MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MARCH 16, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL

Attending: Comm. Tina Cassidy. Comm. John Corey, Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. Joseph Foley, Comm. Anthony Langone, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Charles Stokes, and Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Absent: Comm. John Duran.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to approve, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2022-09

On the request for crosswalk and crosswalk sign on Alfred Street at Forest Glen Road, Chair Dillon stated he spoke with Councilor Demers and that he would like this matter to be tabled until the next meeting. Motion made and 2nd to table the matter to the next meeting, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2022-20

On the request for One Hour Parking restrictions in the vicinity of 166 Main Street, City Clerk Higgins stated there is a map on the desk of the Commissioners from the Engineering Department. Comm. Cassidy stated that originally there was going to be some one hour and two hour parking spots, and now the proposal has one hour and some unrestricted spots. Comm. Cassidy suggests giving this a first reading. Comm. Corey stated that there are four one hour spots and three unrestricted spots. Comm. DiMambro stated he is in full support. Appearing for the petitioner, John Flanagan stated this proposal is great and that is what he is asking for. Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a first reading, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran 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:

MAIN STREET – One hour parking westerly side from a point beginning 64 feet northerly of Warren Avenue northerly a distance of 80 feet any time.

City Clerk Higgins stated this will be the first reading, after a second reading and approval, it will then be sent to the City Council and then the Mayor for approval.

2022-21

On the request for No Parking restrictions between 17 and 19 Carlson Way to prevent blockage of city easement, motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a second reading and to adopt, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran 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:

CARLSON WAY – No parking on the southerly side for the length of the drain easement between 17 and 19 Carlson Way.

2022-23

On the request for stop sign on Patriot Road at the intersection with Independence Drive, the following order was given a first reading at the January 19, 2023 meeting:

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 3 Stop Signs of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

PATRIOT ROAD – Southeastbound at Independence Drive.

Chair Dillon stated he received an email from Comm. Duran asking that he take a second look at this location for the stop sign. Motion made and 2nd to table the matter to the next meeting, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2023-01

On the request for No Turn on Red Sign on Elm Street at Alfred Street, City Clerk Higgins stated that the petitioner was oversees and could not be here. Comm. Cassidy stated that he looked at Google Earth and it can be confusing. Comm. Cassidy stated she also knows that this intersection has been carefully studied, and a change could have a significant impact. Comm. Corey stated during the design of this intersection ten to twelve years ago the right lane is at Main Street. Comm. Corey stated that this is a state intersection and the city does not have any control over this intersection. Comm. Stokes stated Comm. Corey stole his thunder, and he is concerned about the crosswalk there. Comm. Stokes stated this could create an issue with Alfred Street and that this is state jurisdiction. Comm. DiMambro stated he agrees and that this would need to go to MassDOT for approval and there is no necessity for it. Comm. Foley stated he agrees with Comm. Stokes. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2023-02

On the request for improving visibility by trimming trees at the intersection of Nashua Street and Green Street, and to change speed limit to 25 m.p.h. on Green Street, Chair Dillon stated that the Traffic Commission has reviewed Green Street before. Comm. Foley stated he was down there yesterday and the site lines are affected by the stonewall and the vegetation does not seem to affect it. Comm. Foley stated he does not think the resident can take the wall down and that he believes that 30 m.p.h. is sufficient. Comm. Corey stated that there have been a ½ dozen speed surveys done in the last 12 years and the median speed is over 30 m.p.h. and will not get it down to 25 m.p.h. Comm. Stokes stated he was there last week. Comm. Stokes stated it is a major cut through from Montvale Avenue to Main Street. Comm. Stokes stated there is a 30 m.p.h. speed limit and then it is 35 m.p.h. at the begins at both ends. Chair Dillon stated they have done quite a few speed studies. Comm. Cassidy stated that the vegetation on Google Earth shows that it is in the way when on Nashua Street looking left up the hill. Comm. Cassidy stated she believed the tree is on city property. Comm. Cassidy stated that during the spring the branches are pretty low to the ground when in full bloom. Comm. Foley stated he did not look at Google Earth, and that now it did not appear lower. Comm. Foley stated the wall is a difficult obstacle and if it were not there it would be fine. Comm. DiMambro stated the Commission could send the DPW to possibly trim trees and look at in the summer. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Comm. Stokes explained the speed reduction process, and stated in order to change the limit, they need to follow MassDOT guidelines. Comm. Stokes stated a study needs to be done to get the average speed. Comm. Stokes stated if the average speed is over 30 m.p.h. then they would have to adjust the speed limit up. The petitioner, Karen Hunt, 147 Green Street, stated she has been in the house and heard the screeching breaks. Ms. Hunt stated there was a study, and people go over 40 m.p.h. Ms. Hunt stated that she and her neighbor have boulders. Ms. Hunt stated she has seen people been taken out by ambulance involved in serious accidents. Ms. Hunt stated her boulder has moved and had to put plywood over the boulder. Ms. Hunt stated speed is a factor. Ms. Hunt stated that Councilor Mercer-Bruen is aware that accidents happen there. Ms. Hunt stated there is a speed trap. Ms. Hunt stated the driver crossing the street has no chance of getting across when there is a vehicle coming down the hill at 30 m.p.h. Ms. Hunt stated the plows do well over 40 m.p.h. Ms. Hunt stated at the incline when it is wet it is difficult to stop. Ms. Hunt stated when the tree at 81 Nashua Street is in full bloom, vehicles have to pull out to see the traffic. Ms. Hunt stated the tree plays a factor in visibility. Ms. Hunt stated speed traps help and when the police have a presence it makes a difference for two months. Ms. Hunt stated the police can sit in driveways. Ms. Hunt stated the police are usually there between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ms. Hunt stated if there is no speed change, that maybe there could be more of a presence. Officer Gately stated the petitioner has valid points. Officer Gately stated he usually spends the mornings at the schools. Officer Gately stated that the lowering the speed will not do anything as it is long, straight hills. Officer Gately stated 43 vehicles they will stop, 40 of those get warnings, and only the ones doing 45 to 50 m.p.h. will get citations. Officer Gately stated he will be at 147 Green Street tomorrow and spend some time there. Comm. Cassidy stated she emailed Comm. Duran and the two trees at 82 Nashua Street are on city property. Comm. Cassidy stated Comm.

Duran told her that he has the ability to do trimming of trees, however, if the tree needs to removed, there needs to be a public hearing. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Comm. Corey stated that any improvements for an intersection must be done based off the warrants, and the warrants dictate whether it is a two way stop sign, four way stop sign, or a signal. Comm. Cory stated in this case it may pass for a signal. Comm. Corey stated that a traffic consultant would have to do this. Comm. Corey stated it costs about $3,500 to $5,000 to do one. Motion made and 2nd to send a communication to the Mayor asking for a traffic study be done at the intersection of Nashua Street and Green Street, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Ms. Hunt stated the problem with lights is the vehicles do not have time to stop and there is a chain reaction coming down the hill, especially when it is wet. Ms. Hunt stated the crossing over Green Street is the issue. Ms. Hunt stated there was a study that was done awhile ago. Ms. Hunt stated in Stoneham they have a sign that says slow down every so many feet. Comm. Corey stated the warrants can be run to include caution dangerous intersection ahead up to a full traffic signal. Comm. Corey stated Montvale Avenue is much steeper. Comm. Corey stated the Uniform Traffic Code warrants will tell what the recommendation is. Ms. Hunt stated when it rains, vehicles are not stopping and there will be a chain reaction. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2023-03

On the request for stop signs on Belmont Street at Arlington Street, Comm. Cassidy stated there is only one stop sign currently. Comm. Stokes stated there definitely needs to be a stop sign, and there seems to be a makeshift one. Comm. Stokes stated the stop signs are not in the code. Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a first reading, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent):

ORDERED That the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding to Schedule 3 Stop Signs the following:

BELMONT STREET – Southwestbound at Arlington Street and Northeastbound at Arlington Street.

2023-04

On the Election of Chair of the Woburn Traffic Commission, motion made and 2nd to nominate Comm. Dillon as Chair of the Woburn Traffic Commission, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Comm. Dillon stated he accepted and thanked his fellow members.

Comm. Langone asked for a moment of personal privilege. Comm. Langone stated the regretfully will have to step down from the Traffic Commission. Comm Langone stated he must take a step back from the local boards. Comm. Langone stated the has been on the Commission since 2019, and appreciates the expertise and insight each member brings to the board. Comm. Langone stated he has learned a lot. Comm. Langone stated he feels the Commission needs more attention and that it speaks for itself. Comm. Langone stated a lot of people do not know how city government works, and the Commission must manage expectations and must provide good insight. Comm. Langone stated the issue is that the Commission needs some teeth and perhaps there can be a budget earmark each year so the Councilors are not fishing for cash. Comm. Langone stated the ability to make decisions is so critical and he hopes the others can call the torch. Comm. Langone stated he is passionate about traffic and wants to improve the city. Comm. Langone then thanked his colleagues. Chair Dillon thanked Comm. Langone for his service. Comm. Corey stated Comm. Langone was an excellent member and had enthusiasm and interest of being involved. Comm. Corey stated he was an excellent addition. Chair Dillon thanked Comm. Langone for always being there and that he is mature beyond his years.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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Lindsay E. Higgins
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission