



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting of January 28, 2010

The Traffic Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. Present were Captain Leon McCabe, Chairman, and Commission members Councilor Paul Studenski, Marshall Papineau, Chief Galligan and D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson. Also present were City Councilor Tom Monahan, Deputy Fire Chief Richard Francis, and citizens Ken DaRosa and Eric Morra.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain McCabe. Upon motion made by Chief Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the December Minutes.

221 SAWTELLE AVENUE

Councilor DuBois requested that a “Go Slow Children” sign be installed in the vicinity of 221 Sawtelle Avenue.

Captain McCabe noted that “Watch Children” signs are already placed in that immediate vicinity, as follows:

Northerly at 9 Sawtelle Avenue; Northerly at 49 Sawtelle Avenue; Northerly at 161 Sawtelle Avenue; Southerly at 93 Sawtelle Avenue; and Southerly at 200 Sawtelle Avenue. Captain McCabe felt that it was currently well marked. Marshall Papineau stated that with five signs there already, one more sign wouldn't change the traffic situation.

Upon motion made by Chief Galligan, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To take no further action on this matter.

LYNN ROAD

Councilor DuBois requested that a “Go Slow Children” sign be installed in the vicinity of #11 and #44 Lynn Road. Captain McCabe stated that it has been determined in the past that signs should read “Caution Children” and that one additional sign could be added on Lynn Road headed northerly in the vicinity of numbers 63 – 69 Lynn Road. This sign would also catch the attention of people coming out of Christopher Road, rather than just out of North Avenue. Commissioner Thoreson asked if this was the only sign, and Captain McCabe indicated that there were signs further down but this would be the only one in that vicinity.

Upon motion made by Chief Galligan, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To place a “Caution Children” sign on Lynn Road headed northerly in the vicinity of number 63.

WESTON STREET

Councilor Tom Monahan requested that Weston Street be restricted to resident parking only from Pleasant Street to Baxendale Avenue. One of his constituents has a problem with cars going to classes at the Red Cross building, with cars parking and blocking her driveway and parking in the wrong direction. She would like from her driveway to the fire hydrant restricted. Chief Galligan stated that this had been a problem in the past also and asked if it wasn't already posted no parking on the east side from the Red Cross building to Baxendale Avenue. Councilor Monahan indicated that there is one sign there, with no parking from the sign to the corner of Pleasant Street. Captain McCabe stated that he could have the Traffic Enforcement Unit check the area to make sure that the cars are legally parked and not blocking the hydrant too close to the corner. Commissioner Thoreson and Marshall Papineau stated that they remember that area being a problem in the past and Chief Galligan requested that past records be reviewed to see if it was designated no parking, but that the signs have disappeared.

Upon motion made by Chief Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee Review.

ENTERPRISE STREET

Councilor Chris MacMillan requested that the “No Parking” restriction on Enterprise Street be rescinded and the signs be removed. Resident, Ken DaRosa, of 34 Enterprise Street appeared before the Commission looking for information as to whether the “No Parking” signs were still needed. There had been a factory there in the past, but it is now closed. His roommate recently got a ticket for parking there and that brought up the issue of whether the parking restrictions could be removed or made for one side of the street only. Chief Galligan stated that Montello Heel Co. has a delivery entrance off of Enterprise Street and it is a narrow street so the parking was restricted. Commissioner Thoreson suggested that the single sign on one side of the street be removed, and Chief Galligan recommended that the issue be referred to subcommittee so that they could view the area.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Thoreson, seconded by Marshall Papineau and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee Review.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON OAK STREET AT ENTRANCE TO D.W. FIELD PARK

Councilor Chris MacMillan requested that the Traffic Commission consider changing the timing cycle of the lights or change the lights to blinking lights in order to ease the flow of traffic on Oak Street. Chief Galligan stated that if that were made a blinking light there would be many people protesting because they could not get out onto Oak Street. Also, over the past several years there have been groups who requested that a pedestrian cycle be added to that light and the Signal Division brought in Bell Traffic who gave a price of \$6,000 for a pedestrian crossing button. There was no extra funding to do that. Right now, that light has two trip wires for each driveway coming out of the park, so if there is no traffic the light stays green constantly. Chief Galligan stated that it is working the best it can with the trip wires and that it’s the volume of traffic on Oak Street that causes the problem. Marshall Papineau stated that traffic gets backed up between the lights at D.W. Field Park and the lights at Belair Street, especially in the afternoon. Captain McCabe requested that the trip wires be checked to make sure they are working properly and Chief Galligan stated that he would have them checked out.

Upon motion made by Marshall Papineau, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To continue the matter for further review, as necessary.

SPRING STREET and GLENWOOD STREET

State Representative Mike Brady, on behalf of Naberge Jeanbaptiste of 140 Spring Street, requested that the Commission consider placing a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Spring Street and Glenwood Street. Chief Galligan stated that they have been to that location for double stop signs for southbound traffic on Glenwood at Spring Street and they are constantly knocked down. It is a blind intersection and in the past the first thing that has been done is to request the accident history for that intersection before any action is taken. Captain McCabe stated that he would get the accident history and report back to the Commission.

Upon motion made by Chief Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was

VOTED: To continue the matter for further review after receipt of the accident history.

TUCKER DRIVE

Eric Morra, a representative from the Board of Trustees of Fieldside Gardens, spoke to the Commission about the traffic problems on Tucker Drive at the George School. The first concern is that the street sign on Tucker Drive at Belair Street is missing. Mr. Morra then expressed the concerns of the neighbors with parents driving down Tucker Drive to Colonel Bell Drive to the school. He requested that Tucker Drive be made a private way so that parents cannot enter that way, or that two signs be placed at Belair Street and Tucker Drive to detour the traffic away from Tucker Drive, and that a sign be installed at the exit to the school indicating that traffic must turn right. Captain McCabe asked at what time of day the traffic was a problem and Mr. Morra explained that it was for about half an hour in the afternoon when school got out. It has always been a quiet neighborhood and now they are concerned over the amount of traffic. Mr. Morra also indicated that there were no school zone lights installed at the school.

Captain McCabe indicated that the Tucker Drive street sign will be replaced, and his opinion is that if they move traffic off of Tucker Drive it will increase the traffic on someone else's street and then they will complain. Captain McCabe indicated that the school zone lights have already been ordered and will be installed when they arrive. Commissioner Thoreson informed Mr. Morra that making Tucker Drive a private way would not necessarily cut down the traffic, as all it really does is put the onus for maintenance on the owners of the properties on that street; it does not necessarily limit traffic on the street. Mr. Morra also indicated that another member of the board had stated that when the school was being constructed an agreement was made that traffic would not be an issue on that side of Fieldside Gardens. Marshall Papineau stated that the bus availability has been changed so that more people are

bringing their children to school, so that has increased the traffic. He stated that the Traffic Commission had worked with the school personnel to have traffic go into the parking lot and alleviate some of the parking problems, and that although they had a private, exclusive spot before, now with the school built on City-owned property the situation has changed. Chief Galligan indicated that when the school was being built, an agreement was made that all of the trucks would use Coventry Circle and not go up Tucker Drive, and that the first year that the school was open it was only partially occupied so that traffic and parking weren't so much of a problem, but now that the school is at full capacity the Traffic Commission has been working to regulate the traffic flow, but there is no way to prohibit people from using that street. The Traffic Commission would work with any suggestions that come up that are within reason, but there is going to be an increase in traffic on that street.

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

VOTED: To continue the matter for further review, as necessary.

SCHOOL ZONE LIGHTS CONTRACT

Captain McCabe informed the Commission that we currently have a maintenance contract with an electrical company that maintains the blinking yellow school zone lights. He believes there used to be 60 and now there are about 44. The contract is for \$1,700 per month and basically they set the timer, and change it with daylight savings time, and they change lights if they are inoperable. Captain McCabe feels that they money can be better used elsewhere if the Fire Department Signal Division could maintain the school zone lights, even using overtime. Chief Galligan stated that he would discuss the issue with the Union and get back to the Commission members.

ARNONE SCHOOL

Councilor Tom Monahan addressed the issue of traffic on the Newbury Street side of the school. The principal has indicated that the students are crossing Newbury Street down towards West Elm Street and it is becoming a dangerous situation. Councilor Monahan questioned whether a crosswalk can be added there, or one of the pedestrian cones placed there, or could a crossing guard be assigned there. Captain McCabe indicated that he had been to the school three times but the principal was unavailable. There is only one available school police officer, so Captain McCabe will put the Arnone School on the rotational list for a school police officer. Captain McCabe told Councilor Monahan that he will meet with the Councilor and the principal and maybe they can send out a notice to the parents regarding the safety issue. Chief Galligan suggested that they crossing guards/custodians be taught to gather a group of students before they stop traffic, then it would immensely improve traffic on Belmont Street. As it is now, the crossing guard will stop all the traffic for one student.

Captain McCabe and Commissioner Thoreson indicated that West Elm Street is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2011 and there will be a traffic light at Newbury Street and West Elm Street at that time. Captain McCabe also indicated that the principal can instruct the students to stay on the school side of the street and not cross in the middle of Newbury Street.

After discussion, no further action was taken on this matter.

BAKER SCHOOL

A petition was presented to the Commission by Paula Grover on behalf of parents of students at the Mary E. Baker School, requesting that no parking tickets be issued on Quincy Street until the parking problems at the school are resolved. Captain McCabe stated that there is plenty of parking in the lot, but the parents don't want to use it. The principal had explained to the Commission members that parents would park on the east side of Quincy Street and beep their horns at their children, and the children would run across the street without looking. The principal felt it was a danger to the children and the Commission members agreed and placed the signs on Quincy Street so that the parent would move into the parking lot. Discussion was held regarding the parking issue, and Chief Galligan stated that there is a potential solution when the curbing is cut and cars can enter on the north side of the school and exit on the south side. Chief Galligan stated that the south driveway is a fire lane, but they are going to allow them to use the fire lane to exit the school once the curbing has been cut. The Commission members felt that no parking on Quincy Street must be enforced as it is a safety issue. Councilor Studenski stated that a very concise communication should be explaining that for the childrens' safety the vehicles should not be parked on Quincy Street, explaining the alternate system to her, and notifying them of what the plans are once the curb is cut.

Upon motion made by Paul Studenski, seconded by Marshall Papineau and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To send a communication to the petition signers, via Paula Grover, explaining that for the childrens' safety the vehicles should not be parked on Quincy Street, explaining the alternate system to her, and notifying them of what the plans are once the curb is cut.

CRESCENT STREET

Chief Galligan stated that the signal box near the elderly high rise on Crescent Street has been hit and damaged. Discussion was held regarding relocating the box onto the BHA property and BHA has given approval for the relocation. It would cost \$1,600.00 to complete the job, plus the cost of a police detail. The traffic control box will be provided at no extra cost as the Fire Department has an extra box. It was estimated that the total cost would be \$2,000.00.

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

VOTED: To spend up to \$2,000.00 to relocate the signal box onto the BHA property and pay for the associated costs of a police detail.

Chief Galligan indicated that this would be his final Traffic Commission meeting, as he is retiring on Friday, February 5, 2010. Deputy Chief Richard Francis will be the new Chief and will replace him on the Traffic Commission. The Commission members expressed their gratitude to Chief Galligan for his years of service and his vast historical knowledge of the City of Brockton.

There being no further business to come before the Traffic Commission, upon motion made by Marshall Papineau, seconded by Captain McCabe, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Florio, Secretary to the Traffic Commission

[Draft pending approval of Traffic Commission]