

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Myles Collins, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Dan Orr, Comm. Ray Mooney, Comm. Keith Peary, Comm.-designee Greg Rheaume, Chair Comm. Edward Tedesco.

Absent: Comm. Joanne Campbell, Comm. Peter Socorelis.

Motion made and 2nd to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Campbell, Socorelis absent).

2017-40

On the review of one-way travel restriction on Mountain Street. Comm. Tedesco stated that this matter is a review of the temporary do not enter restriction imposed from March 1, 2018 through March 30, 2018 onto Mountain Street at the intersection with Main Street westerly to Winter Street between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and onto Mountain Street easterly at the intersection with Winter Street to Main Street between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. That at the last meeting some question about the bus stops on Mountain Street and Townsend Street and at the corner of Mountain Street and Winter Street would be affected by the do not enter restriction. In speaking with the School Department, they have no issues if we change the restriction time from Main Street from 7:00 am to 7:30 am, that the buses will have already passed, that he was invited to a neighborhood meeting where all the people seem to be in favor of the do not enter restriction. Public Comments: Michael Picardi, 46A Mountain Street state that he is in favor of the do not enter restriction and would like it reinstated. Ellen Meuse, 23 Mountain Street stated that she is opposed to the do not enter restriction, that the times conflict with Townsend Street and Kearsarge Avenue and it would not be clear whether someone entered from the side street and not Main Street, that residents have to obey the one way when leaving their driveways, that Main Street is a disaster in the morning, that if streets continue to be made one way the will eventually have all one way streets, that Woburn is a desirable city to live in, that GPS is telling drivers to take Mountain Street as a short cut, that 7 days a week is not acceptable, that 18 wheel vehicles go down the street because that is the way they are directed and she tries to go out and stop them, that for the one way to work there would have be an officer parked on the street for the hours in question, that the residents of the street should not have to be penalized. Mike Dionne stated that he would like to see the do not enter restriction reinstated, that he was the person that brought the request to the Traffic Commission, that the street is not wide enough, does not have sidewalks and needs to be repaved but if this is ever done it will be years down the road, that the signs did work, that he has counted the vehicles on the Winter Street end, that up 300 cars have entered between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm in one day, that for the month of March 2018 Mountain Street was taken off the GPS but once the signs were taken

down it was back on GPS, that it is a small price to pay for the safety of pedestrians and the residents of the street, that the street is only 16 feet wide and when a tracker trailer goes down the street no other vehicle can pass. Karen Dionne, 64 Mountain Street stated that the do not enter restriction should be reinstated, that she went around a couple of days just to see how long it would take and it only took 10 minutes, that there are no sidewalks which is a safety issue, that it will be taken off the GPS directions if the restriction is in place, and that Mountain Street is the narrowest street with no sidewalks and is in terrible condition. Kristen Maguire, 49 Winter Street stated that she lives off of Mountain Street, that she drives up and down Mountain Street about twenty times a day, that she obeys the speed limit, that sidewalks would be a great idea, that Winter Street is a speed way and it does have sidewalks, that in the morning she would go around and get stuck in traffic on Main Street which has nothing to do with Mountain Street, and that unless a police officer is there every day it is not going to stop. Comm. Tedesco stated that he did hear from the School Department and that there is no issue if the do not enter restriction is reinstated, that some of the residents had a neighborhood meeting and all seemed to be in favor of the Main Street do not enter restriction from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and on the Winter Street end 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Comm. Orr stated that not much has changed since the last scope was submitted, that the contract for a City-wide truck study had to be delayed, that the Planning Department is working on the matter, and that the intent is to have a signed contract by June 2018 and have a completed city-wide truck study by December 2018. Comm. Mooney stated that public safety is a concern, that when a restriction is put up the residents are the biggest offenders, that Mountain Street is not a good road way, that cars speed down the street but because it is in disrepair motorists seem to reduce their speed, that when a street is maintained people increase their speed, that the number of cars on the road is not a safety issue, that drivers are not paying attention which leads to collisions, that a pedestrian is not allowed by law to walk on a roadway, that a roadway is designed for vehicles, if walking on the street is the only way for pedestrians to go then they will, and that the Traffic Commission can vote for a truck restriction. Ms. Maguire asked about what trucks can travel on the street. Commissioner Mooney responded that oil trucks, delivery trucks and trucks that have a reason to travel on the street not just as cut through can travel on the street, that the Traffic Commission has a responsibility to the entire city and traffic volume is not a safety issue, that establishing a do not enter restriction on the street will only move the traffic to the next street and so on, and that these actions are taking public streets away. Mr. Dionne stated that less vehicles is less traffic, that it is a safety issue, and that the traffic will decrease. Motion made and 2nd that a “No Heavy Trucking” restriction be established on Mountain Street be established, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Campbell, Socorelis absent). Comm. Duran supports the Police Department position on this issue, and that he is in agreement with the comments of Comm. Mooney. Motion made and 2nd to DENY the petition to establish a do not enter restriction on Mountain Street, ROLL CALL: Comm. Campbell – Absent; Comm. Collins – Yes; Comm. Duran – Yes; Comm. Mooney – Yes; Comm. Orr – Yes; Comm. Peary – Yes; Comm. Rheume – Yes; Comm. Socorelis – Absent; Comm. Tedesco – No. Motion Passes.

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 4 Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

MOUNTAIN STREET – No heavy trucking in both directions the entire length.

2018-13

On the request for a “No Turn on Red” sign to be placed at the intersection of Industrial Parkway and Ryan Road heading east bound. Appearing was Matt Ragan, Council for SBLI, 1 Linscott Road, Woburn, MA 01801 and he stated that employees of SBLI have had several near accidents. Employees exiting the parking lot have a green light to drive in a straight direction to cross Industrial Parkway onto Ryan Road. The danger is that there are several lanes of traffic heading in both directions, that vehicles in the far-right lane on Industrial Parkway are not stopping before making a right turn onto Ryan Road, that there are definite instances in which drivers in the right lane may not even see the SBLI employee due to obstructions from other vehicles or trucks stopped at the traffic control signal in the adjacent left lane. It a heavy traveled road with people trying to get home and a lot of big trucks, that exiting the other end of the lot a vehicle would have to cross three lanes of traffic and there is no traffic control signal. There was a sign at the location at one time. Comm. Tedesco stated that the no turn on red restriction is similar to the one that was just placed at the intersection of Main Street and Clinton Street, and that the backup is not on Ryan Road it is the traffic going straight on Industrial Parkway. Comm. Mooney stated that there is no safety issue to putting placing a no turn on red sign at the location but the Traffic Commission needs to perform an analysis to see where the backup will be so as to not cause more of an issue, and that the area needs to be evaluated. Comm. Rheame stated the Engineering Department could put out traffic counters. Comm. Mooney stated that the Police Department, Department of Public Works and Engineering Department will review the area and provide an update at the next meeting. Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER be LAID ON THE TABLE to the June 21, 2018 meeting, 7 all in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Campbell, Socorelis absent).

2018-14

On the review of the posted speed limit signs on Pearl Street. Comm. Tedesco stated that there is a 30 m.p.h. sign going in one direction and a 25 m.p.h. sign going in the other direction. That when traveling on Pearl Street from Sylvan Road the speed limit is 20 m.p.h. then at about Ward Street the speed limit changes to 30 m.p.h. to the Burlington Line then becomes 25 m.p.h. when a vehicle enters back into Woburn on Winter Street to the Wilmington line, and that the speed limit should be the same 25 m.p.h the entire distance. Motion made and 2nd that the ORDER be ADOPTED making the speed limit 25 m.p.h. on Pearl Street starting at Sylvan Road to Winter Street ending at the Wilmington line in both directions, 7 all in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Socorelis, Campbell).

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 5 Special Speed Limits of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by deleting the special speed limits for Pearl Street and inserting in their place the following:

PEARL STREET – 25 m.p.h. in both directions the entire length.

2018-12

On the review for a sign reading “no parking here to corner” to be placed at the intersection of Utica Street with Washington Street. Comm Tedesco stated that cars are parking too close to the intersection causing a line of site issue, and that the sign should state no parking within 20 feet of the intersection. Comm Duran stated that there was a sign at the location, that he will check to see if the sign is still in place and, if not, the sign will be replaced. Motion made and 2nd that the ORDER be ADOPTED, 7 all in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Campbell, Socorelis absent).

Motion made and 2nd to cancel the Traffic Commission meeting the months of July 2018, August 2018 and September 2018, 7 all in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Campbell, Socorelis absent).

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, 7 in favor, 0 opposed 2 absent (Socorelis, Campbell). Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Joyce M. Gray, Assistant City Clerk
and Clerk of the Traffic Commission, Pro Tem