

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
JANUARY 19, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Joanne Campbell, Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Corey, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Raymond Mooney, Comm. Keith Peary, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Comm. Lindsay Higgins.

Absent: None.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-21

On the petition relative to no commercial trucking signs on Green Street. Appearing was David Fallon, 40 Green Street and he stated that additional no trucking signs could be installed facing west at 99 Blueberry Hill Road, that some companies included on the list that he submitted to the Traffic Commission are using that street, and that there is a demolition project on Campbell Street which is being staged at the Walgreen's parking lot and the trucks are using Green Street to get to the site. Comm. Duran stated that the signs are in good position and at an appropriate height. Mr. Fallon stated that he wanted the signs on Green Street relocated closer to the intersection of Nashua Street and Green Street, and that the sign located near Deb Road may be too low. Comm. Mooney stated that there is a sign indicating no heavy trucking is on a telephone pole up the hill from the intersection of Nashua Street and Green Street, and that this sign should be located at the intersection. Comm. Duran stated that most of the companies included on the list provided by Mr. Fallon are local companies and should be aware of the restriction. Comm. Mooney stated that companies can make deliveries on the street, that the signs are not sufficient, that the signs should state "no heavy trucking", and that installation of new signs indicates a new initiative and encourages compliance. Comm. Duran stated that the city is conducting a citywide sign inventory, that the Traffic Commission should receive that report before additional signs are installed, that he is not certain when the inventory will be complete, that he will be meeting with the vendor soon and will know then how long before the sign inventory will be completed, that reflectivity, shape and lettering on the signs will be evaluated, and that after completion of the inventory there may be a recommendation to remove many of the signs. Mr. Fallon stated that trucks are using Green Street to avoid the main intersections. Comm. Cassidy stated that new signs could be ordered which meet current standards. Comm. Duran stated that if signs are ordered for Green Street such as the flashing signs then there will be repeated requests for similar signs elsewhere, and that there will not be sufficient funding for such an initiative. Comm. Corey stated that there will be a five year capital project which will bring all signs in the city up to current standards. Comm. Socorelis asked whether a private property owner could post a traffic sign in his yard. Comm. Mooney stated that such a sign could be erected but would be unenforceable. Comm. Duran stated that erected such a sign on private property may cause issues with the Building Department. Comm. Mooney stated that proper signs have to be

installed for enforcement. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission during which time the Superintendent of Public Works and City Engineer will consult with the sign inventory vendor, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-19

On the petition for review of safety zones and thickly settled area speed regulations. Comm. Higgins stated that she designated Comm. Cassidy, Comm. Mooney and Comm. Campbell as a subcommittee to study the issue of safety zones. Comm. Cassidy stated that the Engineering Department provided a map of areas where safety zones of 20 m.p.h. might be appropriate, that they also looked at where 25 m.p.h. thickly settled area speed limits might be imposed, that it must be clear which type of uses might be suitable so that this does not lead to repeated requests for such zones, that the subcommittee will meet again, and that the police department will be visiting the locations on the map. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-16

On the petition relative to resident traffic and through traffic only restrictions. Comm. Mooney stated that the department has been unable to make this matter a priority. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-14

On the petition relative to the request for traffic calming on Beacon Street at intersection with Sturgis Street. Comm. Campbell stated that a preliminary plan is being drafted, and that additional time is required in order to complete the plan. Comm. Corey stated that an additional meeting will be needed before the plan will be ready. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2017-1

On the petition relative to a review of crosswalks at Woburn Common and Woburn Center for pedestrian safety. Comm. Higgins stated that a recent pedestrian accident raised the issue about safety of the crosswalks. Comm. Campbell stated that it is difficult to cross at some intersections, that for example crossing from Federal Street to City Hall is difficult, and that there should be a review to see if crosswalks are in proper locations for pedestrian safety. Comm. Corey stated that when the city completed the Main Street project the locations of crosswalks were reviewed, and that some of the crosswalks were eliminated. Comm. Mooney stated that the pedestrian accident is pending review by the Middlesex District Attorney. Comm. Corey stated that a number of crosswalks were eliminated, that individuals are directed to the safest crossings with pedestrian buttons, that where sight distances were difficult or there were mid-block crossings these were eliminated as well, and that safer crosswalks were established than were established in the past. Comm. Cassidy stated that there was a plan to reconfigure Woburn Common, that there is an effort to improve wayfinding signage, and that the City Council supports a functional design

report to make traffic improvements. Comm. Corey stated that a road safety component is an aspect of the functional design report. Comm. Cassidy stated that the functional design report is something that is coming in the next several months, and that the Mayor will seek an appropriation from the City Council for the report. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

No. 2016-24

On the petition relative to safety improvements at Bedford Road and Cambridge Road intersection. Comm. Higgins stated that the concern about safety at the intersection was recently raised by a constituent, and that numerous concerns about the intersection have been expressed by her constituents. Comm. Corey stated that MassDOT District 4 has reviewed the matter, that the project will require TIP funding, that the project is languishing at the moment, that there will be a TIP meeting in April 2017 at which time this issue can be raised, and that the State delegation could be requested to assist in the effort. Comm. Campbell stated that many times over the past several months she has been contacted by her constituents concerning the matter, that this is a site of many vehicle crashes, that the audit report is an important step forward in making improvements, that this is a State road which takes time for progress, and that 18,000 vehicle pass the intersection each day. Comm. Higgins stated if a project to widen South Bedford Road moves forward this will further impact the intersection. Comm. Cassidy stated that a letter of support could assist with the TIP process. Comm. Mooney stated that the intersection is the number one crash location in the city. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the State delegation and the City Council encouraging them to support MassDOT TIP Funding for improvements at the intersection of Bedford Road and Cambridge Road, all in favor, 9-0. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be tabled to the next meeting of the Traffic Commission, all in favor, 9-0.

Comm. Duran stated that the biggest traffic concern in the city is improved truck traffic routes. Comm. Cassidy stated that there is \$75,000.00 in the current capital plan to develop a truck traffic route and a truck exclusion plan, that an appropriation will be sought in March 2017, and that the project will take three to four months to complete.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Duran absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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