

**MEETING OF THE  
CITY OF WOBURN  
TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 14, 2017 – 4:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Tina Cassidy, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Lindsay Higgins, Comm. Keith Peary, Comm. David Simonds, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Chair Joanne Campbell.

Absent: Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Corey.

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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, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**No. 2017-21**

On the request for a speed limit reduction or one way travel restriction on Rumford Park Avenue. Comm. Duran stated that he would defer to the Police Department on this issue, and that there has to be review of traffic patterns in the whole city before making these type of changes. Comm. Cassidy stated that the Traffic Safety Officer report on the matter should be available by the January 2018 meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that that the matter be laid on the table until later in the meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**2017-28**

On the request for crosswalk on Russell Street at Tanners Circle. Comm. Curan stated that there is not a contiguous sidewalk at this location, and that without extensive work a sidewalk could not be constructed and be in compliance with Americans with Disability Act requirements. Comm. Higgins stated that whether the crosswalk could be installed with these conditions would be permitted. Comm. Duran stated that he understands the intent of the request but that it is not in the public's best interest to construct a crosswalk at this location under current conditions as a dangerous situation could result. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**No. 2017-21**

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the request for a speed limit reduction or one way travel restriction on Rumford Park Avenue be taken from the table, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent). Comm. Duran stated that the city is looking at different sections of the city where resident only or one-way restrictions need to be resolved before acting on this matter. Appearing

was Alderman Michael Anderson and he stated that the speed of vehicles on the street is a concern. Comm. Duran stated that there seemed to be disagreement as to the direction of travel if a one-way restriction was established. Comm. Campbell stated that the city is looking at a 25 m.p.h. speed limit throughout the city under the Municipal Modernization Act. Alderman Anderson stated that he understands that the one-way restriction will cause other issues, and that there may be patience no the speed limit reduction if this is going to be a citywide action. Appearing was Ken Parlee, 43 Rumford Park Avenue and he stated whatever happens on this street will affect Mishawum Road, Forest Park Road and Main Street, that this issue could be addressed notwithstanding similar issues in other areas of the city as the conditions would be different between these two issues, and that the city could systematically try chipping away at the issue rather than acting citywide at one time. Comm. Campbell stated that the city is trying to look at a few areas at a time with respect to the 25 m.p.h. speed limit, and that Rumford Park Avenue and several other side streets should have a 25 m.p.h. speed limit. Mr. Parlee stated that he is looking for safe pedestrian travel conditions on the street, that there are no sidewalks or curbing in the area, that there are steep turns with poor lines of sight, and that young families have been moving into the neighborhood. Alderman Anderson stated that a speed limit reduction and one-way travel from Pine Grove Avenue may be beneficial, that the City Engineer could look at the one-way travel design, and that in the meantime the 25 m.p.h. speed limit could benefit the neighborhood. Comm. Higgins stated that the side streets without sidewalks could qualify for the 25 m.p.h. speed limit. Comm. Cassidy stated that a street with no sidewalks could be a criteria for having a 25 m.p.h. speed limit on the street. Comm. Duran stated that he can meet with the City Engineer, and that the street appears to be 26 to 28 feet wide. Alderman Anderson stated that sidewalks are critical along this street but that he understands the expense. Mr. Parlee stated that he measured an are on the street with tape measure and at that point the distance was 20 feet which is narrow when two vehicles are passing on the street. Comm. Duran stated that a citywide truck study is underway, and that GPS programs are sending vehicles along these streets. Comm. Simonds stated that there is a truck restriction in the area to control vehicles from traveling those streets. Comm. Campbell stated that she wants to pursue the 25 m.p.h. speed limit on the street if needed, and that if signs are available for posting the Commission should move forward with adopting the 25 m.p.h. speed limit. Comm. Higgins stated that she is concerned that such action has been denied on other streets, that the Commission should finish work on the speed limit study before moving forward as this will open the flood gates for these requests, and that the Commission should push forward with the Municipal Modernization Act speed limit plan to completion so that this can be done equitably. Comm. Duran stated that he agrees with Comm. Higgins' assessment, and that adopting the reduced speed limit reduction set a dangerous precedent until the Municipal Modernization Act speed limit plan is complete. Comm. Campbell stated that the speed limit plan should be completed by the January 2018 meeting. Comm. Higgins stated that the City Engineer should comment on this matter before moving forward. Comm. Campbell stated that she will consult with the City Engineer and have a report available by the January 2018 meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the January 18, 2018 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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## 2017-29

On the request for stop sign at Revere Road and Independence Drive. Comm. Higgins stated that this matter was to be reviewed by the Superintendent of Public Works and the City Engineer. Comm. Peary stated that he drove through the area, that there is a stop sign on Independence Drive at the intersection with Revere Road with Revere Road as the main road, and that putting another stop sign on Revere Road would be more of a hazard. Comm. Duran stated that it would be more of a hazard with an additional stop sign on Revere Road, and that this should not be a three-way stop intersection. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be placed on file, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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## No. 2017-40

On the request for a truck restriction and restricted hours of travel on Mountain Street. Comm. Cassidy stated that the city is undertaking a citywide trucking study. Comm. Peary stated that this is a narrow old cart road that developed into a road, and that if there is a truck traveling the street another vehicle has to pull over. Appearing was Michael Dionne, 64 Mountain Street and he offered photographs of conditions on the street for the Traffic Commission to review. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the documents be received and made part of the record, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent). Comm. Campbell stated that the road is narrow and the conditions should support a no heavy trucking restriction. Comm. Duran stated that he wants input from the City Engineer and the Police Department before rendering a decision. Mr. Dionne stated that the petition is for a heavy trucking restriction and a do not enter restriction during certain hours of the day, that the road is 16 feet wide in front of the house, that pedestrians are forced off the road when vehicles are on the street, that there are no sidewalks, curbs and lane markings, and that there are vehicle back-ups from one end of the street to the other. Karen Dionne, 64 Mountain Street stated that the photograph submitted showing a truck pulled over to allow a school bus to pass is where young children wait for the school bus. Mr. Dionne stated that he understands the city's interest in conducting studies by that conditions will get worse as time passes, and that he has been waiting three or four years for the truck study to be completed. John Leone, 47 Mountain Street stated that there are two choke points along the street near Townsend Street and Williams Lane, that the roadway will get narrower during snow conditions, and that he is concerned about the ability of emergency vehicles getting access to the homes on the street. Comm. Higgins stated that it is difficult without the City Engineer's attendance at these meetings, and that the Commission should ask for a written report if the City Engineer cannot attend a meeting. Comm. Campbell stated that the Commission could request a written report from the City Engineer on this issue if he is unable to attend the meeting. Comm. Cassidy stated that she would be willing to wait until the next meeting for a written report from the City Engineer. Comm. Peary stated that he understands the State may have to approve a truck exclusion. Comm. Cassidy stated that the city must provide an alternate route for trucks to travel in order to exclude trucks from a particular street. Comm. Higgins stated that there is a process that must be followed to implement a truck exclusion. Mr. Dionne stated that in view of the other streets in the city which have truck exclusions getting a truck exclusion on Mountain Street should be easy. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table to the January 18, 2017

meeting and that a communication be sent to the City Engineer for a written report or his attendance at the next meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**No. 2017-25**

On the request for a no right turn on red restriction on Clinton Street at Main Street. Comm. Duran stated that there has to be a no right turn on red restriction at this intersection, that a resident wanted to eliminate the restriction, that the City Engineer indicated the restriction was needed, and that this will add the restriction to the Traffic Code.

**ORDERED** That the 2016 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by amending Schedule 2 Turning and Moving Restrictions by adding the following:

CLINTON STREET – No turn on red westerly at the intersection with Main Street.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the ORDER be ADOPTED, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**No. 2017-33**

On the request for a stop sign on Sachem Road at Samoset Road. Comm. Higgins stated that the stop sign has been installed due to safety risks at the intersection. Comm. Duran stated that this was a wide open intersection, and that clearly a stop sign is needed at the intersection.

**ORDERED** That the 2016 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding to Schedule 3 Stop Signs the following:

SACHEM ROAD – Stop sign northeast at the intersection with Samoset Road.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the ORDER be ADOPTED, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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**No. 2017-38**

On the Order relative to adoption of traffic regulations as set forth in the Minutes of the November 16, 2017 Traffic Commission meeting. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the ORDER be ADOPTED, AS AMENDED with the amendment as follows: 1. That any traffic regulations adopted in the last two months be added to the Traffic Code herein, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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### **No. 2017-41**

Speed limit enforcement on Mt. Pleasant Street. Comm. Campbell stated that the resident was concerned with the speed of vehicles and volume of vehicles on the street, and that the petitioner requested a raised crosswalk or flashing speed signs. Comm. Higgins stated that the Traffic Safety Officer should be asked to review this request. Comm. Simonds stated that the speed sign can be placed on the street to gather data although the unit is currently deployed for the next couple of weeks at another location. Comm. Higgins stated that the matter could be put off to allow the Police Department time to study the matter. Comm. Duran stated that it is difficult to perform traffic counts during winter months. Comm. Cassidy stated that the flashing radar speed signals are expensive, that the Police Department could do work to study conditions as well as ask the City Engineer to comment on the feasibility of a raised crosswalk which is used as a method to slow traffic, and that trucks traveling over raised crosswalks can create noise. Comm. Duran stated that there is a sharp turn in the road near McCabe Court and is not a relatively long street, that the geometry of the road slows traffic, and that the area is congested with many parked vehicles along the side of the road. Comm. Peary stated that this appears to be a Police Department enforcement issue, that the geometry of the roadway makes it difficult to gain speed, and that raised crosswalks cause issues. Comm. Higgins stated that the City Engineer has said that raised crosswalks can be a liability issue for the city. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table until the April 2018 meeting and request a Police Department report be filed by that meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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### **No. 2017-42**

No left turn restriction on Russell Street westerly at Cambridge Road. Comm. Higgins stated that this is a constituent concern, that westerly traveling vehicles are making left turns from Russell Street southerly onto Cambridge Road rather than stay on Lexington Street in order to beat the traffic lights, that this is a State road and may not be under the city's jurisdiction, and that if a vehicle travels on Russell Street across Cambridge Road they can still get to the businesses on the southerly side of Russell Street. Comm. Peary stated that if vehicles cannot take a left turn and have to go across Russell Street this will cause congestion when those vehicles try to take a left into the businesses. Comm. Simonds stated that grid locking a roadway is a violation, and that he could put in a request for enforcement at the intersection. Comm. Cassidy stated that some communities use hash marks on the streets with signs not to block the intersection. Comm. Duran stated that the city cannot place the hash marks on the roadway at this intersection without State approval as this is a State roadway. Comm. Higgins stated that if there is no consensus among the Commissioners then she does not believe that this is worth bringing to MassDOT. Comm. Duran stated that the City Engineer could confer with MassDOT about the issue. Comm. Campbell stated that there is a concern that such a change will make conditions worse, and that the City Engineer may have some valuable input on the issue. Comm. Higgins stated that the matter could be put off until she confers with the City Engineer. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that the matter be laid on the table until the February 2018 meeting, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

**No. 2017-43**

Speed limit enforcement on Poole Street. Comm. Campbell stated that the constituent has requested speed enforcement. Comm. Peary stated that he understands the issue, that the speed limit cannot be reduced to 15 m.p.h., that the lowest a speed limit can be reduced is to 25 m.p.h. except for 20 m.p.h. in a school zone, and that this may be a police enforcement issue. Comm. Simonds stated that there are sidewalks on Poole Street. Comm. Cassidy stated that this appears to be an enforcement issue, that a letter should be sent to the petitioner advising that a 15 m.p.h. speed limit is not possible that that the city is conducting a study to determine whether the speed limit should be reduced to 25 m.p.h. in the city, that the Police Department should be asked to conduct enforcement activities on the street, and that the Traffic Safety Officer can review the matter. Comm. Duran stated that the city has to decide whether to institute a 25 m.p.h. speed limit citywide or on certain streets, that these speed limit reduction requests are increasing, and that perhaps the matter can be put on a ballot asking residents if they want a 25 m.p.h. speed limit. Comm. Peary stated that he understands if the city moved in this direction the speed limit would be 25 m.p.h. unless otherwise posted. Comm. Duran stated that the Police Department would be inundated with requests for enforcement if the city moved to a 25 m.p.h. citywide speed limit, and that drivers will want a 25 m.p.h. on their street but will not travel that speed on other streets. Comm. Peary stated that it is difficult to drive 25 m.p.h., and that on some streets it would be impossible to drive 25 m.p.h. Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> that a communication be sent to the Police Department for directed enforcement of the speed limit and analysis, and that a letter signed by the Chair be sent to the petitioner advising that a reduction in the speed limit to 25 m.p.h. is not possible but that the city is conducting a study that may allow for a reduction in the speed limit to 25 m.p.h. citywide, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent).

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Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Collins, Corey absent). Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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