he lives on Brentwood Road and walks this area every night. Comm. Langone stated the is concerned if we do not do something and is aware and does not want to give a false sense of security. Comm. Langone stated there needs to be a curb cut or crosswalk. Comm. Langone stated that they need to work with the property owner to get that tree cutback. Mr. Markiewicz stated if this were the only thing in the way, you would work to remediate here. Comm. Duran stated he will look at with the police department. Comm. Duran stated the trees are in the way and there is a false sense of security, and that there needs to be a sidewalk to have a crosswalk. Mr. Markiewicz stated there is a sidewalk at the end

of Forest Park Road. Comm. Langone stated this should be moved to one more meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that Engineering, Police, Highway and Traffic and the DPW, look at the proposed crosswalk for comments, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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### 2022-08

On the request for do not enter sign with restricted hours on Parkview Road, Diane Sooley, 13 Parkview Road, stated she is looking for sign for the street as there is a lot of traffic right after school. Ms. Sooley stated that at 2:35 p.m. vehicles come down the road and at 2:40 p.m. come the other way. Ms. Sooley stated that if there is traffic on Salem Street and Bow Street, they use Parkview Road. Ms. Sooley stated this is an ongoing problem and they live on a hill that have a lot of young families. Ms. Sooley stated she had 19 peoples' signatures and wrote to the state representative. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the documents be received and made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Ms. Sooley stated she does not know why the signs are worded this way, but that she wants restricted hourly signs for just after school hours from Bow Street going to down the hill. Upon inquiry from Comm. Corey, Ms. Sooley stated the time frame is for 15 to 20 minutes. Comm. Corey stated there is traffic for 15 to 20 to 30 minutes because people cannot park on major streets. Comm. Corey stated a restriction here will just push the problem to someplace else. Comm. Foley stated if restrict it here it will just push it to Hilltop Parkway and Hilltop Terrace. Comm. Gately stated there is no restrictions on Hilltop. Ms. Sooley stated not new but was going to request this as well, but there is no crosswalk on Bow Street, and you cannot see any cars out of Parkview Road. City Clerk Higgins stated that the crosswalk was not on the petition. Comm. Duran stated he would look at the site distances. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to deny the request, all in favor, 5-2-2 (DiMambro and Langone Against; Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to suspend the rules and take the next matter out of order, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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### 2022-14

On the request for pedestrian controlled flashing crosswalk sign at Hurld-Wyman Elementary School, Colleen Martin, 25 Murray Road, stated she is requesting a solar powered pedestrian controlled flashing crosswalk sign at Hurld-Wyman Elementary School. Ms. Martin stated she obtained over 120 signatures of those who would want this. Ms. Martin then read into the record the letter she submitted with the application as follows: "We understand that every crosswalk in the city of Woburn would benefit from having a pedestrian controlled, flashing crosswalk sign installed, especially at our public schools. The location at the main entrance of the Hurld-Wyman Elementary School (41 Wyman St) is a particularly important spot that would benefit greatly from this updated technology. Not only because of the children crossing during school hours when there is usually a crossing guard present, but after hours as well. The City of Woburn Recreation Department (Spence Farm), (where activities sometimes last until late in the evening) is completely dark outside, and it is very hard to see pedestrians crossing. It is extremely obvious to those whose children go the H/W school and for those who live in the surround

neighborhoods, that Wyman St is a particularly busy street, this can also be measured by the amount of traffic, and the presence of the Woburn Police department traffic supervisor making numerous stops for speeding vehicles on an almost daily basis. Please join us in our journey to keep our children SAFE!” Ms. Martin stated that last year there were no crossing guards present and there is a crisis now. Ms. Martin stated the safety of the children is top priority. Ms. Martin stated she also has a letter of support from the Boys and Girls club and Woburn Recreation Department. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the documents be received and made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Comm. Corey stated he spoke with the Recreation Director and that he has been up there several times. Comm. Corey stated having a crossing guard and a sign is redundant, but there are programs happening during the summer and at night. Comm. Corey stated that in the afternoon there seems to be more than sufficient gaps in the traffic to cross. Comm. Corey stated the child that was almost hit last year, the car stopped, but the other car did not stop, as people do not think about the second car. Comm. Corey stated that the unit she is requesting is \$15,000 per unit. Ms. Martin stated the pond has a cheaper one. Comm. Corey stated it was \$5,000. Comm. Gately stated Sgt. Stokes and the police department support this petition. Comm. Langone stated all schools should have this. Comm. Langone stated he is a little tired of the budget argument and that he is in support of this. Comm. DiMambro stated in his Florida vacation the beach had six sets of these. Comm. DiMambro stated he lives on a busy street and traffic has increased. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the pedestrian controlled flashing crosswalk sign, subject to funding, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to return to the regular order of business, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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#### **2022-04**

On the request for speed and trucking traffic on Green Street, Comm. Duran stated a new sign was put up, which is bigger and put at the base of the hill at Green Street. Comm. Corey stated that DPW has done what it could, and the police have done what they could. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to place the matter on file, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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#### **2022-11**

On the request for school speed limit signage and crosswalk signage for streets near the front of Woburn Memorial High School which include Montvale Avenue, Eastern Avenue, and Campbell Street, City Clerk Higgins stated the petitioner could not be here today. Comm. Duran stated there are too many signs and people need to pay attention. Comm. Duran stated there are plenty of new signs and that the DPW is painting the crosswalks themselves. Comm. Dillon stated he commended the DPW for the work. Comm. DiMambro stated he wants to exhaust every option, new technologies, strobes, and fluorescent markings. Comm. Foley stated he concurs with Comm. DiMambro, but that the Traffic Commission is not the decision makers when it comes to budget. Comm. Foley stated the administration need to fund it. Comm. Corey stated he reiterates what Comm. Duran stated, and that there are speed limit signs every serval

yards, and there are signs everywhere. Comm. Corey stated some streets have too many signs. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 6-1-2 (DiMambro Against; Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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### **2022-12**

On the request for school speed limit signage and crosswalk signage for streets near back of Woburn Memorial High school, which include Salem Street and Wade Avenue, City Clerk Higgins stated the petitioner could not be here tonight. Comm. Duran stated he checked the area and have the same comments as previous petition. Comm. Langone stated the request asks for signage and the signs are there. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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### **2022-13**

On the request for blind driveway sign at 60 Burlington Street, Eugenia Athanassiu, 60 Burlington Street, stated she is located diagonally across from Heimlich Landscaping and that there is a huge rock that prevents her from seeing the traffic coming form her left. Ms. Athanassiu stated there is a speed limit sign and there have been a few mishaps someone coming from South Bedford Street almost hit her. Ms. Athanassiu stated she would like a blind driveway sign coming form Pleasant Street. Ms. Athanassiu stated she spoke with Councilor Concannon, and he said maybe a mirror could go up. Comm. Foley stated he saw there is a blind driveway sign heading eastward. Ms. Athanassiu stated the issues is from the rock to the street line, which is the biggest issue, as there is not enough space. Upon inquiry from Comm. Foley, Ms. Athanassiu stated the rock is on her property and that she has lived on the property for two years. Comm. Foley stated she chose to live the rock is on her property. Comm. Foley stated she can mitigate the problem on her property, and that this issue is similar to trees on the property. Comm. Foley stated he has walked that road and does not know if this is city's responsibility to mitigate. Ms. Athanassiu inquired if the blind driveway sign could be relocated and stated a fence must be 20 yards back. Comm. Foley stated he did not see where signage could be put. Comm. Corey stated the traffic commission has looked at mirrors before and it has been turned down. Comm. Corey stated there are GoPro cameras she could get to put on a post that are relatively inexpensive so can see traffic coming in both directions, which would be a viable mitigative measure. Comm. Corey stated the city does not use mirrors. City Clerk Higgins stated there is a legal opinion on file with the Commission from City Solicitor regarding mirrors. Comm. Duran stated from the pictures, it looks like a contractor could take the rock down. Ms. Athanassiu stated there is a mirror right at the end of the street, and she does not have an SUV, so she must inch out. Comm. Duran stated that mirror is on private property. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Ms. Athanassiu stated she can do a two to three point turn but cannot back out of the driveway. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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**2022-15**

On the request to eliminate the left turn on Cambridge Road to South Bedford Street and the left turn from Cambridge Road to Bedford Road, City Clerk Higgins stated the petitioner did not leave a contact phone number or email, so a letter dated October 4, 2022 was sent to his address letting him know of this meeting. City Clerk Higgins stated she had not heard back from the petitioner. Comm. Corey stated he sent the information to the State, as it is a State Intersection, and the city does not have any jurisdiction. Comm. Corey stated they are going to look at it but that the State is not going to take the turn away. Comm. Dillon stated he had a statement from Councilor Viola. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the communication be received and made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Comm. Gately left the Council Chamber. Comm. Dillon read the following statement from Councilor Charles Viola into the record:

Members of the Woburn Traffic Commission,

As a lifelong West Side resident who travels on Cambridge Road multiple times daily, I am puzzled as to why someone would want to cause more traffic on a busy and congested state road (Rt3A). These intersections are in the process of having work completed by the State in the very near future. Furthermore, the City of Woburn has no jurisdiction over Cambridge Road as it is a state road.

I ask that the Traffic Commission vote against the request to eliminate the left turn on Cambridge Road to South Bedford Street and the left turn from Cambridge Road to Bedford Road. The elimination of these two left turns would cause undue hardship to residents in the area.

Respectfully, Charles (Chuck) Viola, City Councilor - Ward 7

Comm. Corey stated the intersection is being reconstructed and is on the TIP for funding in two to three years. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 6-0-3 (Cassidy, Gately, and Socorelis Absent).

Comm. Gately entered the Council Chamber.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**2022-06**

On the request for enforcement of no trucking, slow dangerous curve sign, blind driveway sign, and Burlington school bus restrictions on Mountain Street, a PUBLIC HEARING is being held in with respect to the following:

No through traffic westerly from intersection with Main Street to the intersection with Winter Street between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and easterly from intersection with Winter Street to the intersection with Main Street between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the public hearing be opened for public comments, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). PUBLIC COMMENTS: Don Donlin, 59 Campbell Street, stated his mother lives at 22 Mountain Street. Mr. Donlin stated he was against this as there is too many inconveniences for people to get to his mother's house and that he is against. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the documents be received and made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Ellen Meuse, 23 Mountain Street, stated she is still against it and previously there were signs there that were taken down. Ms. Meuse stated it is very confusing there is no access from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and there are blinking lights at the school zone. Karen Dionne, 64 Mountain Street, stated they brought up the issue and it was tested out and solved the problem. Ms. Dionne stated at Main Street it was 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Upon inquiry from City Clerk Higgins, Comm. Corey stated the public hearing notice was accurate, but the agenda was worded incorrectly. Ms. Dionne stated it did work prior and thought it would just occur on weekdays. Mike Dionne, 64 Mountain Street stated there is a restriction on Kearsage from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and would want to change that from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Comm. Corey stated that school buses are exempt. Mr. Dionne stated it should be made safer for the children. Mr. Dionne stated it is a minor inconvenience and two weeks ago someone hit a pole. Comm. Foley stated that he and Comm. DiMambro sent information to the Burlington schools about the traffic patterns. Comm. DiMambro stated Burlington and the bus company have been informed and it has gone down from 12 buses to three or four busses. City Clerk Higgins stated there was a document from Sgt. Stokes that provided accident data on Mountain Street. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the document be received and made part of the permanent record, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Comm. Gately stated sidewalks could possibly address the situation if feasible. Comm. Gately stated that Sgt. Stokes is adamantly against the restrictions. Comm. Gately stated speed enforcement has been done, and there is nothing for numbers in the morning nor in the afternoon. Comm. Gately stated that the top speed was 30 m.p.h. and the only violations they saw were for cell phone use. Comm. Gately stated when the temporary signage was up one out of three cars pulled over were residents themselves violating the order. Comm. Gately stated if you are going to restrict on Mountain Street, it is just going to go to Poole Street and then Nichols Street and keep kicking the can down the road. Mr. Dionne stated the restriction on Mountain Street pushes the traffic to streets with sidewalks. Comm. Duran stated the Traffic Commission has been dealing with this for ten years, and he is not going to agree to sidewalks. Comm. Duran stated perhaps this should be made a one way road with sidewalks. Comm. Corey stated that was discussed with 50 to 60 people and that was a no go. Comm. Corey stated that perhaps the restrictions should be for five days a week and update any neighboring streets like Kearsage to make the same 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Nicholas Spagnuolo, 27 Mountain Street, the petitioner's spouse, stated the road is narrow and it is busy two times a day that needs to be mitigated. Mr. Spagnuolo stated safety comes first. Mr. Spagnuolo thanked the commission for the blind driveway sign and dangerous curve sign. Mr. Spagnuolo read a statement from his wife and she stated to please let commonsense prevail. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Comm. Gately stated emergency vehicles do not have to follow, but they are obligated to stop and proceed with caution. Comm.

Foley stated there is no bearing on emergency vehicles. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the following have a first reading, all in favor, 6-1-2 (Gately Against; Cassidy and Socorelis Absent):

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 2 Turning and Moving Restrictions of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

MOUNTAIN STREET – No through traffic westerly from intersection with Main Street to the intersection with Winter Street between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and easterly from intersection with Winter Street to the intersection with Main Street between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue the public hearing until the next meeting, November 17, 2022, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the public hearing be reopened for public comments, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Ms. Meuse stated you cannot enter Mountain Street from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. but that Kearsage Avenue also has a restriction. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue the public hearing until the next meeting, November 17, 2022, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cassidy and Socorelis Absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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Lindsay E. Higgins  
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission