

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MAY 18, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Corey, Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Joseph Foley, Comm. Dana Gately, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Jeffrey Dillon (Chair).

Vacant: Resident Representative

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

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 who stated he was unable to attend the meeting, but that he hopes that this matter moves forward today. Motion made and 2nd to open to the public, all in favor, 8-0. Upon inquiry Craig Markowitz, 11 Forest Glen Road, stated there was no new development from his end. Upon inquire from Chair Dillon, Comm. Duran stated there was a plan that Engineering worked on prior but would require bigger funding and doesn't think it was a better plan. Comm. Duran stated he likes the current plan, but you can't cut trees in private property. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Mr. Markowitz stated the property owner would agree to have the tree taken down, upon further inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Mr. Markowitz state the property owner isn't willing to pay for it. Comm. DiMambro stated that last time they meet there was discussion on moving the sidewalk to the right of Forest Glen Road, down further closer to Main street. That it looked a little bit more appropriate with line of sit, and would less costly construction. Comm. Duran stated we agreed to go to the right. Mr. Markowitz stated it was good spot, and it looks like it was on city property. Mr. Markowitz stated it gives thirty more feet of distance between the bend and the tree that edges out. Mr. Markowitz stated having it there would be great from his prospective. Comm Duran stated that your line of site is still blocked by the trees, doesn't matter how much to the right you go. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Comm Duran stated when you get into a crosswalk you need to be able to see at least 200 ft. Comm. DiMambro stated if you would to bring in down 100 ft further, instead of at the bend at Forest Glen Road and Alfred Street, you might have a better line of sight. Mr. Markowitz stated that the bend on the other side would have an impact. Currently everyone crossed in between the two trees closest to Forest Glen Road because of the bend on the other side of the road. It allows you to see in both directions, it is the optimal spot. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Mr. Markowitz stated currently they cross at 34 Alfred Street, that it seems to give the sight distance that they need, and it roughly where people cross today. That is where people feel the most comfortable crossing. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Comm Duran

stated the best place is where Mr. Markowitz is suggesting after a field visit. But there are trees blocking, if the trees were removed he would feel comfortable moving forward. Upon inquiry from Chair Dillon, Comm. Duran stated some of the trees or on private property some aren't. Upon further inquiry from Chair Dillon, Comm. Duran stated the private trees are the ones that give him the most angst. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Comm. Duran stated that there is another plan and it is decent plan it is on the northerly side line of Alfred Street, if you can't get a sidewalk at all that may be an answer. Upon inquiry from Chair Dillon, Comm. Duran stated it would be something like 4 or 5 hundred feet of sidewalk. Chair Dillon state Councilor Demers would like to see something approved and Councilor Demers will take care of following up on getting the funding. Chair Dillon stated if there is an alternate plan that works, even if there is sizable construction, perhaps the commission wants to think about approving that subject to funding. Comm. Corey stated if the funding could be received to remove the private tree and we could get land owners permission to entry the property, and pay for the handicap ramps, he didn't see it as an issue if DPW Superintendent agrees. Comm. Duran stated that is the best plan. Mr. Markowitz stated it seems the removing of the tree is the least costly option. Motion made and 2nd to return to the regular order of business, all in favor, 8-0.

Motion made and 2nd that the handicapped ramp, access, and crosswalk be approved, subject to funding and the City Solicitor approval of right of entry, all in favor, 8-0.

2022-20

On the request for One Hour Parking restrictions in the vicinity of 166 Main Street, Motion made and 2nd to appeal previous parking regulations that are currently from the north side corner of Warren Avenue to far right edge of the building at 170 Main Street, all in favor, 8-0. Comm. Corey stated that there are three alternatives. The first alternative the minimum the petitioner was looking for, shows four new spaces beginning after the bus stop, this referenced off the edge of the building 158 Main Street. Comm. Corey stated the maximum size is the third alternative having six parking spaces and required bus stop length. Everything is referenced of the building at 160 Main Street going easterly and westerly direction. Comm. Corey stated that the third alternative works best in his mind., but don't want to regulate all those spaces to one-hour parking, and defers to the Planning Director Cassidy. Comm. Cassidy referred back to the first alternative with four spaces preserved for one-hour parking, leaving a couple spaces beyond that would not be subject to the one-hour restriction. Comm. Cassidy stated we realized there are some residents and employees in the area that need longer than an hour parking. The consensus at the last meeting was we wouldn't make the entire stretch restricted to one-hour parking and reserve some that weren't restricted for the longer-term parker. Comm. Cassidy stated she likes the first plan because it creates four spaces and left two at the end sort of in front of 170 Main Street as not regulated. Comm. DiMambro stated the last two spaces there is an apartment building, his concern is the people residing in the apartment building would take advantage. Motion made and 2nd to open to the public, all in favor, 8-0. PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE. Motion made and 2nd to close to the public, all in favor, 8-0.

Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a first reading, all in favor, 8-0:

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

MAIN STREET – No parking westerly side from Warren Avenue northerly a distance of 100 feet; and

MAIN STREET – One-hour parking westerly side from a point beginning 100 feet northerly of Warren Avenue northerly a distance of 300 feet any time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. any day except Sundays and public holidays.

Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a first reading, all in favor, 8-0:

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 – “4-one-hour parking spaces on the west side of Main Street north of the Warren Avenue intersection, commencing at the prolongation of the southerly building wall of 160 Main Street extending 95’ north along Main Street.

2022-23

On the request for stop sign on Patriot Road at the intersection with Independence Drive, the following order was given a third reading at the April 20, 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.

On request for stop sign on Patriot Road at the intersection with Independence Drive, Comm. Corey stated we had remanded to the DPW Superintend for his option. Comm Duran stated the police wanted to weigh in on the matter. Comm. Gately stated he spoke with his Sergeant and it is the option of us that there’s no more need for any more stop signs in the intersection. Comm. Gately stated he had that beat for years, I never gone to, or heard about an accident at that intersection in thirty years. Comm Gately stated he was doing radar on Independence Drive on Monday and Tuesday night and just didn’t see an issue. Comm. Duran agreed, he has been back and forth, the more I look at this the more I think we are setting a dangerous precedent, and unless there where crash data, which I assume Sergeant Stokes is saying, through Comm. Gately, I just can’t get there. Upon inquiry from Comm. Corey, Comm. Duran stated that there were stop signs on Patriot Road in both directions. Comm. Corey stated the necessity for any further stop signs here wouldn’t pass the warrants for the volume of traffic that there is, and agrees with the Sergeant and Comm. Duran. Motion made and 2nd to open to the public, all in favor, 8-0. Mark Kelly, 42 Independence Drive, stated several times in the meetings there needs to be a stop sign there. Mr. Kelly stated he has almost been hit there a couple of times. Mr. Kelly also stated that where the stop signs are on Independence Drive, you can’t see the people coming down Patriot

Drive. When people come down Patriot Drive you have to turn a little to the right in order to get into the right side of the road. Mr. Kelly stated other intersections in the city there are four stops, like Mishawum Road and Beach Street. Mr. Kelly also stated there used to be a stop sign at that part of Patriot Drive. Comm Corey stated he agrees with the DPW Superintendent and the traffic officer, that the stops signs here are not warranted. Upon inquiry from Mr. Kelly, Comm. Corey stated that you don't have the traffic volumes in this area that you have at Mishawum Road and Beach Street. Mr. Kelly stated you don't have the traffic volume, but it doesn't mean you don't need it for safety reasons. Comm. Corey stated if you go online and look up the warrants for intersections they define the necessity for having no control, having stop sign control and signal control, and based on observations from public safety departments, I have to agree with them. Upon inquiry from Mr. Kelly, Comm. Corey stated he was not aware of that anybody complained. Upon further inquiry from Mr. Kelly, Comm. Cassidy stated typically if somebody filed a complaint certainly are staff at the City Clerk's office would make a copy of the memorandum or the email for all of us to see. I've never seen an objection from anybody to this particular petition. Upon Inquiry from Comm. Cassidy, Mr., Kelly stated Councilor Viola stated someone filed a complaint against my request for a stop sign. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Clerk Stiffler stated there were no complaints in the file. Comm. Duran stated he thought the only complaint maybe came from Mr. Kelly if he put in a cue alert on the tracking system. Mr. Kelly stated he thinks it is a mistake there's no stop signs there, because even though there haven't been any accidents there has almost been. Mr. Kelly stated as you are coming down you can't see the people coming down Patriot Drive, the house and the trees block it. Chair Dillon stated that there is a city statue that if some bushes or trees are blocking the visual site that we can request from the land owner to help cut them down so it's not visually impairing the situation. Upon inquiry from Comm. Dimambro, Comm. Corey stated the actual length you need for unobstructed sight in a 30 mile an hour zone you are looking at somewhere in the order of 230 feet.

Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled and that the Traffic Commission request that the DPW, Engineering, and/or Building Departments examine the location of the bushes and see if they can be cut back, all in favor, 8-0.

2023-07

On the request for no parking here to corner sign on Fairmont Street at intersection with Montvale Avenue, Comm. Corey stated those signs are allowed by right. Comm. Duran stated by ordinance we can put those signs up. There is a lot of parking close to Montvale Avenue, it is difficult for cars to get around, never mind emergency vehicles. We can get a sign up no problem. Upon inquiry from Jennifer Grey, 6 Fairmont Street, Comm. Duran stated the petition is front of us is twenty feet. Mrs. Grey stated before the sign goes up if we could verify that we are giving enough space to remedy the issue. Comm. Duran stated by right we could put the sign twenty feet, we will see how that goes, if you still think it is an issue we can look at it. We just need to be careful of the neighbors the people living in the corner house if they use that for

overnight parking. Mrs. Grey stated she understands, and that it is definitely utilized for overnight parking.

Motion made and 2nd that a no parking sign from here to corner be installed a by right, all in favor, 8-0.

2023-08

On the request for stop signs at Brandon Street/Reed Street intersection, and signage to mitigate speed and non-resident traffic on Reed Street, Motion made and 2nd to hand the gavel over to Comm. DiMambro, all in favor, 8-0. Comm. Dimambro stated is there anyone from the public who would like to speak on this matter. Eric Esner, 17 Ellis Street, stated recently someone traveling at a high rate of speed crashed through his back fence, which is on Reed Street. Destroying the fence and landing in our back yard hitting our garage. It seems the traffic building up on Pleasant Street often times results in people cutting through the side streets. We are asking to have some additional stop signs or other signage that could mitigate speeding through there or cut-down on the amount of traffic that goes through the street there. Jesse Martino, 14 Ellis Street, stated I been there for seven years and the amount of traffic and the speed at which people are traveling is crazy, shocked more accidents haven't happened. Can't prevent people from cutting through, but if there were stop signs or other signs to get people to slow down, would hopefully help. Motion made and 2nd to close the public hearing, all in favor, 8-0. Comm. Dillon stated this is in his ward and he went out to visit the site. Comm. Dillon stated in his option, this can be maybe not totally fixable but help the situation as simple as a couple of signs. It is used as a cut through fairly heavily trafficked, even though it is a side street. I would leave it up to the DPW to decide where best to put the stop signs. Comm. Gately stated he was at the accident and it was significant, we all agree from the police department there should be a couple of stop signs there. Thinks that would definitely address some of the issues. Comm. Corey stated we would want to put a stop sign at the corner of Reed Street and Brandon Court on south east corner, and the other one would be coming down Reed Street prior to taking the left. Comm Duran stated that seems to make perfect sense. We are putting these two signs up and we just said no to another one, but this one is totally different perspective here. Comm Gately stated it should be done right away, it was a significant accident. People are irresponsible and they are right on the roadway there is no room for error.

Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a first reading, all in favor, 8-0:

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

REED STREET – Southeastbound at Brandon Court; and

REED STREET – Northeastbound at Brandon Court.

Motion made and 2nd that the DPW erect the stop signs on an emergency basis per Police Department, all in favor, 8-0.

Chair Dillon would like to a moment to thank the Woburn Police Department for their help with the Traffic Commission, as well as how they conduct themselves and add to our safety & well-being in the Community. I think it is very fitting based on this is National Police Week. I want to say thank you to all the men and women in our Woburn PD for all they do.

Motion made and 2nd the Traffic Commission meeting for July and August be canceled, all in favor, 8-0.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, all in favor, 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Diane J. Stiffler
Assistant City Clerk