



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2015

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2015, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. Present were Traffic Commissioner Captain Robert DiBari, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, Ken Galligan, Ollie Spears, Councilor Shirley Asack, Councilor Moises Rodrigues, and Mort Schleffer. Unable to be present was D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley. Also in attendance were Councilor Tim Cruise, Councilor Shaynah Barnes and Robert Malley, Executive Director of the Brockton Parking Authority, as well as several residents of West Elm Terrace and West Elm Street.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the informal June 25th Minutes.

As a courtesy to the Councilors and residents present, the following items were taken out of order:

WEST ELM TERRACE

Request to have the Traffic Commission replace a gate at the end of West Elm Terrace, which is a legal dead end street, as the street is unsafe for children to play on due to the amount of speeding and traffic coming down the street. Residents Mark Roback and Linda Robbins have indicated that this issue was previously approved by the Traffic Commission at a meeting on September 25, 2003.

Councilor Tim Cruise informed the members that this was the first issue he ever worked on after being elected in November of 2003. The gate had been partially installed and a resident drove through it in an act of "civil disobedience" and was actually charged criminally. He stated that the base is still there and basically it just needs to have the arm reinstalled. Linda Robbins stated that Hawkeye Fence came at that time to do the installation and as an interim measure a chain was placed across where the gate was. She believes that the original arm of the gate may still be at Hawkeye Fence; it was never physically erected. Councilor Cruise said that inside Auna Drive there are speed bumps so that people choose to come out West Elm Terrace to avoid them. Linda Robbins stated that she attempted to get the meeting Minutes but they are not available. Councilor Cruise stated that if this issue is sent to Subcommittee the members will see that the base is still there. He further stated that at the time speed bumps were considered but we do not put speed bumps on city streets. Maxim Street is blocked off with boulders so cars cannot get out that way. Councilor Cruise believes that was not officially done but he is not asking for that to be removed.

Ollie Spears asked if it was a gate that went up and down, and whether the Fire Department would have access to it. Bob Bartlett and Rose Conlon stated that the Fire Department was going to be given a key to the gate so that they could have access but it was destroyed before it was fully installed. Mark Roback stated that his wife made copies of deeds to the properties beyond the gate, which have a deeded right of

way for Maxim Street and Auna Drive. He further stated that West Elm Terrace is marked as a dead end street.

One of the residents stated that she believes the residents deserve to have something there and asked whether speed bumps would be a problem for fire trucks. Deputy Fire Chief Galligan stated that the issue being addressed on the agenda was the gate but that speed bumps would be torn up by snowplows. She further asked if the gate would make sense as long as the Fire Department could get through and stated that the Fire Department is at one of the condos on Auna Drive at least five times a month. The residents would not want anyone's life not taken care of, but that for safety issues there are kids that drive on their street very fast late at night. Linda Robbins stated that for her personally there is an issue of the trash trucks going to the apartment buildings and condos constantly and this is a small street with about 10 homes on it and they are having to deal with all of the trucks; this isn't a safety issue but from a quality of life issue it does have somewhat of an impact.

Van Thomas Straughter stated that it is not so much residents but an increase in the number of people who do not live in the area, and that there are individuals who come flying up the street and back down the street early in the morning or late in the afternoon. The flow of traffic and rate of speed is becoming a serious problem. When all is said and done, if something is not addressed and the gate is not approved then they need more police visibility. Before the jersey barriers were installed on Maxim, he believes it used to be a straight cut-through. One of the residents stated that there are other dead end streets and fire trucks make it down those streets and Deputy Chief Galligan said that those are typically dead ends with no further construction or residences, so there is nothing hindering a fire truck from proceeding to the address. With the gates, 8 months of the year the gate would probably work, but the other 4 months when plowing is done, chances are they would plow to the gate and once the snow is piled there, now there is an immovable barrier. One of the residents stated that he would take responsibility for plowing the gate and Deputy Chief Galligan said that this is an honorable option but the Commission would be making a permanent determination on the issue. Ollie Spears recommended that the matter be referred to Subcommittee and explained to the residents that this would mean the members would do a site visit and then make a recommendation. Councilor Asack questioned whether the speed bumps on Auna Drive could be removed but the residents and Ward Councilor stated that the request was made and the property management company would not remove them. Ken Galligan stated he was a member of the Traffic Commission when the issue was originally raised back in 2003 and he believes the dead end sign was put up to discourage people from going through. The reason the fire trucks use West Elm Terrace is that several of the apartment buildings have West Elm Terrace street addresses. The other issue with a gate is that there is a delay in getting a gate open, which would add time to ambulances and fire trucks responding. Also, rubbish trucks or recycling trucks would have to back in if they cannot go around the corner. The gate could also cause the problem of cars going down the street and then turning around in the residents' driveways to get back out. Mr. Galligan believes that in the past the legal department was consulted and there may have been a ruling from them as to liability on the part of the city and that is why the gate was not installed. The Traffic Commission was also visited by a large group from Auna Drive questioning what was being done, because they were unaware that the gate was going to be installed back then. As a member of the Commission, Ken Galligan said that after listening to the residents it appears that the main issues are the speeding on the street, trash trucks servicing Auna Drive which is a quality of life issue, and the safety of kids playing on the street.

One resident asked if there are other streets in the city with gates and Ken Galligan said that there are a few but he believes they were done by the Housing Authority. Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan stated that some of the ones are on the private party of the complex and not across a city street. One resident stated that if Maxim Street was opened it would take away some of the traffic issue, but Councilor Cruise stated that it may result in more traffic not less. Deputy Chief Galligan asked about the possibility of making a

one way between Auna Drive and West Elm Terrace where the gate is proposed. One of the residents asked about removable speed bumps and the Commission members stated that speed bumps will not be installed on city streets.

Upon motion duly made by Ollie Spears, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET

Request from Bob Malley, Executive Director of the Brockton Parking Authority to present preliminary plans for an upgrade study of the downtown Main Street area.

Bob Malley stated that they are kicking off a comprehensive parking study to the downtown area due to the ongoing redevelopment and the future anticipated redevelopment. The contract has been awarded and he would like input from the Traffic Commission for review of timed parking ordinances in the downtown, signage and pavement markings. They are looking to move some of the all-day parkers to garages and create more density and a more walkable downtown. A Scope of Work outline was presented to the members and Mr. Malley stated that the first stage is gathering data and then there will be a meeting in mid-August to start putting the plan together. Then they will receive input from stakeholders and also the Mayor's Office, City Council, Planner's Office and other city boards. This will dovetail with the downtown urban renewal plan being developed now through the Planner's Office. There will be public meetings and they will be looking for recommendations from the Traffic Commission. By winter of 2016 there should be another public meeting and a refine the strategies and come up with a final report, which will be ratified by the Parking Authority and then be presented to the City Council. Mr. Malley asked whether he should communicate directly with Captain DiBari and Mort Schleffer stated that he felt that the police and fire departments need to be involved, and that Ken Galligan has the history and should be there. Councilor Asack said that she would like to be involved. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan told Mr. Malley to get the information to Captain DiBari or Patty and they would communicate the information to the Commission members. Councilor Asack asked if this study was only for downtown and Mr. Malley stated that it went from Pleasant Street down to the corner of Commercial Street, but that it is a very comprehensive study and they are looking for input from the Commission.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To accept the report from Mr. Malley.

COURT STREET

Request from Councilor Shaynah Barnes on behalf of residents on Court Street to have the Traffic Commission view the portion of Court Street from North Quincy Street to the Abington line to determine what signage can be placed there to slow the cars that are speeding now that the road has been repaved.

Councilor Barnes said that the residents interested in this issue thought the meeting was the following week and that it why they were not present at the meeting. She said that there are between 4 and 9 homes on the stretch between Quincy Street and Debbie Road where the residents are very upset about the paving of the street, because now it is a speedway. There are no sidewalks or buffers and residents trying to get in and out of their driveways are having problems. The residents are very concerned about children walking to and from the Baker School. Councilor Barnes tried to get funding from the Safe Routes to School program but unfortunately that is only one project per community so monies were not available.

Subsequently, she contacted Pat Ciarmella at OCPC and there may be some improvement or infrastructure money that they could get for the sidewalks, so now she is looking for signage. She also asked whether the electronic speed signs could be placed there and Captain DiBari said that he would have the speed sign placed there and also have the traffic enforcement unit put there. There is only one unit on days now and the others are on night shift until school starts but he will definitely place the unit there. Councilor Barnes asked if the matter could be referred to Subcommittee so that the members could decide whether some additional signage would be appropriate.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

PROTENTIS PLAZA – 156-162 MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli on behalf of Paul Protentis to have a 15 minute loading zone area established either on Main Street or East Elm Street. This issue was continued from the May meeting to get more information on what size trucks will be making deliveries.

Captain DiBari stated that no new information has been received at this time and that he will contact Councilor DeNapoli.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To continue the matter to the next meeting.

DIVISION STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of resident Bill Black to have portable speed bumps installed on Division Street to reduce speeding.

Subcommittee Recommendation: The Traffic Commission will not place speed bumps of any kind on a city street.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To accept the recommendation and not place any speed bumps on Division Street.

OAK STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of residents at Chateau Westgate to have the Traffic Commission view the property occupied by Northeast Electrical, as they are loading and unloading trucks on a 24-hour basis and disturbing the neighbors between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Subcommittee Recommendation: This is not a traffic issue.

Councilor Shirley Asack asked if this is a police issue and Captain DiBari stated that he did not believe it was a police issue either. Councilor Asack stated that there is a noise ordinance and a nuisance ordinance but there is no specific time. She stated that she intends to bring the company before City Council. Captain DiBari stated that he believes they got their license to operate on a 24 hour basis and that the only way the problem will be resolved is to build a sound barrier walls. Councilor Asack stated that she had recommended that, but the company does not own the building and the company has not been responsive. Councilor Barnes suggested that the Board of Health may be able to assist with the problem, as she had a similar situation with a train on Howard Street and Board of Health contacted them.

Upon motion duly made by Captain DiBari, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To accept the recommendation of the Subcommittee and taken no action on this matter.

850 NORTH MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of Greg Belcher of Waitt Funeral Home to have the Traffic Commission view the lanes of traffic in front of 850 North Main Street where it changes from one lane to two lanes to see if anything can be done to alleviate the traffic blocking the entrance to the funeral home.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Move the fog line in closer to the sidewalk from Martland Avenue to just past Waitt Funeral Home and place a “Do Not Block Driveway” sign just north of the driveway.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To accept the recommendation of the Subcommittee: Move the fog log in closer to the sidewalk from Martland Avenue to just past Waitt Funeral Home and place a “Do Not Block Driveway” sign just north of the driveway.

CORNELL STREET and RUTH ROAD

Request from Ollie Spears to have a Stop Sign installed at Cornell Street and Ruth Road, north to south. Ollie Spears stated that two residents have called him stating that this is a speedway and used as a shortcut to avoid Quincy Street to East Ashland Street. Ken Galligan asked if there is already a stop sign on Ruth Road and Ollie said there is a stop sign going east, so they are looking for a 3-way stop sign.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

EMORY STREET

Request from Ken Galligan to have a Stop Sign installed on Emory Street for northbound traffic at West Chestnut Street.

Ken Galligan stated that the sign has already been installed, as it had previously been there and just needed replacement.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To take no action as the issue is resolved.

WARREN AVENUE – VICENTE’S MARKET

Request from Captain DiBari to have the Traffic Commission review the Warren Avenue egress from Vicente’s Market (corner of Pleasant Street and Warren Avenue) to determine whether new signage is needed to alert drivers exiting onto Warren Avenue that they must take a right turn as it is a one-way street.

The Subcommittee informally viewed this site after last month’s meeting. Ken Galligan stated that the signs put up as part of the Planning Board recommendation are fine, but the location needs to be moved as it is in the middle of the driveway and is going to get hit. The Subcommittee recommends that they stripe

the driveway coming in with an arrow for the entrance and an arrow for the exit because right now with the sign in the middle, it appears that you can go left or right and if you go left then you will be headed the wrong way up Warren Avenue towards Pleasant Street. When the Subcommittee was there they spoke with the store manager who agreed with them. Ken Galligan also stated that they looked at putting a “No Left Turn” sign on city property on the sidewalk on the east side of Warren Avenue. Captain DiBari stated that there is a temporary sign there already. Ken Galligan stated that this is a public safety issue. He stated that they also discussed putting a “Wrong Way” sign on a post on Warren Avenue so that if someone inadvertently heads north on Warren Avenue they will see that they are driving the wrong way. Another sign saying “No Right Turn” coming out of the old Greek church parking lot is going to be relocated to a pole and add a “Wrong Way” sign, red with white lettering. There is another issue where Vicente’s needs to get their line painting people there to redo the lines and establish a “No Parking Fire Lane” in front of the market.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Ken Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To make a Fire Lane along the entire frontage of Vicente’s market and to have the signage recommended by the Subcommittee installed.

Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan had three points of interest to share with the members. At Centre and Quincy Streets, a few months ago there was a traffic signal knocked down and that has been rebuilt and replaced. At North Main and Battles Streets, a car destroyed the traffic control cabinet and a temporary one was installed and the insurance company has now settled and a permanent cabinet has now been installed. At West Chestnut and Liberty Streets, the overhead lights were arced by a National Grid line and dropped down and National Grid had settled with the city and agreed to repair the entire intersection.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made by Captain DiBari, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Florio

Secretary to the Traffic Commission