



**BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**Minute of the Meeting**  
**May 27, 2010**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The Traffic Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302.

Present were Captain Leon McCabe, Chairman, and Commission members Councilor Paul Studenski, Ret. Chief Kenneth Galligan, Commissioner Michael Thoreson, Kenneth Goldblatt and Councilor Todd Petti.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain McCabe.

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

Councilor Michelle DuBois attended the meeting on behalf of her constituents. Several citizens also attended the Commission meeting and were identified as follows: Abby Stone, Ednamae Campbell, Susan Doyle, Kathy Jewett, Diana Despradel, and Erik Mora

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TERMINAL PLACE – “No Parking” signs**

Captain McCabe indicated that Commission members had previously viewed the area and did not see where there were old signs, but upon further review it does appear that there is parking all over the place. Ret. Chief Galligan stated that in the past parking did not appear to be much of an issue there, and Councilor Studenski indicated that there are two buses that do transports to Connecticut, and the operators of those buses are the ones who took down the old signs. Now that there is a business operating there, with cars going in and out, the buses are being parked all over and it causes a turning problem. The buses are parked on the south side towards the railroad track. Councilor Studenski requested that there be no parking on the south side of the street. Ret. Chief Galligan suggested that old records be reviewed to see if there was already restricted parking on that street and Captain McCabe indicated that the Traffic Commission records are not easily found. Councilor Studenski stated that he recalls from the days when he was an officer in the southeast sector, he remembers that street as being no parking.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ret. Chief Galligan, seconded by Kenneth Goldblatt, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: to replace the “No Parking” signs on the south side of Terminal Place from Montello Street easterly to the end of the Terminal Place layout.**

### **GARFIELD STREET- Restricted Parking**

Captain McCabe indicated that he has written a few parking tickets there but they were all neighbors, and that he does not believe that the commuters are using those parking spots. Councilor Studenski indicated that the resident who contacted him believed that the cars were being parked there by people using the commuter rail because they were there in the morning and gone at night.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ret. Chief Galligan, seconded by Kenneth Goldblatt, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: to continue the matter to a later date.**

### **WINTER STREET AND NORTH CARY STREET- Stop Sign**

Commissioner Thoreson indicated that he has spoken with his contact from H.W. Moore and they are still going back to the State for more information, so there is no update at this point. He asked if there have been any accidents at this location, and Councilor DuBois stated that she spoke with a father who indicated that he almost got into an accident when he was going to pick up his son, and the person with the blinking yellow light did not stop and he was going forward and he almost had an accident. The Commission members indicated that at a blinking yellow light you are not required to stop, you must slow down. Captain McCabe stated that the State made the decision to remove the stop sign and put in the blinking yellow light, and if the original engineer reviewed the location they may change the blinking yellow light to a blinking red light. Ret. Chief Galligan indicated that he has spoken with the firefighters at Station 7 and they are very uncomfortable with the blinking yellow light and that even when they leave the station on a non-emergency call you have to look over your shoulder left and right and they would like to have the stop sign re-established there. Chief Galligan stated that the State arbitrarily went ahead and took that light out, and that it is our light. Discussion was held about going ahead and changing the lights there, but it was decided that if we do it arbitrarily there could be a problem in the future.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Paul Studenski, seconded by Kenneth Goldblatt, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: to continue the matter to a later date with the recommendation that we support the re-establishment of the stop sign.**

### **Manthala George School – Colonel Bell Drive**

Captain McCabe recognized Erik Mora, a representative of Fieldside Gardens, to discuss the traffic problems on Colonel Bell Drive. Kathy Jewett, President of the Board of Trustees, also requested to be heard. Mr. Mora stated that their main concern is the safety of the people that travel to the school in the morning, leave the school in the afternoon, and the neighbors that live around that area. Mr. Mora brought a notice, a “letter of promise” that was given to them in April of 2007. Ms. Jewett indicated that this promise was made by Mr. Dobrowski, Councilor MacMillan and Mr. Vasapollo back in 2007, and the letter was delivered to every owner at Fieldside Gardens about what was supposed to happen at the school. (Letter attached and incorporated into these Minutes). The items of concern are Items #3, 4 and 5, with #3 regarding bus traffic being the most important. The residents want due diligence done here. Ms. Jewett indicated that Ken Thompson from the Mayor’s Office has been assigned to the issue as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. They have been dealing with James Hayden since September, and feel that they have had very little progress. Some “No Parking” signs have been put up, but the people just drive further down the street and park where there are no signs and then walk down the street with their kids. Then the other parents speed down the street to drop their kids at school and it creates a huge traffic problem. Also, the buses and delivery trucks go up and down Colonel Bell Drive, exiting by way of Tucker and Belair, and they are supposed to exit on the Pleasant Street side. Ms. Jewett stated that they have also indicated the problems with the boilers on the roof of the school that make a lot of noise, and the barriers they were promised have not been put up. Their biggest concern is the traffic and their concern for the kids because there is no sidewalk near the condo community. An unidentified resident stated that the cars park right under the “No parking” signs and when someone points the sign out to them, they are sworn at and treated rudely. A resident indicated that they have turned in school bus numbers for buses that go the wrong way down the street, but that it hasn’t helped; they have tried to assist in giving information needed to address the situation but nothing has been addressed. She indicated that it is expected that the traffic guard would re-direct traffic in the other direction, but they are riding through the condo community instead. They are aware that James Hayden sent a letter out through the school, but stated that it was not very forceful and all it did was ask that they have respect for the nearby condo community; it did not tell people which way to drive out.

A resident indicated that he questioned a crossing guard about why he didn’t go tell someone to move their car, and was told by the crossing guard that his only job was to walk the children. Captain McCabe indicated that the crossing guard is correct; he is a custodian and it is not his job to enforce parking.

Ms. Jewett indicated that the remaining items on the letter are not under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Commission, but that the representatives from the City of Brockton: Mr. Dobrowski, Councilor MacMillan, and Mr. Vasapollo came to the Board meeting twice and these promises were sent out to everyone and then none of the promises were kept. She

stated that their biggest concern is the safety issue, because there are no sidewalks and it is a condominium community.

Captain McCabe stated that as he reads Item #3, he can tell the buses not to use that road; as far as construction vehicles and delivery trucks, we should be able to send out a notice to anyone that goes to the school not to use the Tucker to Belair route. He can ask the principal to send a notice to the teachers not to use that road. But as far as regular traffic, he stated that we cannot go down there and tell people not to drive on Tucker Drive. Ms. Jewett then asked if signs could be placed all the way up the street on Colonel Bell Drive. Ret. Chief Galligan stated that he thought things were running smoothly up there and he was surprised to hear of more problems. He stated that they put signs from Coventry Circle northerly for some distance, and we could look at extending them further at Subcommittee. He thought there was a plan laid out for the traffic for dropping kids off and he thought it was working well. He thought the school buses were not stopping in front of the school, but pull into the circle, and he asked if that was working, and was informed that it is not and they are still pulling up in front of the school. She stated that if there is a police officer there, he takes care of it and she has seen him talk to the bus drivers or the parents and told them to move. Ret. Chief Galligan stated that the plan that was put together works well, if it is enforced, and Ms. Jewett agreed. Ret. Chief Galligan stated that it is more of an enforcement issue. Captain McCabe indicated that the area in front of the school is the designated drop off, and Ret. Chief Galligan indicated that there was gridlock when the buses stopped in front of the school and that the plan was revised so that the buses went into the parking lot. Captain McCabe indicated that the smaller buses go into the lot, and the three larger buses park out front. Commissioner Thoreson asked if it was just a morning problem, or both morning and afternoon, and Ms. Jewett responded that it was both and that if it is raining, the problem is horrible. She stated that some days the parents will pull in and drop their kids off and there is a smooth flow, and then other days Colonel Bell Drive is backed up all the way and there is nowhere safe for the children walking.

An unidentified resident stated that the last couple of Fridays she has worked from home, and lives on the Belair Street side, and she can hear the traffic flying up and down the street from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. and then again 2:45 until 3:15 p.m. She stated that something needs to be done about the speeding issue also, and that there are no flashing lights or school zone signs. Captain McCabe indicated that Mr. Hayden said that they were allocating money for the flashing lights and Ms. Jewett asked whether they are on order. The residents asked if Captain McCabe would follow up with Mr. Hayden on the status of the flashing lights. Commissioner Thoreson indicated that the sidewalk will be put in shortly and Ret. Chief Galligan indicated that a sidewalk would be installed at Coventry Circle from Belair Street to Colonel Bell Drive.

Ms. Jewett indicated that they are looking for something to be done before school gets out in June and if they don't get anywhere they will have The Enterprise come up and film it. Ret. Chief Galligan stated that as a Traffic Commission, he feels like they have addressed the

issue and the residents' concerns, and that enforcement seems to be the issue. Captain McCabe stated that there are 4 school police officers and every single school has the same problem as the George School and Ms. Jewett stated that she has been reading the Minutes and has seen that. Captain McCabe indicated that the problem may get worse next year if more buses are cut. Ms. Jewett asked if, at a minimum, they can get the signs installed and look into the flashing lights. Captain McCabe indicated that they will go out as the Subcommittee for review and if anyone wants to join the Subcommittee they are welcome to do so.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Kenneth Goldblatt, seconded by Paul Studenski, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

### **Pratt Street - Stop Sign**

Councilor Michelle DuBois stated that she received a telephone from residents at the corner of Pratt Street and Allerton Street, and before the over-55 community was allowed the streets did not connect, and now that portion of Allerton Street has been developed. The people on Loring Street are now using Allerton Street to get out to North Quincy Street, and it is causing a problem on Allerton Street because of the speeding. Ret. Chief Galligan used the chalkboard to draw a diagram of the area. Councilor DuBois indicated that once that area all gets developed, Pratt Street will become the major entry point into this fifty unit community. Ret. Chief Galligan indicated that normally at a "T" intersection like that, the stop sign would go on Pratt Street so that the cars going east on Pratt would have to stop at Allerton Street. Councilor DuBois did not see how that would solve the problem and stated that this will be a 4-way intersection when it is completed.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Kenneth Goldblatt, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

### **Court Street Issues**

Councilor Michelle DuBois stated that the residents have complained that cars are speeding and they would like more police patrols in that area. Captain McCabe stated that he has already sent traffic enforcement officers there, but they have not seen many speeders and not a lot of tickets have been issued. Councilor DuBois stated that a mother walking her elementary school child to school seeing a car going 35 mph may have a different perception than a police officer doing traffic enforcement.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

Request from Councilor Michelle DuBois that there be increased traffic patrols on Court Street during morning and after-school hours when children are walking to school and bus stops.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to the appropriate place within the Police Department for enforcement.**

Request from Councilor Michelle DuBois that additional “Speed Limit”, “Go Slow Children” and “School Zone” signs be installed along Court Street.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

Request from Councilor Michelle DuBois that crosswalks be painted on Court Street at two locations: (1) across Court Street where Endicott Street and Debbie Road meet Court Street; and (2) where Courtfield Drive meets Court Street.

*[due to a tape malfunction, no further taped recording of this meeting was made]*

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

Request from Councilor Michelle DuBois that sidewalks be installed on one side of Court Street.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

Request from Councilor Michelle DuBois that Court Street be reviewed by a duly authorized City Agent and a list of obstructions to the public layout be compiled, i.e. obstructions in the street layout that block what would be the sidewalk area.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to the City Engineer for review.**

**Frost Avenue and Ash Street – Stop Sign and “No Parking Here to Corner” sign**

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have a stop sign placed at the corner of Frost Avenue and Ash Street and also to add a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

**Granite Avenue at Holmes Avenue – Stop Sign**

Request from Captain McCabe to have a stop sign installed on the southeast corner of Granite Avenue at Holmes Avenue.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

**VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.**

**Granite Avenue at Vermont Avenue – Stop Sign**

Request from Captain McCabe to have a stop sign installed at the northwest corner of Granite Avenue at Vermont Avenue.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded 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 Traffic Commission, upon motion made and seconded 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]