

**MEETING OF THE
CITY OF WOBURN
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
JUNE 21, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Attending: Comm. Joanne Campbell, Comm. John Corey, Comm. John Duran, Comm. Dan Orr, Comm.-designee Michael Pacheco, Comm. Peter Socorelis, Chair Edward Tedesco.

Absent: Comm. Stephen Adgate, Comm. Myles Collins.

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 (Adgate, Collins absent).

Motion made and 2nd to take the following matter out of order, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2018-16

Order to establish no parking on Blueberry Hill Road near Holton Street. Comm. Corey offered a plan of the area to the Traffic Commission for review. Motion made and 2nd that the document be received and made part of the record, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent). Alderman Gately stated that parking was allowed on both sides of Blueberry Hill in this area for many years, that it is difficult for vehicles to pass when vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, that there should be no parking on the southerly side of the road at all times, that there should also be a large sign indicating no trucks allowed beyond the designated point, that there is a proposal for a hockey rink in the area which will generate on street parking, that there should be resident parking only on Fox Road, and that businesses in the area should be required to parking on their sites. Comm. Campbell stated that she is concerned that vehicles will park further up the hill, and that there was an issue with businesses having difficulty getting in and out of their driveways in this area when vehicles are parked on the street. Comm. Pacheco stated that he is concerned if Fox Road is made resident traffic only even guests of the residents would not be allowed to park on the street. Comm. Tedesco stated that he does not have an issue with the no parking regulation in the commercial area of Blueberry Hill Road but he would have an issue with a resident parking only restriction on Fox Road because of the impact on residents and guests parking on the street. Alderman Gately stated that the Traffic Commission could look at resident traffic only on Fox Road at a later time. Comm. Duran stated that some work was done on this issue previously, and that he would not object to a no parking restriction on the southerly side of Blueberry Hill Road. Alderman Gately stated that the no parking restriction should be from to the pumping station. Comm. Duran stated that the vehicles from the businesses will park on the street even when their parking lots are empty, and that he supports the order. Motion made and 2nd that the following Order be given a first reading, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

ORDERED Be it ordered that Schedule 1 Parking Restrictions of the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

BLUEBERRY HILL ROAD – No parking southerly side from the intersection with Holton Street westerly a distance of 638 feet to the intersection with Fox Road.

Motion made and 2nd to return to the regular order of business, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2018-13

Request for no turn on red restriction on Industrial Parkway at intersection with Ryan Road. Matthew Regan, SBLI, 1 Linscott Road, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801 stated that the intersection is dangerous for their employees when leaving their parking lot. Comm. Tedesco stated that there is a similar intersection at Clinton Street and Main Street, that this is not a traditional intersection but with the configuration of the traffic control signals an intersection is formed, and that he has no objection to this request because of the similar intersection at Clinton Street and Main Street. Comm. Pacheco stated that there was a no turn on red sign previously at the intersection. Comm. Tedesco stated that the previous sign had not been approved by the Traffic Commission and was approved. Comm. Duran stated that he is not in favor of the no turn on red restriction at the intersection, that he would support a sign stating turn on red after full stop, that there is too much traffic in this area which will back up with a no turn on red restriction, that the petitioner could have internal signs on its property prohibiting employees from existing straight and taking a right or left turn only, and that the Traffic Commission cannot make this change for the benefit of one building. Mr. Regan stated that this does not impact just one building, that there are over one hundred employees in the building trying to exit safely, and that even a well-intended driver may cause issues at the intersection. Comm. Duran stated that there are other options to leave the parking lot, and that he made a site visit to the location. Dana Orlando, SBLI stated that there was a bad collision at the intersection at one time and after which the traffic control signal was installed, that there was a stop sign at one time, and that the petitioner has a phase on the traffic control signal. Comm. Corey stated that the phasing of the traffic control signal can be modified to add more time from the petitioner's parking lot. Mr. Regan stated that modifying the timing of the traffic control signal would not address the issue, and that a full stop is needed. Mr. Orlando stated that the issue is the obstructed view, and that the no turn on red restriction will not cause a traffic backup. Comm. Duran stated that he visited the location with the Police Chief and analyzed the situation, and that a right turn after full stop sign could address the issue. Comm. Tedesco stated that if the no turn on red sign will not be installed at this location this could impact similar situations in other locations in the city. Comm. Corey stated that the traffic data can be reviewed by the traffic engineer to be certain that a no turn on red restriction at the intersection passes warrants. Motion made and 2nd that the traffic engineer analyze the traffic data at the intersection and make a recommendation, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2017-40

Order to establish no heavy trucking restriction on Mountain Street. Comm. Tedesco stated that this is a second reading on the order. Comm. Campbell stated that it was her understanding that trucking restrictions would not be adopted until the citywide truck study was complete. Comm. Tedesco stated that the opinion of the Police Department that the truck restriction would be appropriate because of the width of the street and there being no sidewalks, and that there can be a truck restriction adopted without the traffic study but MassDOT has to approve the action. Comm. Campbell stated that this is a substandard street, that the street is narrow with no sidewalks, and that she would support the order but is concerned about other streets in the city which have not been addressed. Comm. Duran stated that the city will have to demonstrate an alternate truck route to MassDOT. Comm. Corey stated that the city has to present an alternate route to MassDOT demonstrating that the restriction would not be overly inconvenient to truck drivers, that this is a heavily congested area, and that he has no opinion on this issue. Motion made and 2nd that the following Order be adopted, 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Duran opposed), 1 abstained (Corey abstained), 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

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.

No. 2018-14

Order to establish 25 m.p.h. speed limit on Pearl Street. Comm. Tedesco stated that because there is a special speed limit on this street the city has to perform a traffic study, and that the Engineering Department and Department of Public Works will perform the traffic study and report the results to the Traffic Commission. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the Department of Public Works and the City Engineer requesting the departments perform a traffic speed study of Pearl Street and to report the results to the Traffic Commission, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2018-15

Request for do not block intersection and stop here on red signs at 305 Salem Street. A communication dated June 21, 2018 was received from Alderman Mercer-Bruen. Motion made and 2nd that the communication be received and made part of the record, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent). Comm. Corey stated that the sight distances at the street line is the responsibility of the property owner, that the property owner can trim the trees some of which will require approval of the Department of Public Works, that the property owner should also plow the snow at the driveway entrance appropriately, that this is request for a midblock

sign and likely would not pass the warrants, and that the petitioner could engage an engineer and provide a recommendation to the city. Comm. Duran stated that he agreed with this assessment. Motion made and 2nd that a communication be sent to the petitioner recommending that they engage an engineer to study the issue and provide recommendations to improve the conditions, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent). Motion made and 2nd that the matter be placed on file, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent)

No. 2018-17

Request for no parking on Fryeburg Road. Comm. Tedesco stated that he is opposed to no parking restrictions in residential areas. Comm. Pacheco stated that he visited the location, that vehicles were parked on the street during the visit, that he had no issue accessing the driveway which is subject of the petition, that this is a public road and the public has a right of access, and that when he was at the location a Postal Service delivery truck and Department of Public Works trucks were parked along the road, and that there was no issue with vehicle access. Motion made and 2nd that the petition be denied, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2018-18

Request for traffic calming near 86 Salem Street. Comm. Corey stated that this is a collector street and main thoroughfare, that the average speed is 38 m.p.h., that it would be difficult to reduce the speed limit, that speed bumps cannot be installed in the road, and that he does not believe the Traffic Commission can take any action which would address the issues raised in the petition. Comm. Campbell stated that there traffic load on the streets is getting tremendous and will only get worse. Motion made and 2nd that the petition be denied, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).

No. 2018-19, No. 2018-20, No. 2018-21 and No. 2018-22

Relative to the Orders to establish 25 m.p.h. speed limit on Beacon Street, Water Street, Woburn Parkway and Sturgis Street. Comm. Campbell stated that this is in the area of Horn Pond, that there is significant pedestrian traffic in the area, that the area is dangerous with the pedestrian crossings and the vehicle traffic, that she spoke to the Traffic Safety Officer who said the area could support a 25 m.p.h. speed limit, and that she has received comments from residents of the area of geese in the roads and vehicles weaving to avoid them. Comm. Tedesco stated that he has no objection to the orders. Comm. Duran with the number of pedestrians in the area this would be appropriate action. Comm. Pacheco stated that Sturgis Street in this area should also have a 25 m.p.h. speed limit. Motion made and 2nd that the following four Orders be given a first reading, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent),

ORDERED Be it ordered that the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding a new Section 10 Speed Limits therein the following:

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

ORDERED Be it ordered that the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding a new Section 10 Speed Limits therein the following:

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

ORDERED Be it ordered that the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding a new Section 10 Speed Limits therein the following:

WOBURN PARKWAY – 25 m.p.h. in both directions the entire length.

ORDERED Be it ordered that the 2017 Woburn Traffic Code, as amended, be further amended by adding a new Section 10 Speed Limits therein the following:

STURGIS STREET – 25 m.p.h. in both directions from the intersection with Arlington Road to the intersection with Woburn Parkway.

Motion made and 2nd to adjourn, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Adgate, Collins absent).
Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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