



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minute of the Meeting
September 23, 2010
7:00 P.M.

The Traffic Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2010, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302.

Present were Captain Leon McCabe, Chairman, and Commission members Fire Chief Richard Francis, Kenneth Galligan, D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson, Councilor Paul Studenski and Councilor Todd Petti. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain McCabe. Also appearing at the Traffic Commission were City Councilors Chris Macmillan, Thomas Monahan and Jass Stewart.

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 August Minutes.

As a large number of residents appeared before the Traffic Commission to discuss several issues, Captain McCabe took those items out of order in order to accommodate those citizens.

NEW BUSINESS

STEBBINS AVENUE

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan on behalf of residents that Stebbins Avenue be made a one way street heading westerly from Manomet Street to Ash Street.

Councilor Monahan presented a petition signed by 37 residents requesting that Stebbins Avenue be made into a one-way street heading westerly from Manomet to Ash Street. Councilor Monahan stated that basically they may not need to have the street made one way, but the complaint is that Stebbins Avenue is used as a cut-through from Forest Avenue and from Ash Street. Lincoln Road is already a one-way street. Stebbins Avenue is scheduled to be done over, which will cause people to drive even faster on that street and there are a lot of small children living on the street. Councilor Monahan suggested that possibly a "Do Not Enter" sign posted at Ash Street might deter traffic from going down the street. Bethany Couture and Karla Dennison stated that there are 15 children in the neighborhood and cars drive 50 mph down the street.

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 review.

Captain McCabe explained to the residents that the Subcommittee would go to the site and review the area and come up with ideas and take the residents' suggestions into consideration and make a determination as to what should be done to address the residents' concerns. The recommendations from the Subcommittee will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next month's meeting and a Vote will be taken to make whatever changes have been decided upon.

NORTH CARY STREET

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart on behalf of Kathy Mullen of 784 North Cary Street to have the Traffic Commission review the issue of the large number of big trucks coming off or on to North Quincy Street.

Councilor Stewart deferred commenting and let Kathy Mullen speak on behalf of the residents present at the meeting. He expressed that Ms. Mullen is a resident that has very few complaints, which adds value to the fact that she is stating that there is a problem in that area. Ms. Mullen presented a log listing the trucks which have gone down North Cary Street and stated that at one point there were 21 trucks going down North Cary Street in a two-hour period on a weekday. Kevin O'Gorman stated that another problem is that they just opened a truck stop in Abington and he counted 17 tractor trailer trucks in one day going up and down their street. There are dumpster trucks going down the street at 4:30 a.m. and they shake the houses. The street is only 19 feet wide in some spots and there are kids going up and down the street on bicycles and a gentleman in a wheelchair. The residents would like 3 or 4 signs placed at the corner of North Cary Street and North Quincy Street, Winter Street and North Cary Street, Ames Street and North Cary Street approximately down at the bottom of North Cary at East Ashland Street. Ms. Mullen stated that there are two 90 degree angles on the street and the trucks come around the corner and have to squeal their brakes. There is a playground right there at North Quincy Street and a lot of children use it. Mr. O'Gorman stated that on Friday and Saturday nights there is a soccer tournament and cars are parked on North Quincy Street and up and down Dix Road, which makes the road extremely narrow. There is a gasoline tanker from Sunoco that goes up and down the street every Sunday. Joanne LaiChoy stated that she has cracks in the foundation of her house from the trucks going up and down the street.

Councilor Stewart asked what the typical remedy to this type problem is and Captain McCabe informed him that signs can be posted that no trucks in excess of 15,000 gvw are allowed to travel on the street. A typical fine would be \$50 for a violation. Another resident questioned why the trucks use North Cary Street and then take a right onto North Quincy Street. Councilor Macmillan indicated that the traffic enforcement officers can also monitor the street and check the truck weights and look for other violations as well.

Councilor Stewart asked what the turn-around time for action would be, and Captain McCabe informed him that the matter would be back on the agenda next month and then signs can be ordered and printed. The City does not have a full-time employee dedicated to putting up the signs, but they would be installed as soon as possible. One resident asked how the restriction would be enforced and Captain McCabe stated that he would have the traffic enforcement unit monitor the street.

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.

95 FRANKTON AVENUE

Request from Councilor Chris MacMillan on behalf of the residents at 95 Frankton Avenue that a “Caution – Handicapped Child” sign be installed in front of this home.

Commissioner Thoreson stated that he has been to this residence twice and met the family and he recommends that instead of sending the matter to Subcommittee that the sign be placed immediately; Councilor Studenski seconded this motion. Captain McCabe stated that in the past the Commission has always received medical documentation for signs of this nature and requested that one be requested. Commissioner Thoreson and Councilor Macmillan said that they would vouch for the family that the sign is needed, and Ken Galligan questioned whether two signs are needed. Commissioner Thoreson stated that one might be placed as you come off Montello Street and another one down the hill on Frankton. Councilor Macmillan stated that they have been working with the family for a year or two putting in a ramp and making accommodations. Ken Galligan stated that he feels that some documentation would be good to have on file.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Thoreson, seconded by Councilor Studenski and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To place “Caution – Handicapped Child” signs at 95 Frankton Avenue; one coming up the hill from Montello Street before the first house and another sign on her side of the street before her driveway and before you go down the hill. Captain McCabe clarified that one would be on the north side and one on the south side.

MANTHALA GEORGE SCHOOL

Request from Kathy Jewett of the Fieldside Garden Condominiums that the restricted parking signs in place on Colonel Bell Drive be revised to apply only when school is in session.

Kathy Jewett stated that there are 2 signs on order and that 3 signs are already in place, but the signs do not indicate that the restricted parking is only when school is in session. Ms. Jewett stated that the Board of Trustees is requesting that the signs be revised because people are getting tickets on the weekend. The residents want to be able to park there on weekends. Captain McCabe stated that the prior concern of the association had been that if there were after-school activities or meetings or parent-teacher conferences then parking would be a problem so they did not want to pinpoint the time for restricted parking. There is only so much room on a sign, and the lettering would be too small if more wording were added. Ms. Jewett then asked that the police not ticket cars if school is not in session and Captain McCabe stated that he will not tell police officers not to enforce a parking restriction. Discussion was held as to adding wording such as “Monday to Friday” or “When school is in session” or something similar and Captain McCabe indicated that the Commission will discuss the alternatives. Councilor Studenski recommended that a small sign be added underneath the sign already there which says “When school is in session”. Sandra Brown indicated that the wording on the signs is small and that some people cannot read them as they are still parking there. She also stated the cars speed up the street, including the school buses. Abby Stone stated that “Monday through Friday” might be the best wording and Kathy Jewett agreed, but Ken Galligan gave the scenario of summertime when school is not in session and someone wants to have a party but no one would be able to park there if it was a weekday. Councilor Macmillan stated that “When school is in session” might be better wording, but Kathy Jewett said that when people drop their children off in the morning they could say that school is not yet in session so they should be allowed to park there.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Kathy Jewett also asked if they could talk about the traffic problems that they are continuing to have. She said that the Traffic Commission did a great job and the police had ticketed a whole group of people and The Enterprise was there to cover it. The problem has gotten a little bit better but is still a problem. All traffic is now being directed up Colonel Bell Drive and there are parents walking with their children as well as cars driving there. Ms. Jewett stated that this was not supposed to happen according to the “promise letter” that was given to the residents when the school was being constructed. This is recent so they are not sure who is directing the traffic from the school or why it is now directed that way. One resident stated that the custodian who is there now only holds up the sign when there is a child or someone trying to cross in the crosswalk and he is doing nothing about the flow of traffic. Councilor Studenski informed her that it is not the

custodian's job to control the flow of traffic and the resident responded that the previous custodian had helped with the bottleneck by directing the traffic. She stated that there is a bigger problem with traffic on Colonel Bell coming from Tucker because the kindergarten gets out at 2:50 and the other children get out at 3:15 p.m. so you have all the parents there at once and bottlenecking into the parking lot. She stated that there has to be someone to assist until they can figure out the parking and she is going to call the School Department to see if they can change the hours or have teachers out there or something. Kathy Jewett asked if they could still get some help with this issue as they are still parking in the residents' spots and there are no signs on the left side of the street and people are parking in the townhouse spaces and walking down and picking their children up and walking back so that they do not have to wait in the queue and they are lazy and in a hurry. This happens every day and now there are condominium residents out in the street fighting with parents who are trying to get their kids. She understands that they do not want to wait in the queue but that is not her problem and the residents are not going to give up their parking spaces so that they can go get their kids. Chief Francis asked if the Condo Association has any kind of parking sticker and Ms. Jewett said that they do and they could put them on their cars and enforce that although they have not had to do that in the past. Ms. Jewett stated that they would take pictures of cars parked in their spots and Captain McCabe stated that if cars are parking illegally on the street that they could take pictures but that the city cannot enforce parking in their private parking lot. Ms. Brown indicated that the line of cars on Colonel Bell Drive block the private lot so that residents cannot get out. Captain McCabe indicated that Lt. Donald Mills has been up there also and that he is trying to design a new pattern for the buses. Captain McCabe indicated that the George School has a bad problem, but so does the Huntington School and the Arnone School and the Angelo School has a problem, and that there is a problem at most schools in the city; it's not just this one school and that when they cut back on the buses it makes the situation worse. Ms. Jewett said that at least the other schools have sidewalks and they are not going through a private condominium community. Captain McCabe indicated that they will be up there as often as possible and Lt. Mills will be in touch with the principal. Another resident indicated that her nephew now goes to kindergarten at the school and she has seen that when the police are there they make people move from the private spots, so they appreciate all that is being done but there is a definite overlap of dismissal times between the kindergarten classes and the rest of the school. Ken Galligan suggested that the wording on the signs be discussed in subcommittee and that if they come to a consensus as to what the signs should read, it would be a shame to put signs up and then found that it didn't solve the problem. He suggested that when the Subcommittee goes to the site someone from Fieldside Gardens Condominiums be there to meet with them. Sandra Brown, who is a Trustee and the Vice President of the Condo Association volunteered to go. Chief Francis asked if she had the authority to make decisions and Ms. Jewett confirmed that she did have the authority and that she would check with the other trustees. Ms. Brown left her telephone number so that the Subcommittee members could contact her.

BATES STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli on behalf of resident Maureen Dimillio to have “Children – Go Slow” signs installed in the vicinity of 28 Bates Street. Captain McCabe suggested that the signs read “Caution Children”.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

SCHOOL STREET

Request from the Brockton Parking Authority to have the time limits on parking on School Street changed from fifteen (15) minutes to thirty (30) minutes.

Bob Malley, the Executive Director of the Parking Authority appeared to request that the section of School Street from the corner of Montello Street up around City Hall, which is currently marked for fifteen (15) minute parking be changed to thirty (30) minutes as people generally need more than fifteen minutes to do business in City Hall. Ken Galligan suggested that the vote be taken at the meeting rather than wait or referring the matter to Subcommittee.

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

VOTED: To change the time limit for parking on School Street around City Hall up from Montello Street to Lincoln Street from fifteen (15) minutes to thirty (30) minutes.

PARKING TICKET LATE PENALTIES

Request from the Brockton Parking Authority that the late penalty for parking tickets be increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

Bob Malley, Executive Director of the Parking Authority stated that 21 days after someone gets a ticket the fine goes up \$5.00 and he would like to leave that as it is. However, if the person ignores the ticket, the second notice is still \$5.00 and he would like to see that raised to \$15.00. He stated that Brockton is the only municipality in the area that has the second fine set as low as \$5.00.

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

VOTED: To increase the second notice on late fees on parking tickets from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

On the motion, Ken Galligan stated that he was perplexed by the situation. You have 21 days to pay a parking ticket; if an individual comes in on the 23rd day there is a \$5.00

surcharge, and he questioned when the \$15.00 would come in. Mr. Malley explained that 42 days after the issuance of the ticket is when the next fine is imposed.

OLD BUSINESS

HILLBERG AVENUE and ASH STREET

After Subcommittee review, it was recommended:

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

Issues to discuss:

1. Add a second Stop Sign on the left hand side of the street, so that there are 2 stop signs for westbound traffic on Hillberg Avenue at Ash Street **Recommended**
2. Add “Stop Ahead” sign **The Subcommittee found that there was a “Stop Ahead” sign there but it was too far back, so the recommendation was to move the “Stop Ahead” sign from pole #41 to pole #42.**

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of the members present, the recommendations of the Subcommittee with regard to items 1 and 2 were voted in the affirmative..

3. Add a second Stop Sign 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 **Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Paul Studenski and a unanimous vote of the members present, item 3 was approved.**
4. 30 mph sign should be removed from the pole and put on the other side of the street **Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson and a unanimous vote of the members present, item 4 was approved.**
5. Stop Sign presently there could be moved up and to the left, right against the rail and attach the Stop Sign to the Hillberg Avenue sign already there **Upon motion made by Paul Studenski, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson and a unanimous vote of the members present, item 5 was approved.**

The Subcommittee also recommended that an additional, larger reflector be added on the west side of Ash Street and that reflective tape be added to all of the signs. **Upon motion duly made by Todd Petti, seconded by Chief Francis and a unanimous vote of the members present, the recommendations were approved.**

LEGION PARKWAY

Parking spot near the beauty salon on the south side of Legion Parkway is in front of a fire hydrant. Review the area to see if the parking space would hinder use of the fire hydrant.

After review, the Subcommittee recommended that this parking spot be eliminated.

Bob Malley indicated that the Parking Authority has taken care of the issue by striping out the spot so that it is no longer a parking spot.

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

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

LINCOLN STREET

Signs to be posted on Lincoln Street restricting parking to two hours and signage on Railroad Avenue be reviewed to see if it properly addresses the allowable parking. 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.

The Subcommittee recommended as follows:

- 1. Move the “No Parking Anytime” sign from the south side of Lincoln Street at West Railroad Avenue and have the arrow point north.**
- 2. Add “No Parking Anytime” sign 8 cement squares north from Lincoln Street on West Railroad Avenue pointing south. This was recommended by the Fire Chief so that fire trucks could make the turn and cars are not blocking the area.**

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

VOTED: To adopt the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

- 3. On the west side of West Railroad Avenue near Lincoln Street, turn the “No Parking On this Side” signs for better visibility and trim bushes in the area.**
- 4. Add two hour “No Parking” signs on the south side of Lincoln Street at West Railroad Avenue**

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

VOTED: to approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

- 5. Replace two old “No Parking” signs on the north side of Lincoln Street between Montello Street and West Railroad Avenue.**

6. On Lincoln Street between Montello Street and School Street, add “Two Hour Parking” signs on pole #5403 and pole #5404. On pole #5404 an old “No Parking” sign was removed from the south side.
7. A new handicapped parking spot was added when the street was painted, and the Subcommittee recommends adding a “Handicapped Parking” sign up against the building to clarify that it is a handicapped parking spot.
8. Two old signs on the north side on pole #5401 and pole #5402 were replaced with new “No Parking on this Side” signs.
9. Exiting the Lincoln Street parking lot, an additional “One Way” sign was added.

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

VOTED: to accept the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

On the motion, Ken Galligan recommended that when the “Handicapped Parking” sign is set in the sidewalk that the area should be reviewed by DigSafe.

9 BRYANT STREET

Add a handicapped parking spot.

After Subcommittee review, it was recommended to add the handicapped parking spot.

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

VOTED: To add a handicapped parking space in front of 9 Bryant Street.

522 WEST CHESTNUT STREET

1. Have radar patrol present to enforce the speed limit on the entire length of West Chestnut Street between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
2. Possibly restrict cars exiting the daycare center to take a right hand turn out of that address with no left hand turn.

After Subcommittee review, Captain McCabe noted that additional radar patrols have already been added and further noted that an additional “30 mph” sign has been added on West Chestnut Street heading easterly at Linwood Street. Ken Galligan stated that there could be no restriction of the cars exiting the daycare center and that no action should be taken on that matter.

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

VOTED: to accept the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

LIVINGSTON ROAD and ORCHARD AVENUE

Request that parking be restricted to residents only to stop commuter rail parking.

The Subcommittee recommended that “Resident Only Parking 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.” signs be added on pole #3 and pole #31 both on the north side of Livingston Road; and to add two “Resident Parking Only 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.” sign on Orchard Avenue, one on the north side and one on the south side at pole #826. For maintenance purposes, it was recommended that the street sign at North Main Street and Orchard Avenue be straightened.

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

VOTED: to approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee.

VIOLATION FINES

1. Revise fine on winter ban parking to \$25 with no dismissal for first violations; or \$50 with first violations being reduced to \$25 and no dismissals.

The Subcommittee recommended that the \$50 fine be kept with the first violation reduced to \$25. Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Thoreson, seconded by Todd Petti and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To keep the fine at \$50 with the first violation to be reduced to \$25.

2. First Fire District violations be raised to \$25 or \$50

The Subcommittee recommended that the fine be raised from \$25 to \$50 to be consistent with the regular winter ban fine; with the first violation to be reduced to \$25.

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

VOTED: To raise the fine from \$25 to \$50 with the first violation reduced to \$25.

3. Fine for Littering be added with a violation amount of \$50 or \$100.

The Subcommittee recommended that a violation for littering be added with a fine of \$50.

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

VOTED: To add a fine for Littering with a violation amount of \$50.

Captain McCabe informed the Commission members that he had received a communication from the Police Chief requesting that the Bus Stop Violation be raised from \$15 to \$100 in accordance with a new state law.

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

VOTED: To increase the Bus Stop Violation from \$15 to \$100.

Councilor Paul Studenski stated that he was contacted by a resident who previously had “Autistic Child” signs in front of her residence on South Leyden Street and she indicated she was moving. She was supposed to call the Traffic Commission to notify them when she moved so that the signs could be removed or moved to her new address. Councilor Studenski asked if previous Minutes could be reviewed to see the exact location so that the resident could be contacted to see if the signs are still needed.

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

VOTED: To adjourn.