MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MAY 15, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL

Attending: Comm. John Cashell (late), Comm. Lou DiMambro, Comm. Richard Jolly, Comm. Alex Rozycki, Comm. Mark Smith, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Charles Stokes, and Chair William Pappalardo.

Absent: Comm. John Duran.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, all in favor, 7-0-2 (Cashell and Duran Absent).

2025-06

On the request for flashing stop sign on Middle Street at the intersection with Mishawum Road, Drew Varoutsos, 1 University Street, stated that drivers blow through the Middle Street stop sign especially coming to and from the Kennedy Middle School. Mr. Varoutsos stated that during school hours there should be a flashing stop sign. Comm. Cashell entered the room at 4:02 p.m. Mr. Varoutsos stated that the stop sign is where the crosswalk is and not at the stop line. Comm. Rozycki stated they do not have the tech for flashing stop signs and that the stop bar is not in the proper location to allow for turns. Comm. Rozycki stated the issue presented a flashing stop sign does not help and there are 300 intersections just like this in Woburn that people do not stop at. Comm. Cashell stated that this intersection needs to be squared up and reconfigured. Comm. Rozycki stated the crosswalk is too long for safety and that the Planning Department and Engineering Department will have the traffic consultant look at the intersection coupled with some others in order to bring a bid package together for a dozen projects like this. Comm. Rozycki stated if a driver stops at the stop sign they still need to pull forward to see street. Comm. DiMambro stated the site lines are brutal here. Mr. Varoutsos stated the line-of-site is tough. Comm. Rozycki stated ideally University Street and Middle Street become one street that then intersects with Mishawum Road and that this project needs to be vetted through the Complete Streets program. Comm. Rozycki stated the Complete Streets program will help prioritize projects around the city with recommendations from a traffic engineer. Comm. Rozycki stated here the DPW can repaint the stop bar, but vehicles will still have to pull out. Comm. Cashell stated streets are not designed like this anymore and that this street used to be a cart path. Comm. DiMambro stated that they are doing more perpendicular intersections to stop dogleg turns. Comm. Jolly stated a temporary solution would be to have a flashing slow sign. Comm. Rozycki stated he does not know the cost for such a sign and that the DPW would have a better idea. Comm. Cashell stated that it is a good idea to implement there as it may be the least expensive means. Mr. Varoutsos stated there is more of an issue when school is being let out.

Comm. Stokes stated the Engineering Department should do a study and see if the intersection can be corrected as there has been no crashes that he is aware of in his recent memory. Comm. Cashell stated when he was a teenager he got into an accident at this intersection. Comm. Rozycki stated the tree at the intersection is not helping either. Comm. Cashell stated that tree is a great public shade tree. Motion made and 2nd that DPW reinstate the crosswalk lines and discuss the potential for allowing flashing stop signs there, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Comm. Rozycki stated there needs to be a desktop analysis to see what needs to be done and when it can be budgeted and recommendation provided.

2025-07

On the request for traffic safety improvements at the intersection of Merrimac Street, North Maple Street, and East Dexter Avenue, Comm. Rozycki stated the has a kickoff meeting with the consultant for the Complete Streets program on Monday, and this intersection is one of the priorities. Comm. Rozycki stated they will take a look at 15 to 20 projects and put six of them out to bid. Comm. Rozycki stated there will be an update on the discussion as a lot of the 20 are from an older list and a couple of new ones but they could easily find 200 more improvements that need to be done. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be continued to the September meeting for an update on the potential findings from the traffic engineer, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

2025-10

On the request for the following on Clinton Street: one way traffic going west, bike lane on the northside, and speed bumps, Comm. Rozycki stated he did not evaluate this further and that it should go through the Complete Streets program. Comm. DiMambro stated the hangup is the distance between the two walkways possibly because of the stone wall and the sidewalks and that the crosswalk parallel to Mishawum Road should be moved to Clinton Street to pick up the crosswalk on the other side. Comm. Rozycki stated it will cost $20,000 to $50,000 to upgrade the intersection for handicapped accessibility and the default is to put this on the Complete Street program for evaluation. Comm. DiMambro stated that the Kennedy Middle School is down the street. Comm. Rozycki stated such factors go into recommendation to make pedestrian improvements and it unlocks funding. Comm. Rozycki stated he has asked the Mayor and the City Council for such funding, but there is not money now for such improvements. Comm. Cashell stated they are focusing on an organized approach which will take time and funding. Comm. Cashell stated these requests should not be approved as one-offs and they should be bundled together and there is a formal program that is being well organized to recognize all the inadequate areas in the city. Comm. Cashell stated the city should have a Complete Streets website with news and updates on timelines. Comm. Rozycki stated he has happy to have people call the Engineering Department and have a dedicated project website, but this will take some time. Motion made and 2nd that the following order be adopted, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent):

ORDERED Rule 13 of the Rules of the Woburn Traffic Commission are hereby amended by revising as follows (deletion in ~~strikethrough~~, addition/revision in **bold**):

Rule 13. Order of business at regular meeting

At every meeting of the Traffic Commission the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call of Members.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. **Complete Streets Update.**
4. Old Business.
5. New Business.
6. Public Hearings.
7. Adjournment.

And the above order shall not be departed from, except by vote of the majority of all the members present; and all questions relating thereto shall be decided without debate.

Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). The Petitioner, Elizabeth Cavicchi, 18 Clinton Street, stated the speed limit for one house is 20 m.p.h. and then the rest of Beach Street is 30 m.p.h.

2025-12

On the request for no parking here to corner sign on Manns Court. Motion made and 2nd to approve the following for a second reading and submit it to the City Council, 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 revising as follows (deletion in ~~strikethrough~~, addition/revision in **bold**):

MANNS COURT – No parking southerly side~~ beginning at a point 74 feet westerly from Main Street westerly to the terminus of the roadway~~ **the entire length**.

~~MANNS COURT – One hour parking southerly side from Main Street westerly a distance of 74 feet any time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. any day except Sundays and public holidays.~~

2025-13

On the request for speed bump or one way traffic on High Street, James White, 58 High Street, stated that the speed is too much and that vehicles drive down Auburn Street to get to Prospect Street and then to High Street. Mr. White stated that commercial trucks are not supposed to come on High Street. Comm. Jolly stated that one-way restrictions do not work for the residents and it is the residents that end up driving the wrong way. Comm. Jolly stated there is no need to make High Street a one-way as it is virtually impossible for someone to get up to 60 m.p.h. on that street. Comm. Jolly stated 30 to 35 miles per hour seems very fast but there are other enforcement measures that can be taken such as counting cars. Mr. White stated drivers cannot see the no trucking sign located at 49 High Street. City Clerk Higgins stated that High Street is not on the traffic schedule for restrictions for commercial trucking. Comm. Stokes stated he can have the information for the next meeting and that he is against making one-way streets as it will not help the situation. Comm. Stokes stated the city does not do speed bumps. Upon inquiry from Comm. Cashell, Comm. Stokes stated the thickly settled speed limit is 30 m.p.h. Comm. Cashell stated he would not go over 20 m.p.h. and could see some people getting some speed on this road, and that posting the speed sign may help. Comm. Stokes stated now that they are aware of the issue the Police Department will look into the area. Mr. White stated in the morning and in the afternoon are when there are issues. Mr. White confirmed it was 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Comm. Stokes stated he would put up temporary mobile speed signs. Motion made and 2nd to deny the request and have the police provide temporary measures and provide an update at the next meeting, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Comm. DiMambro stated School Street is a little wider and people drive 40 to 45 m.p.h. all day long and there are no trucking signs on his street. Comm. DiMambro stated you cannot control ignorance and that he is highly against speed bumps.

2025-14

On the request for autistic child signage near 109 Green Street, Irish Jackson, 109 Green Street, stated she has triplets that are autistic and do not speak and she is afraid one day her children will get hurt as they have no recognition of the world, so she would like the autistic child signage near her house. Ms. Jackson stated she has a playground at the house, which is fenced in, but her children can climb the fence and get out. Ms. Jackson stated her husband is 66 years old and cannot run fast and that her children have early interventionist assistance. Ms. Jackson stated she is also concerned because there are vehicles driving by her house throwing bags out the window. Comm. Rozycki stated the Commission needs to make sure signs are legally appropriate if approved and he is unfamiliar if there is such a sign under the MUTCD. Comm. Smith stated there have put up deaf child sings. Comm. Rozycki stated he is not in charge of signs. Upon inquiry from Comm. DiMambro, Matt Barrett, the GIS Coordinator, stated that 40-7 appears to be on the federally approved list. Comm. Rozycki stated this decision could affect a lot of people and could be setting a precedent, and he would like to check with the Commission on Disability. City Clerk Higgins stated that in the past, the Commission have asked the Commission on Disability for its input. Comm. Rozycki stated this petition should not be with the Traffic Commission and that he does not want to be in the business of approving or not approving such

signs. Comm. Cashell stated these types of signs he personally pays attention to, however, if it was him he would rather live on a cul-de-sac with such children with a fence. Ms. Jackson stated that she has put up a fence and is getting a special five restraint car. Motion made and 2nd that the DPW review sign option for slow autistic child at play signage to be installed up to 100 feet from 109, Green Street, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the Commission on Disability asking for the Commission's recommendation to slow autistic child at play signage as a whole, and for the specific petition at 109 Green Street, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Comm. Cashell stated the Commission should seek input. Comm. Rozycki stated input is necessary for a matter as a whole and is part of the process. Motion made and 2nd that the DPW install proper MUTCD signage as outlined and discussed at the Commission on Disability, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Comm. Cashell stated this will allow the DPW to carry out the mission if it is going to take too much time for the appropriate action.

2025-15

On the request to discuss automation and full self-drive, motion made and 2nd the matter be continued to the next meeting, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent)

2025-16

On the order to cancel June, July, and August meetings, motion made and 2nd that the order be adopted, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent).

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Duran Absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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Lindsay E. Higgins
City Clerk and Clerk of Traffic Commission