



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2016

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. The meeting was chaired by Captain Robert DiBari, Traffic Commissioner. Present were Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, Ken Galligan, Councilor Moises Rodrigues, and Planning Board representative Craig Pina. Unable to be present were Councilor Shirley Asack, DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley and Mort Schleffer. Also present were City Councilor Paul Studenski, City Councilor Anne Beauregard, Brockton Parking Authority Executive Director Robert Malley and several residents.

Upon motion made by Councilor Moises Rodrigues, seconded by Craig Pina and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the April Minutes. As a courtesy to the Councilors and residents in attendance, several items were taken out of order.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNS

Request from Ken Galligan to have the Traffic Commission address the issue of the pedestrian crosswalk signs that are being placed in the middle of the road throughout the city and especially in front of schools as this is a public safety issue and extremely dangerous in the event a fire truck, police vehicle or automobile were to hit these signs while in the roadway. Michael Thomas, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, has been invited to attend the meeting to have a discussion on this issue.

Subcommittee Recommendation: That no pedestrian crosswalk signs or other portable or temporary signs shall be placed in the travel lane of any city street unattended without authority of the Traffic Commission. Also, that the School Department be notified that the pedestrian crosswalk signs being placed in the vicinity of city schools only be placed by the crossing guards or custodians during crossing times (one half hour in the morning and one half hour in the afternoon) and placed on the fog line of the street at all other times.

Ken Galligan stated that funding became available to purchase this type of signs and in his travels around the city he found the signs left in the middle of the roadway and in his experience in the Fire Department they become dangerous when left there unattended. When an emergency vehicle has to travel the road they stay close to the middle of the road, and cars pull over to the sides of the road. If there is a pedestrian sign in the middle of the road, there is a risk that it will be hit and could either damage the emergency vehicle, or become projectile and hit a pedestrian or another vehicle. There is also an issue of those signs which have already been hit and now are in the roadway in pieces, sometimes not visible to drivers. The liability issues and potential accident-causing problems outweigh the pedestrian safety issue. Mr. Galligan also stated that other businesses and churches have placed signs in the street in a similar way. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan stated that the Traffic Commission had determined that these signs would be

allowed in the middle of the street as long as they are attended. A school crossing guard could place the sign in the middle of the street and he would be there so if an emergency vehicle was approaching the sign could be moved. When the crossing guard's duties are finished, he would take the sign and move it to the gutter. Ken Galligan asked whether Captain DiBari had been able to have a meeting with the Law Department and Captain DiBari informed the members that he met with Senior Assistant City Solicitor Kate Feodoroff and she gave him some language as to how to write the recommendation.

Michael Thomas, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, informed the members that there was an audit last spring with the state Transportation Department and one of their recommendations was to get the crosswalk signs and they did recommend that they be left in the middle of the street. The signs were purchased from School Department funds, not grant funds. Lt. Donald Mills of the School Police brought this issue to his attention as the signs are being hit and run over all the time. He has no issue with having the signs placed in the street when the crossing guards are on duty and removed afterwards. The signs are about \$140 each and they are replacing about six per week. The Facilities Department has actually already sent a notice to all custodians doing crosswalk duties so that since May 10th the signs have been placed in the street when they are on duty and placed on the sidewalk when they are done. That is the current practice and he will check again to make sure that none of the signs are being left in the road unattended anymore. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan also noted that the DPW Commissioner had requested that none of these signs be left on the sidewalk during in the winter season so that sidewalk plows can maneuver to clear the sidewalks and Mr. Thomas informed them that they are being brought up to the front door of the school.

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

VOTED: To adopt the recommendation of the Subcommittee and accept the following language as a policy of the Traffic Commission: That no pedestrian crosswalk signs or other portable or temporary signs shall be placed in the travel lane of any city street unattended without authority of the Traffic Commission. Also, that the School Department be notified that the pedestrian crosswalk signs being placed in the vicinity of city schools only be placed by the crossing guards or custodians during crossing times (one half hour in the morning and one half hour in the afternoon) and placed on the fog line of the street at all other times.

PLAIN STREET at EAST STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski to have signage installed at the intersection of Plain Street and East Street in both directions to deter speeding.

Councilor Paul Studenski informed the members that over the years there have been multiple accidents at this location. There is speeding in both directions and cars cannot negotiate the curve. He would like to have signage placed at this location.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review and to have the portable speed radar at that location.

OAK STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Church (represented by Jim Mihos and Nick Babanikas) to have a crosswalk installed on Oak Street from the Greek Orthodox Church across to Northeast Electric Company.

Nick Babanikas and Steve Passias, representing the Greek Orthodox Church, stated that they are requesting a new crosswalk as there are about 20 to 25 times per year that the Church uses the parking lot across the street for their functions and services. On some occasions there is a detail police officer directing traffic, but on other occasions a detail is not needed but cars are parking in the lot across the street. They are concerned with this as a safety issue while trying to cross the street and also there are no sidewalks at that location. Mr. Babinikas presented a letter from State Representative Claire Cronin on behalf of the Church. Captain DiBari stated that Councilor Shirley Asack had informed him that she was not available to attend the meeting but she is in favor of this request. Ken Galligan suggested that the matter not be referred to Subcommittee as the line painting is being done at the present time. Captain DiBari suggested that the Traffic Commission approve the request without referral to Subcommittee so that it could get done. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan stated that there were 2 crosswalks already existing and that the signage needs to be used appropriately so as not to have 4 crosswalk signs; perhaps even have "Crosswalk Ahead" signs.

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

VOTED: To approve the installation of a crosswalk on Oak Street from the Greek Orthodox Church across to Northeast Electric Company with the appropriate signage and also to repaint the existing crosswalks at that location as needed.

ALGONQUIN STREET and BRADLEY AVENUE

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard for a Stop sign.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Refer to the traffic unit for enforcement.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to traffic unit for enforcement.

RUTH ROAD and CONNELL AVENUE

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of David Spillane of 54 Connell Avenue to have a Stop sign at this intersection.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Refer to the traffic unit for enforcement.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to the traffic unit for enforcement.

STERLING ROAD

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard to address the speeding in this area.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Place a “No commercial vehicles over 15000 GVW” sign at the corner of the nursing home exit and another “No commercial vehicles over 15000 GVW” sign at the property line of the Flooring Design Co. and #21 Crosby Road.

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

VOTED: To install a “No Commercial Vehicles Over 15000 GVW” sign at the corner of the nursing home exit and another “No Commercial Vehicles Over 15000 GVW” sign at the property line of the Flooring Design Co. and #21 Crosby Road.

WEST ELM TERRACE

Request from Councilor Shaynah Barnes as the residents of West Elm Terrace contacted her about an acute hazard in their area. The issue with West Elm Terrace is they have limited access to their street while the construction is directly in front of the street. They are asking that the jersey barriers placed on the bend of West Elm Terrace and Maxim Street be removed for public safety reasons.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Leave the street as is, as West Elm Street has been top coated and there should not be a problem driving on it.

Craig Pina stated that he spoke with the property manager at Westfield Estates and she hoped that the Traffic Commission would come back with a recommendation to leave the barriers as they do not want them removed.

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

VOTED: To accept the Subcommittee recommendation and leave the street as it is.

706 MAIN STREET

Request from Captain DiBari on behalf of Ana Inocencio, who is requesting a 20 minute parking sign in front of her hair salon located at 706 Main Street, as people are parking in front of her business all day and there is no place for her patrons to park.

Subcommittee Recommendation: To extend the one hour parking restriction to cover this area.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Moises Rodrigues, seconded by Craig Pina and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To extend the one hour parking restriction to cover this area.

DIVISION STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of resident Bill Black to have the Traffic Commission review the speeding issue on Division Street.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Place a “20 MPH School Zone” sign on Division Street and Ford Street for east and westbound traffic. Also, refer to the traffic unit for enforcement.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Moises Rodrigues, seconded by Craig Pina and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To install a “20 MPH School Zone” sign on Division Street and a “20 MPH School Zone” sign on Ford Street for east and westbound traffic. Also to refer to the traffic unit for enforcement.

472 NORTH QUINCY STREET

Request from Councilor Jack Lally on behalf of the resident at 472 North Quincy Street that a guardrail be placed in front of this residence as it is at the intersection with North Cary Street and there are many accidents at this location and some cars are going onto this property.

Subcommittee Recommendation: We will get a price for an 18 foot guardrail and make further determination once the cost is known.

Ken Galligan stated that there was a discussion over a year ago about getting a price for a flashing arrow light and asked whether a cost had been determined. Captain DiBari stated that a traffic study had been done further up on that street. Ken Galligan recommended that the Commission pursue the cost of installing a flashing arrow light and if there is no funding available but the Commission knows what the price is, then possibly Councilor Lally could make a recommendation to get funding for it.

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

VOTED: To continue this matter to the June meeting to determine the price of an 18 foot guardrail and also the cost of installing a flashing arrow light.

COURT STREET and QUINCY/NORTH QUINCY STREET INTERSECTION

Request from Traffic Commission member Craig Pina on behalf of a resident to have “No Turn on Red” signs installed at this intersection.

Craig Pina stated that this is an intersection where the people that live at 2 North Quincy Street and on the Quincy Street side have both had a number of incidents where cars have been totaled, fences destroyed and a puppy struck and killed by cars speeding around that corner.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

COMMERCIAL STREET

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of BKA Architects, who are on Commercial Street with one side of their building on School Street. The request is to have the 4 parking spaces that are currently designated as 2 hour parking designated as permit parking for this business.

Councilor Beauregard stated that the employees keep rotating their cars every two hours and extra space is needed. Councilor Beauregard spoke with Bob Malley from the Parking Authority about them getting permit parking. Mr. Malley indicated that he had no problem making it permit parking but he did have a problem making it permit parking for a specific business. Ken Galligan stated that this area was posted no parking for many years on the south side of School Street and then that was changed about 8 years ago. He questioned whether parking on Commercial Street on the east side between Crescent Street and School Street would be allowed. Bob Malley stated that this area is currently unregulated. Ken Galligan questioned why parking was not allowed on the north side of Crescent Street between Commercial Street and School Street and stated that there could probably be four parking spaces designated there.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

LINCOLN STREET HP SIGNS

Request from Traffic Commission member Mort Schleffer on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce to have the signage for HP parking at the Chamber of Commerce building reviewed as they are not easily visible.

Councilor Anne Beauregard stated that she was at the DBA meeting and it was mentioned that on the street itself the parking signage logo is all faded and the sign itself is on the building. Craig Pina questioned the need for an HP sign on that side of the building at all as there is no direct entrance to the building from that side of the street. It was also mentioned that there are 2 HP spaces on School Street right across from the building.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

BROCKTON PARKING AUTHORITY

Request from Robert Malley, Executive Director of the Brockton Parking Authority, that the Parking Authority and their consultants, Nelson/Nygaard Company, be placed on the Agenda to discuss the Downtown Parking study and the possible parking changes and to gather input from the Traffic Commission prior to formalizing a plan for the future.

Bob Malley informed the members that they have been gathering data since last September for the parking study and they are now at the stage where they need to reach out and meet with the Traffic Commission as the jurisdictions of the Commission and the Parking Authority overlap. He introduced George Durante, who is working on the TDI project for the city, who was there are an interested bystander. The personnel from Nelson/Nygaard Company were introduced as Jason Trotter and Liza Cohen, who have both been working on the parking study with Lisa Jacobson. A slideshow presentation was made (slideshow available in printed form upon request). After discussion, Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan stated that what he would like to see in the future is a situation where the Traffic Commission approves where parking is allowed, and then the Parking Authority is authorized to run it. Ken Galligan read the Act establishing the Traffic Commission to the members to remind them of the duties and purpose of the Commission. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan said that they should establish a proposal for parking management.

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

VOTED: That the Traffic Commission work with the Parking Authority to discuss the future of regulation of parking in the downtown area.

MAIN STREET

Request from Robert Malley, Brockton Parking Authority, to have the Traffic Commission members review the signage on Main Street between White Avenue and Pleasant Street, in order to clarify and simplify the parking restrictions in that area.

Captain DiBari stated that members went out and found 41 different corrections that need to be made in that stretch of Main Street. They spoke with DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, who said that nothing can be done at this time until the city accepts the project. This was a project that was started during the prior administration and MassDOT paid for it, and when completed it has to be accepted by the city.

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

VOTED: To continue this matter for further information from the Department of Public Works.

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

VOTED: to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Florio

Secretary to the Traffic Commission