

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MAY 19, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Joanne Campbell, Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Duran, Comm.-designee Brett Gonsalves, Comm.-designee Keith Peary (late), Comm. Lindsay Higgins.

Absent: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. Raymond Mooney, Comm. Peter Socorelis.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Peary, Socorelis absent).

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. Gonsalves stated that Russell Street is thickly settled and meets the definition for a thickly settled road, that the speed limit for a thickly settled area is 30 m.p.h., that the current posted speed limit is 35 m.p.h., that in order to change the posted speed limit a traffic study would have to be performed to determine the 85th percentile of vehicle speed, that post a thickly settled sign with the 35 m.p.h. speed limit would provide conflicting information, that if the 85th percentile of vehicle speed was determined to be 40 m.p.h. then the posted speed would be changed to 40 m.p.h., and that MassDOT will require a traffic study in order to change the speed limit. Comm. Higgins stated that she wanted to determine whether the speed limit could be changed without a traffic speed study but this is not the case. Comm. Duran stated that this is a statewide problem, and that the General Court is looking into changing this procedure but it is the rule at this time. Comm. Campbell stated that there is conflict in stating that a street is thickly settled yet the posted speed can be higher than the speed limit for a thickly settled area. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file until such time as the state law on speed regulations is amended, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Peary, Socorelis absent).

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. Clerk Campbell stated that the petitioner Liz Mansfield of Artisan Childcare advised that she would not be able to attend this meeting and requested the matter be continued. Comm. Campbell stated that she understood a subcommittee was to be formed to look at the issue and report back at this meeting. Comm. Duran stated that some of the subcommittee members are not in attendance at this meeting. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table to the June 16, 2016 meeting, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Peary, Socorelis absent).

No. 2016-07

Relative to second reading of the following regulation for enforcement of handicapped parking regulations

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"

Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission Chair Veronica Andrews stated that the Handicapped Commission did not have time to review the matter, and that they have questions for the Police Department about the proposal. Comm. Higgins stated that she would like to receive Handicapped Commission comments on the matter before proceeding. Comm. Peary arrived in the Council Chamber. Comm. Campbell stated that the intent of the Police Department was to deter people from not taking steps to properly display their handicapped parking placards, and that this would be the fine for failure to properly display a valid handicapped parking placard. Ms. Andrews stated that an attempt should be made to inform that handicapped community of this proposal, and that they would like to see the proposal written in plain language. Handicapped Commission Member Timothy Donovan stated that interpreted the intent of the regulation to penalize someone who does not properly display a handicapped parking placard, that it is incumbent upon a holder of a handicapped parking placard to properly display the placard, that the Handicapped Commission members ask that they be immediately notified of matters before the Traffic Commission affecting the handicapped community so that they have sufficient time to respond, that they ask that the Traffic Commission respond to Handicapped Commission requests for information when requested, and that the Handicapped Commission is looking to see if they can adjust their meeting schedule so as not to conflict with the Traffic Commission scheduled. Comm. Duran stated that the majority of information that the Handicapped Commission may seek would be available from the Police Department. Ms. Andrews stated that the handicapped regulation enforcement program implemented by the Police Department has been effective and is not self-funded. Mr. Donovan stated that this matter was brought before the Handicapped Commission today which is the first meeting of the Handicapped Commission since receiving the request for information. Comm. Gonsalves stated that the Engineering Department has conducted an inventory of handicapped parking spaces in the downtown area and will provide a report at the next meeting. Comm. Campbell stated that the matter could be continued to two months to allow the Handicapped Commission sufficient time to study the matter. Mr. Donovan stated that the Handicapped Commission may be able to modify their meeting dates to improve the flow of information. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table for two meetings, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Socorelis absent).

No. 2016-04

Relative to a report of City Council action on Montvale Avenue regulations. A communication was received from City Clerk William C. Campbell as follows:

Re: Update on City Council Action on Regulations – Montvale Avenue

At its Regular Meeting on April 19, 2016, the City Council received the proposed Traffic Commission regulation to allow for two hour parking on Montvale Avenue near Eastern Avenue and to delete the one hour parking restriction on Montvale Avenue at Main Street. The City Council did not approve the regulation to allow for two hour parking on Montvale Avenue near Eastern Avenue and approved the regulation to delete the one hour parking restriction on Montvale Avenue at Main Street.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

s/William C. Campbell, City Clerk

No action was taken.

No. 2015-30

Relative to a report of City Council action on Holton Street regulation. A communication was received from City Clerk William C. Campbell as follows:

Re: Update on City Council Action on Regulations – Holton Street

At its Regular Meeting on April 19, 2016, the City Council received the proposed Traffic Commission regulation to repeal the heavy commercial vehicle restriction on Holton Street. The City Council did not approve the regulation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

s/William C. Campbell, City Clerk

Comm. Campbell stated that Alderman Gately and Alderman Mercer-Bruen wanted the regulation to remain in place, and that the sign helps deter traffic. Comm. Higgins stated that the situation may be confusing to neighbors because trucks and go on to the street if they have business on the street but through trucks cannot pass on the street, and that this may make enforcement difficult for the Police Department. No further action was taken.

No. 2016-10

Relative to the installation of crosswalk across Salem Street at Salem Place. Comm. Duran stated that a concrete sidewalk come out of Salem Place, that this is a dangerous intersection, that the intersection is under MassDOT control, and that any action would require MassDOT approval. Comm. Gonsalves stated that a communication would have to be forwarded to MassDOT

concerning this request, that there are sight distance issues that would have to be addressed, and that the position of the Police Department on this issue is needed. Comm. Duran stated that the crosswalk has to be safe and not create a false sense of security for pedestrians. Motion made and 2nd that the matter be laid on the table to the June 16, 2016 meeting, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Socorelis absent).

No. 2016-09

Relative to a delayed green light for westbound traffic on Russell Street. Comm. Collins stated that a delayed green light could help move traffic through the intersection, that the road was widened to that point, that once the traffic begins to move two travel lanes open up, and that he requests that the delay be from the westbound side. Comm. Higgins stated that this is a State controlled intersection. Comm. Gonsalves stated that any changes in the traffic control signal timing at the intersection has to be approved by MassDOT, that a request to review the traffic control signal timing can be sent to MassDOT, and that past experience is that MassDOT is reluctant to change the traffic control signal timing in that corridor. Comm. Duran stated that the traffic control signal timing change would be a reasonable request based on conditions. Comm. Higgins stated that she would like the timing of all the traffic control signals in that area to be reviewed. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be forwarded to MassDOT asking for a review of the traffic control signal timing in the Four Corners area and to review the feasibility of a delayed green traffic control signal for westbound traffic on Russell Street, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Socorelis absent).

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 absent (Cassidy, Mooney, Socorelis absent). Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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