

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
APRIL 21, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Joanne Campbell, Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Raymond Mooney, Chair Comm. John Corey.

Absent: Comm. Lindsay Higgins, Comm. Timothy Ring, Comm. Peter Socorelis.

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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**No. 2015-16**

Relative to a request for a second reading on a no parking restriction on Blueberry Hill Road near intersection with Holton Street. Comm. Duran stated that adopting this regulation is a dangerous precedent, that representatives of E.A. Spry & Co., Inc. (Spry) was going to work with the Traffic Commission to remedy the situation, and that he asked Alderman Gately to attend the meeting to discuss the original proposal to have no parking on the northerly side of Blueberry Hill Road from Holton Street to Fox Road. Derek Rodman, Murtha Cullina LLP, 600 Unicorn Park Drive, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801 stated that the parties concerned supported the first reading of the regulation at the March 17, 2016 meeting of the Traffic Commission, that Spry cleared some trash from an area of their lot, that he spoke to David Dorr of Spry relative to alternative parking on the Spry lot, that there is some concern about the structural integrity of the area looked at for a possible parking area, and that Spry and ArborJet, Inc. (ArborJet) are in favor of moving forward with the second reading of the regulation. Comm. Mooney stated that he is concerned that parking will moved to Fox Road. David Door of Spry stated that if necessary the company will make certain that their parking does not go past the no parking area, that the regulation will not impact Fox Road, and that Spry will accommodate the parking that they need. Comm. Duran stated that he does not agree with the statement that part of the Spry lot is unsafe for parking, that several vehicles can be parked on the lot without issue, that this is a dangerous precedent adopting this regulation, and that he would be more inclined to prohibit parking on Blueberry Hill Road from Holton Street to Fox Road. Comm. Campbell stated that the Traffic Commission has spent close to a year on this issue, that three parking spaces are involved, that she has visited the location, that both Spry and ArborJet representatives have worked out the issues and agree to this regulation, and that she would like to see the regulation move forward. Comm. Duran stated that he has had no cooperation from Spry, that this area is city property and Spry is not doing anything to assist with the issue, that in the summer months parking along the street is worse, and that this is not the right solution to the issue. John Manganiello, ArborJet stated that this is not just a matter of convenience but it is difficult for a fire truck to get access to the property. Comm. Mooney stated that he understands that Alderman Gately had proposed no parking along Blueberry Hill Road from Holton Street to Fox Road, that he is concerned that someone from Spry would patrol the area to be certain vehicles do not park in the residential area, and that the Spry representative stated that they would be certain that no

vehicles would park above the no parking area. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the ORDER be ADOPTED, 4 in favor, 2 opposed (Duran Collins opposed), 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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**No. 2016-01**

Relative to a request for reduction in the speed limit on Russell Street to 30 mph and for installation of school bus stop warning signs. Comm. Corey stated that under State law the city can erect thickly settled signs and 30 m.p.h. speed signs at each end of the street, that if the speed is other than 30 m.p.h. the appropriate signs would be posted, that currently the speed limit in this area of Russell Street is 35 m.p.h., that since the posted speed limit is 35 m.ph. that is the prevailing speed limit, and that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the drivers handbook defines thickly settled. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department is opposed to erecting conflicting signs, that the speed limit for a thickly settled area is 35 m.p.h., that the city cannot confuse the motoring public, and that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed limit for the street likely would warrant a 40 m.p.h. speed limit. Comm. Corey stated that according to the data vehicle crashes are dispersed along the roadway. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department is opposed to this proposal. Comm. Campbell stated that the matter could be continued to the next meeting when Comm. Higgins who is the Ward Alderman of the area is in attendance. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be continued to the May 19, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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**No. 2016-05**

Relative to a request for a pedestrian-activated crosswalk signal light at 237 at Winn Street. No one appeared concerning the petition. Appearing was Liz Mansfield, Director of Operations, Artisan Child Care Center, 237 Winn Street and she stated that the staff of the school parks across the street and uses the crosswalk in that area on a daily basis, that the town line between Woburn and Burlington intersects the crosswalk, that they want to change the crosswalk sign to a sign with an on demand pedestrian signal, that they are willing to pay the costs of the sign, that the sign has four LED lights and is solar-powered, that she is not certain if the sign complies with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, that when the trees are in bloom they obscure the street light, and that they would switch out the current sign and replace it with a new sign. Ms. Mansfield offered documents to the Traffic Commission for review. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the documents be received and made part of the record, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent). Comm. Corey stated that the pedestrian activated traffic control signal such as one on Winn Street in Burlington is no longer permitted, and that there are a type of pedestrian crosswalk sign that can be installed but needs traffic warrants and a State permit. Ms. Mansfield stated that another solution may be to increase or improve the lighting in the area. Comm. Corey stated that the city would have to do traffic warrants for installing any type of flashing signs, and that such a study is likely to cost \$3,500.00. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department is in favor of the proposed crosswalk lighted sign, that the signs are effective and safe, that this sign is the way of the future, that the light continues to flash for eight seconds to allow the pedestrian to cross the street, and that there is a sign facing in each direction of traffic. Comm. Duran stated that it may be difficult from a construction perspective because of the location of utilities in the area, and that a grant of right for location of the sign may also be required if the connection is to be made to the utility pole. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that a study

group br formed to research and report on the issue at the May 19, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting, 6 in favor, 0 opposed , 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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**No. 2016-08**

Relative to a communication from Handicapped Commission regarding downtown parking. A communication dated April 4, 2016 was received from the Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission as follows:

As requested by the Traffic Commission, the Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission has reviewed the proposed Order of Handicapped Parking Space location within the Woburn Downtown area.

Our Commission's review of all handicapped parking space installation was based on the following factors:

- a. Proper signage
- b. Location (dispersed)
- c. Surface grade(s)
- d. Physical obstructions
- e. Proximity to facilities

We recommend that all of the proposed spaces to be installed/modified include a free standing sign, a distinguishable painted decal and discernable space highlighting on the ground surface. Additionally, all spaces should have no obstruction (e.g. signs, trees, media dispensers) of entry/exit of a vehicle from all side doors. Surface grades should be level and without change of grades. Location of the spaces should dispersed and located within direct route to facilities main entrance(s).

Our final recommendations of locations are as follows:

1. Handicapped Parking Space #1 – Return space to original location in front of Citizens Bank.
2. Handicapped Parking Space #2 – Approved.
3. Handicapped Parking Space #3 – Approved.
4. Handicapped Parking Space #4 – Approved.
5. Handicapped Parking Space #5 – Approved.
6. Handicapped Parking Space #6 & #7 – Adjust placement to eliminate obstructed vehicle entry/exit.
7. Handicapped Parking Space #8 – Add space on Main Street at corner of Church Street and Main Street per previous Traffic Commission vote.
8. New Handicapped Parking Space #9 – Add space to corner of High Street and Main Stree.

If you should have any questions, please contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely, The Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission

Appearing for the Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission was Member Timothy Donovan and he stated that the previous Order approved by the Traffic Commission was adopted by the City Council, that the Handicapped Commission wants their recommendations to be on the record, that the Handicapped Commission agrees with a majority of the Order, that the Handicapped Commission recommends that the new handicapped accessible space in front of 389 Main Street be moved back to its original space near Citizens Park, that there are no handicapped accessible parking spaces in the south side of the downtown area, that two of the handicapped accessible parking spaces have obstructions such as light pole that inhibit access to vehicles, that a handicapped accessible parking space should be added on Church Street, and that an additional handicapped accessible parking space should be added near the High Street/Main Street intersection. Comm. Cassidy state that the matter could be placed on the agenda of the next meeting to allow further investigation. Comm. Corey stated that the Engineering Department will be researching the location of all handicapped accessible parking spaces in the downtown area and in public parking areas, that a municipal standard for designation of all handicapped parking spaces should be developed, and that once the Engineering Department completes the inventory of handicapped accessible parking spaces the Traffic Commission could look at the matter again. Comm. Cassidy stated that the Handicapped Commission could be notified when the matter is next on the Traffic Commission agenda. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table until the inventory of handicapped accessible parking spaces in the downtown area and public parking areas is completed, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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#### **No. 2016-07**

Relative to enforcement of handicapped parking regulations. Comm. Mooney stated that the fine for violation of the handicapped parking regulations is \$300.00, that in addition there is a \$505.00 fine and civil infraction for misuse of an handicapped parking placard, that the Police Department has made a recent effort to enforce handicapped parking regulations, that the Police Department recently issued seven citations for misuse of a handicapped parking placard and has seized handicapped parking placards, that they have issued \$16,000.00 in violation notices, that the Massachusetts General Laws require a placard be displayed and be readable from outside the building, that the placard can be hung from the mirror or laid on the dashboard, that the photo on the placard can be covered, that the user must present the placard to a police officer for inspection when requested, that people are not displaying the placard when parking in handicapped accessible parking spaces, received a citation for a violation from the Police Department, bring the placard to the Police Department to appeal the citation and have the ticket voided, that some people come forward with any placard to appeal the citation, that expired placards are tucked under the solar panel so that the expiration date is not visible, that the Police Department recommends a \$25.00 fine for improperly displaying a handicapped parking placard, that public support has been favorable to these efforts, and that this regulation would establish a penalty for fraudulent use. Comm. Duran stated that the Handicapped Commission would be important as a source of information on this issue. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the following Order receive a first reading:

**ORDERED** Be it ordained by the Woburn Traffic Commission that the 2016 Woburn Traffic Code be further amended as follows:

1. By adding a new Section 5-15 Improper Display of Handicapped Parking Placard as follows: “A handicapped parking placard shall be properly displayed in a vehicle so as to be readily visible through the windshield of the vehicle and in compliance with M.G.L. Ch. 90, §2.”
2. By adding a new line to Section 9-1 Penalties as follows: “Improper display of handicapped parking placard \$25.00”

6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Higgins, Ring, Socorelis absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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William C. Campbell, City Clerk  
and Clerk of Traffic Commission