



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minute of the Meeting
August 19, 2010
7:00 P.M.

The Traffic Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2010, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302.

Present were Captain Leon McCabe, Chairman, and Commission members Kenneth Goldblatt, Fire Chief Richard Francis, Kenneth Galligan 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 Chief Francis, and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the July Minutes.

Residents appearing before the Traffic Commission were Kathy Petti of 17 Harlan Terrace, Tristan Uloisse of 44 Livingston Road and Don and Leslie Bohner of 525 West Chestnut Street.

Belmont Street at Belmont Avenue

After Subcommittee review, Ken Galligan reported that there is a long-time problem at that intersection and lights would be a good option; however, that intersection would not be at the top of the priority list for traffic signals. It is suggested that the Traffic Commission keep a list of intersections that they would recommend receive traffic signals so that at some future date if funding is available we would have a running list ready. For the present time, Captain McCabe suggested adding another Stop Sign on either side; coming up Manomet Street and coming up Belmont Avenue.

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

VOTED: to add an additional Stop Sign for southbound traffic on Belmont Avenue; and
To add an additional Stop Sign for northbound traffic on Manomet Street.

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

VOTED: to create an ongoing list of suggested locations for future traffic signals.

551 Plain Street

Captain McCabe indicated that there is a record of only one accident in this general location in the past year. After Subcommittee review, Ken Galligan indicated that over one hundred feet of guardrail would be needed and that there is no need for it; the area is now well marked.

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

VOTED: To take no action.

Concord Street at Burton Avenue

After Subcommittee review, Ken Galligan indicated that a “Caution Children” sign should be installed for northbound traffic on Concord Street at Burton Avenue at pole #4.

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

VOTED: to install one “Caution Children” sign for northbound traffic on Concord Street at Burton Avenue on pole #4.

Coral Street and South Leyden Street

Captain McCabe indicated that there was only one hit-and-run accident at that location in the last 4 ½ years. Ken Galligan stated that the Subcommittee went there and sat there and only saw one car at that intersection and it was felt that there was no need for a 4 way stop sign there.

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

VOTED: to take no action.

Hillberg Avenue and Ash Street

Councilor Todd Petti presented photographs of the intersection to the members, which show the visibility problem with cars getting out onto Ash Street and also showing that the Stop sign is too far back from the intersection. Councilor Petti indicated that the homeowner at the corner has taken down one bush on his property which gave more visibility but stated that cars generally do a “rolling stop” there before entering Ash Street. Resident Kathy Petti stated that she jogs or walk by that intersection every day and she has observed that most cars do not stop at that intersection. She also stated that it is a school bus stop and she is concerned for the children. She questioned whether a blinking yellow light before the intersection might warn drivers of the approaching

intersection. Councilor Eaniri informed the members that he concurs that it is a dangerous intersection and one of the greatest concerns is the shrubbery near the Stop Sign. If the shrubbery could be trimmed or removed it would help the blind corner. He stated that the Kennedy School is right up the road and traffic going to and from the school is heavy. Councilor Petti agreed to speak with the homeowner about removing the shrubs. Ken Galligan stated that the Traffic Commission has been to this intersection before and his recollection is that a decision was made previously to put a second Stop Sign on the left hand side of the street, so that there were 2 stop signs for westbound traffic on Hillberg Avenue at Ash Street. From the pictures, it obviously was never done. Ken Galligan further suggested that a “Stop Ahead” sign might be added, and that it should be referred to Subcommittee for review. Ken Galligan suggested that the members vote to put a second Stop Sign up for westbound traffic on Hillberg Avenue at Ash Street, so that there would be two stop signs, and both would have the reflective tape on the post. The other suggestion for a work order is that the 30 mph sign should be removed from the pole and put on the other side of the street. Ken Goldblatt questioned whether the Stop Sign presently there could be moved up and to the left, right against the rail so that it would be more visible. Ken Galligan noted that it would be very easy to attach the Stop Sign to the Hillberg Avenue sign already there. Captain McCabe indicated that it is hard to know where the signs should be moved to without review by the Subcommittee. Ken Galligan indicated that at the site visit, they could look at the Stop Sign, look to see if there is a Stop Ahead sign there, and reevaluate the reflector across the street. Ken Galligan requested that a vote be taken at this meeting to put another Stop Sign up on the other side of the street and make sure it has a reflective stripe on the post, and the post is already there; and to move the 30mph sign.

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

VOTED: To add an additional Stop Sign on Hillberg Avenue at Ash Street and to refer the remaining issues to Subcommittee for review.

Legion Parkway

Captain McCabe stated that there is a parking spot near the beauty salon on the south side of Legion Parkway that is in front of a fire hydrant. It appears to be a legal parking spot, except it is directly in front of the hydrant. Captain McCabe suggested that the Fire Chief review the area to see if the parking space would hinder use of the fire hydrant.

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

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Lincoln Street

Request from the Parking Authority that signs be posted on Lincoln Street restricting parking to two hours and also that signage on Railroad Avenue be reviewed to see if it properly addresses the allowable parking.

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

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

After the vote, Chief Galligan said that a correction should be made as it is West Railroad Avenue. Chief Galligan also stated that there are 2 sides to Lincoln Street and he assumed they are looking at the portion from Montello Street to West Railroad Avenue, and that the other side is on the other side of the tracks. Captain McCabe indicated that it is the section near the Chamber of Commerce and that it is between Main and Montello Streets by the Lincoln Street parking lot. Captain McCabe indicated that they will review the entire area.

9 Bryant Street

A medical request was submitted to the Traffic Commission from the doctor for Charles MacDonald of 9 Bryant Street confirming that he needs a handicapped parking spot.

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

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

522 West Chestnut Street

Captain McCabe stated that a request was made by Councilor Stewart on behalf of Don Boehner for regular radar patrol to enforce the speed limit on West Chestnut Street. Councilor Eaniri stated that he had previously spoken with the residents and had more signage placed on the street to correct the issue, and that if the Traffic Commission reviews West Chestnut Street and installs radar patrol, he requests that they start at the beginning of West Chestnut Street and patrol the entire street all the way to Pearl Street. West Chestnut Street is a very heavily traveled road and he sympathizes with the residents appearing at this meeting because it is a thickly settled area and highly traveled. He stated that trucks travel that route, including UPS, Allied Waste and BFI. Councilor Eaniri stated that his concern over traffic at the daycare center, and suggested that possibly they may be restricted to taking a right hand turn out of that address with no left hand turn. Councilor Eaniri indicated that the daycare center was recently before the Zoning Board to increase their attendance and that no one appeared to oppose the request.

Don and Leslie Boehner of 525 West Chestnut Street appeared before the Commission to express their concerns that between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. the traffic with people

coming up the hill by Ash Street goes from a 4 lane road down to two lanes. Four telephone poles later there is a hidden driveway for a child care center that has cars exiting and entering into the traffic heading easterly. People are speeding as they come down the road, and the speed limit goes from 40 to 30 mph there. There is one skid mark that is 45 feet long and crosses over the double lane into the other side where someone was trying to avoid rear-ending a car coming out of the childcare center. His daughter's car was involved in a rear-end accident while turning into their driveway and he has seen a car that ended up off the road in the woods trying to avoid a car coming out of the childcare center. Mr. Boehner was extremely surprised that the City Council allowed the enrollment at the daycare center to increase from 35 to 58, because it is a bad traffic situation. He said that the only thing that has been done to help the residents was to place a "Children" sign on the road. He said that the only thing that will change the situation is having radar put in the area between the hours of 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. while people are coming home. The number of enrollment at the childcare center doesn't matter, so long as people exiting there can exit in a safe manner. Leslie Boehner stated that it is infants and toddlers being cared for, and in the wintertime it is even more dangerous with the salt and the sand on the road, and it is difficult for cars to stop. Every week there are cars either in the woods or up on her sidewalk and there is constant screeching of tires. Mr. Boehner feels that if the traffic is not slowed down there will eventually be a traffic fatality in front of his house. He stated that is the reason he is before the Traffic Commission – he does not want to see anybody hurt, he wants to see it become a safe street and he wants to see the childcare center succeed because they are good neighbors.

Councilor Eaniri stated that he feels one of the problems is adequate resources to have patrols out there. They have been out there previously and if there is a car there then the vehicles slow down, but funding for additional patrols is a problem. Councilor Eaniri also wanted to clarify that the City Council does not establish the enrollment number of the daycare; that is set by the Zoning Board. Chief Francis stated that he is on the Zoning Board and the night this issue was before the board he vigorously opposed the increase as he did not believe that 58 children should be in a raised ranch without a sprinkler system and he also took a ride to that location and the driveway is one car width with all woods around it. He questioned whether cutting down trees or widening the driveway might help and also suggested that cars must exit with a right turn only out of the driveway. Councilor Eaniri stated that there are wetlands there and the petitioner had to go to the Conservation Commission before the Zoning Board and she has to protect the wetlands. Councilor Eaniri thinks that the petitioner intends to widen the driveway. Mrs. Boehner stated that the neighbors next to the daycare center have a stockade fence so that even if the owner of the daycare center cut down trees the fence would block vision.

Upon motion duly made by Captain McCabe seconded by Chief Francis and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee review and in the meantime Captain McCabe will have radar patrol all of West Chestnut Street.

West Chesnut Street

Captain McCabe and Councilor Eaniri stated that this was the same issue as previously discussed and it is a difficult area because of the incline of the street, and he suggested that possibly a “Slow” sign painted in the street might be a deterrent.

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

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Livingston Road

Captain McCabe stated that he also received a request from the Police Chief concerning the same issue but on Orchard Avenue. The request from Councilor Stewart is that parking be restricted to residents only as cars are parking there to use the commuter rail and there are also safety issues. Tristan Uloisse of 44 Livingston Road appeared before the Commission requesting that parking be restricted as it is difficult for residents to get out of their driveway because of the cars parked there and then when the commuters come back to their cars they are speeding when they drive away. Ken Galligan asked if parking was restricted on that street what effect it would have on the club located on that street. Mr. Uloisse stated that they have their own spaces and when they have a function it might be on the weekend for one or 2 hours and the neighbors don't have a problem with that parking.

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

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

Violation Fines

Discussion was held on revising the fines for some of the parking violations. Captain McCabe would like to propose a new fine on the winter ban parking of \$25.00 with no dismissal for first violations. Mayor Balzotti has recommended that the fine stay at \$50.00 with first violations being reduced to \$25.00 with no dismissals. It was recommended that parking in the First Fire District be raised to \$25.00 and that a fine for Littering be added with a violation amount of \$50.00.

Chief Galligan questioned the winter ban parking and the violation for parking in the First Fire District and why the fines were different. It was explained that parking during

the winter ban season (December 1 to April 1) the vehicle could have two violations checked off, both winter ban and First Fire District restricted parking. Ken Galligan said that in the past there was a policy that after December 1st the Police Department was placing courtesy notices on cars that were parked on the street. Captain McCabe stated that that policy was probably back in the 1990's and that the midnight shift does not have the time or manpower to do that now. Ken Galligan questioned what happens with neighborhoods that have 3 family houses with multiple cars when the winter parking ban is in place and Captain McCabe informed him that they would receive tickets for the \$50 fine, whether it was snowing or clear weather. Ken Galligan then questioned if a car is parked in the First Fire District whether they receive a \$25 fine or that plus the \$50 winter ban violation. Captain McCabe stated that it is discretionary on the part of the officers as to whether they issue one violation or two. Ken Galligan stated that he wanted there to be uniformity in the amounts of the fines and Captain McCabe stated that he has no objection to raising the fine for the First Fire District to the \$50 fine. Captain McCabe stated that we still have ticket books, but need to get more printed before winter and that is the reason for discussion on revising the fines at this time. Ken Galligan suggested that further discussion might be useful on this issue and recommended that it be referred to Subcommittee. Ken Galligan asked if it was a state law that sets the Traffic Commission ability to set fines and was informed that the governing statute establishing the Traffic Commission gives them the authority to set the fines. Ken Galligan stated that he was in favor of adding the Littering offense to the ticket books and Ken Goldblatt stated that he would like to see the fine at \$100 as the littering in the City is so bad.

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

VOTED: to refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Election of Vice Chairman

Captain McCabe read the pertinent provision of the Traffic Commission By-laws regarding the election of a Vice Chairman annually at the August meeting. Ken Galligan nominated Chief Richard Francis as the Vice Chairman and Captain McCabe seconded the motion. There were no further nominations and Ken Galligan moved that the nominations then be closed.

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

VOTED: to elect Fire Chief Richard Francis as Vice Chairman of the Traffic Commission for the period from August 2010 to August 2011.

Before adjourning, Ken Galligan stated that there are 2 issues that he would like to have answered and it had been his intention to request information from D.P.W.

Commissioner Michael Thoreson at the meeting. First is why there has been nothing done at the corner of West Street and Pleasant Street for over two months. He stated that there has been no action since the end of June. Councilor Todd Petti and Councilor Dennis Eaniri both stated that they believed the issue was the telephone poles that have to be moved. Ken Galligan stated that the poles were moved, but the Councilors stated that it has not been done yet. Councilor Eaniri stated that it will be next April or May before that intersection is completed. Ken Galligan stated that there were two perfect months for construction, with nothing going on, and that as a Traffic Commission member he was curious as to why no work was being done.

The second issue is that he would like the D.P.W. Commissioner notified that the water trench on Pleasant Street between Nye Avenue and Simmons Avenue is badly sunken in and D.P.W. needs to go after the private contractor before the time is up.

Captain McCabe added that we should also request an update on the situation on the stop sign at Winter Street and Cary Street.

There being no further business to come before the Traffic Commission, upon motion made by Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Ken Goldblatt 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]