



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2015

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. Present were Captain Robert DiBari, Ken Galligan, Ollie Spears, Councilor Moises Rodrigues, Mort Schleffer and D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley. Unable to be present was Councilor Shirley Asack. Also present were residents Susan Curry, Peter Curry, David Spillane and Margie Boyce, all of Connell Avenue.

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Mort Schleffer and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the July Minutes.

As a courtesy to the residents of Connell Avenue, the following item was taken out of order.

CONNELL AVENUE and RUTH ROAD

Request from Ollie Spears to have a Stop Sign installed at Connell Avenue and Ruth Road, north to south.

Ollie Spears stated that the residents approached him and said that Connell Avenue is a speedway. The residents indicated that cars go very fast down their street, especially students from Cardinal Spellman High School; sometimes 50 to 60 miles per hour. One resident indicated that his car was hit in his driveway by a car speeding down the street. This was an issue back when Peter Crone was Traffic Commissioner and a stop sign was placed on Ruth Road then, but they did not want to put one on Connell Avenue as they did not want the stop sign to regulate the flow of traffic. The residents would like a stop sign at that intersection, as it would slow traffic on the road. There are many new families with children on the street. The residents stated that the majority of the traffic issues are between 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and then from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Another resident stated that they use this road to avoid the lights on North Quincy Street. Captain DiBari stated that there is one stop sign on Ruth Road, one intersection up. Another resident stated that they have spoken with Mayor Carpenter and he said he would look into it. D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley asked if the residents had spoken to the school, and the residents stated that they have but there has been no resolution. Captain DiBari said that he would send the traffic unit to that location in an unmarked car to monitor the speed, especially with school opening. Captain DiBari stated that he did not do an accident report, and stated that 4-way stop signs cannot be installed to regulate speed; that does not fit the criteria for stop signs.

One resident suggested swapping the stop sign that is on Ruth Road and placing it on Connell Avenue but Captain DiBari said that then the residents of Ruth Road would complain. The residents stated that more cars use Connell Avenue than Ruth Road, and that Ruth Road is not a through way. Captain DiBari informed the members and residents that the issue would be placed back on the Subcommittee agenda, as last month several of the Subcommittee members were called for fire and police response

and they did not get to view Connell Avenue. Ollie Spears stated that he would reach out to Cardinal Spellman High School and have a talk with the principal to see if they will cooperate. Ken Galligan asked if there are any speed limit signs on the street and the residents stated that there are only “Slow Children” signs.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

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.

Captain DiBari informed the members that the Subcommittee was unable to get to this location but he went to the location himself and there are two signs, one each way, “30mph”, and he feels there should be another sign each direction. Ken Galligan stated that since school was opening the next week, the members should take the recommendation of Captain DiBari and place the additional signs and determine the locations. Captain DiBari stated that he was also going to have extra patrols out for the beginning of school and he would place one officer on that street for when the children are walking to school.

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

VOTED: To place two additional “30 mph” signs, one for eastbound traffic and one for westbound traffic; the exact location to be determined by Captain DiBari.

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 high rate speeding and traffic coming down the street.

Captain DiBari stated that he reached out to Councilor Cruise to have him let the residents know that a decision would not be made on this issue at this meeting. Ken Galligan said that to enlighten those members that did not go to the Subcommittee view, the members had an opportunity to meet with the owner of two of the buildings, #38 and #49 West Elm Terrace. They look just like the Auna Drive buildings but these two are not owned by that group. These two buildings are the first two that you come into on West Elm Terrace from West Elm Street (one of the left and one on the right). The owner knew nothing about the possibility of closing off West Elm Terrace and was very much against it and gave good reasons: snow plowing, losing parking places, the gate being snowed in, etc. The owner was very concerned and the members told him to contact his Ward Councilor. The members also discovered that on West Elm Terrace there are several private houses that the rubbish is picked up by the city so that if the street is closed down that will cause great inconvenience for the rubbish trucks trying to maneuver. Also, for trucks to plow West Elm Terrace, they would have to go in Auna Drive and push the snow easterly down to Maxim Street and then westerly up to the gate. Ken Galligan also stated that the maintenance of the gate would be a city responsibility; if someone crashes into the gate it would be the city’s responsibility and liability is also an issue. For drivers that would come up West Elm Terrace from West Elm Street, when they get to the gate there is nowhere to turn around, so now they would be doing 3-point turns or going in people’s driveways to try to turn around. When the swing gate is open, if it swings to the east it will block a fire hydrant; if it swings to the west, it will

block a private driveway. Ken Galligan stated that those were some of the issues that were discussed on the site visit, and that on the day they visited they saw no children playing in the street, and one car that was going too fast and Captain DiBari took care of that situation. Captain DiBari stated that he has had the traffic unit there and they have not observed any problems. D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley asked what the purpose of the gate was supposed to be and Captain DiBari stated that it was determined that it was supposed to be a dead end street and there are two posts that were installed in the past but the gate was only up a couple of days when a car crashed into it, and it was never replaced. Commissioner Rowley asked about Maxim Street and Captain DiBari stated that if the owners of Auna Drive decided to put their own gate up at the back of their property so that no one could go out West Elm Terrace, then those people on the back road have no way to get out, unless Maxim Street was opened up. Ollie Spears asked whether this is a legal dead end street and Ken Galligan stated that he feels that the Commission should get a determination whether this is a legal dead end street and further that if this is going to be pursued that the Law Department should be contacted and request a legal opinion as to what to do. He stated that he does not want to vote to put a gate up and then find out that it should not have been done, and the city gets sued. Captain DiBari stated that for public safety reasons he would rather deny the request. Ken Galligan stated that the deeds for the properties, it states that the people have a right to travel over Auna Drive to West Elm Street and they also have a right to travel over Maxim Street to Sycamore, and in effect we have closed off Maxim Street so they may be forced to reopen Maxim Street. Captain DiBari stated that they saw people who live on the back side of Auna Drive come out of the Auna Drive parking lot and go down West Elm. Ken Galligan stated that the last time this was proposed, the group wanted the city to pave Sewell Street to open it up to Nancy Lane and that could become the second means of egress. He said that Sewell Street is laid out to West Elm Terrace but it is nothing but woods. Ollie Spears asked if that would help with the traffic and Ken Galligan stated that if this was done then the residents of Nancy Lane would complain. Mort Schleffer asked if the Commission could request an opinion from the Legal Department and Captain DiBari stated that first it should be determined whether it is an accepted street or a private way. Commissioner Rowley stated that if it is a private way then the city does not have to do anything on that street but that he does not like the idea of the liability with the gate. Commissioner Rowley said that he would have his Engineering Division determine whether West Elm Terrace is a private way and let the members know. Ken Galligan stated that he did not think that the Commission should take any action at this point and wait for more information.

Upon motion duly made by Captain DiBari, seconded by Ollie Spears and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To continue the matter for however long it takes to get further information.

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 was continued from the May and July meetings 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. Captain DiBari said that they have been waiting for more information but no one has come forward with any new information.

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

VOTED: To take no action on this matter.

1104 MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski to have a “Handicapped Parking Only” spot designated in front of the United States Post Office at 1104 Main Street.

Ollie Spears stated that this was a good idea and asked whether one space was enough. Ken Galligan stated that he felt that Subcommittee should go to the site to determine where to place the HP space. He said that there are about three parking spaces between Perkins Avenue and the driveway to the old bank, and the space most northerly may be the spot to designate as HP parking.

Upon motion duly made by D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Ollie Spears and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

In accordance with the Traffic Commission By-laws a vote was taken to appoint a Vice-Chairman to the Traffic Commission, to conduct meetings in the absence of the Chairman. The Fire Chief or his designee, who presently is Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan was nominated and unanimously appointed to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Ken Galligan requested that the Traffic Commission members discuss two issues not on the agenda, as they could be considered public safety issues.

CALMAR STREET

Request from Ken Galligan to have “One Way” signs installed on Calmar Street: one sign at Denton Street, and one sign across from the exit from the parking lot of Cape Cod Café. Jim Jamoulis, owner of the Cape Cod Café has requested that no post be placed on the sidewalk opposite the driveway to his restaurant, as it will cause a problem with snow removal. Ken Galligan suggested that maybe the “One Way” sign could be placed on the building across from the Café.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

RICHMOND STREET at BATTLES STREET

Review this location to determine exact placement of the Stop signs that were previously approved by the Traffic Commission for this location.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

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

VOTED: to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Florio

Secretary to the Traffic Commission