



**BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
June 23, 2011**

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain McCabe. Present were Commission members Kenneth Goldblatt, Paul Sullivan, Kenneth Galligan, Fire Chief Richard Francis, Commissioner Michael Thoreson, as well as Councilor Jass Stewart, and Maureen Martin, resident.

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

**ASH STREET**

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart on behalf of Estela Gomes Dossantos of 843 Ash Street to have “No Parking” signs placed in the area of Ash Street.

Captain McCabe indicated that the Subcommittee viewed the area and it was determined to have Captain McCabe go back and review it again when school was being dismissed, which he did. While Mrs. Dossantos is on the west side of Ash Street, Captain McCabe found that the east side of Ash Street, south of her area, is actually worse with cars coming around the bend on Ash Street heading northerly, have to straddle the double yellow line to get around all of the cars parked waiting for students and cars going in the opposite direction have to go over the double yellow line to get around the parked cars on the other side also. He was informed that a child was hit in front of the school and that an extra crossing guard was assigned to that location because of that accident. Captain McCabe recommended that both sides of the street be posted No Parking. There is plenty of parking available in the school parking lot, and there is parking on the side streets.

Commissioner Thoreson asked how far down Ash Street should be posted no parking, and Captain McCabe suggested from Old Ash Street down past the north exit of the Old Ash Street area. Ken Galligan stated that this was more than the Subcommittee had considered and he would like to send it back to Subcommittee and take another look to come up with specific parameters for the parking restrictions. Captain McCabe agreed that the original Subcommittee was concerned with the area in front of Mrs. Dossantos’ property, which is the west side of Ash Street. Ken Galligan also stated that it appears that the homeowner has

placed her fence on city property, on the sidewalk. Commissioner Thoreson said that he will send the D.P.W. there to look at the fence.

Upon motion 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 further review.**

[Councilor Stewart asked for clarification as to what had been discussed and was told by Captain McCabe that there is a problem at that location but that the opposite side of the street is even more of a problem. The whole area will be reviewed by the Subcommittee and they will come to a conclusion after that. Councilor Stewart asked if he should inform Mrs. Dossantos that her fence may be on city property and Commissioner Thoreson stated that the D.P.W. will check it out and send her a letter if it is on city property. Councilor Stewart said that he will notify her so that she is not taken by surprise by a letter from D.P.W.]

### **WARREN AVENUE and WEST ELM STREET**

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have the restricted parking on West Elm Street from the intersection at Warren Avenue westerly to Newbury Street marked “No Parking Monday through Friday”.

Captain McCabe stated that both sides are currently marked no parking, and they are looking to have the south side changed. Ken Galligan questioned why that side is marked no parking, where it abuts the ball field and Captain McCabe indicated that the road is narrow and if cars park there they are taking up more than ten feet of the travel lane. Ken Galligan stated that in the past there were meters there. Captain McCabe asked if the road was scheduled to be widened with the reconstruction of West Elm Street and Commissioner Thoreson stated that it was not, but that he would check with the contractor. Ken Galligan said that this issue should be reviewed in conjunction with the Warren Avenue/West Elm Street issue and Captain McCabe agreed that if a positive response was received from the State that it might solve the problem and help with the decision on West Elm Street.

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

**VOTED: To continue the matter to the next meeting.**

## **MAIN STREET**

Request to review the parking restrictions on Main Street in the area of White Avenue. There are 15 minute signs, 30 minute signs and 1 hour signs all in the same area.

Captain McCabe said that the area was reviewed in Subcommittee and it was recommended that on the west side of Main Street between #309 and #299, that we add two (2) one-hour parking signs; that the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign be removed and that the 30-minute parking sign in front of #291 Main Street be removed and a 15-minute parking sign would be added to that pole, and remove the 15-minute parking sign from pole #5238. Captain McCabe said that all of the signs were bunched together in one small area, and the purpose was to streamline the parking. This is all in the area between Wales Avenue and the beginning of the funeral home near #309 Main Street. Ken Galligan asked where the 15-minute parking was and was informed that it is for the store near Wales Avenue.

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

**VOTED: To adopt the recommendations of the Subcommittee:**

**Add two one-hour parking signs on west side of Main Street between #309 and #299;**

**Remove the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign;**

**Remove the 30-minute parking sign in front of #291 Main Street and add a 15-minute parking sign to that pole;**

**Remove the 15-minute parking sign from pole #5238.**

## **HOWARD STREET at SPARK STREET**

The Howard Street/Spark Street “Do Not Block Intersection” sign needs to be facing the east bound traffic not the north bound traffic.

Captain McCabe said the Subcommittee recommended that the “Do Not Block Intersection” sign be turned to face a westerly direction so that people coming over the Howard Street bridge headed easterly would see the sign and not block the intersection for the Spark Street traffic.

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

**VOTED: To change the sign to eastbound traffic on Howard Street.**

## **20 SHERMAN STREET**

Request for a no-parking restriction on Sherman Street. #20 is being blocked by the owner's of the house across the street

Captain McCabe stated that this was brought forward by Councilor DeNapoli and the Subcommittee viewed the area with him and at this time it was recommended that if there is a problem with people blocking this resident's driveway or blocking the street, they should call the police station and a police officer will be sent down for traffic enforcement.

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

**VOTED: To take no action on this matter.**

## **500 SUMMER STREET**

Janine Harkins of 500 Summer St. is requesting a guardrail placed in front of her home. The house has been hit by a car twice.

Captain McCabe stated that the resident does have a serious problem and the guardrail that is there did not stop a car, and her house was hit. The insurance company and contractor have informed her that the house has actually been moved off the foundation because it got hit so hard. The Subcommittee recommendation is that she continue to work with her insurance company and she has already brought some boulders in and she will look to add more. The Traffic Commission will ask for an opinion from the Law Department as to the issue of putting rocks on private property; whether they should be sold to the homeowners for a nominal sum so that they own them or some other method of removing the liability from the City but also helping the homeowners. It was the opinion of several members that the boulders work better than the guardrail.

The other recommendation of the Subcommittee is to add a second Stop Sign on the north corner of Carl Avenue, making it a double stop sign there (on Carl Avenue as you come out to Edson Street); and to add a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign to pole #3 on Carl Avenue and add a red reflector sign on Edson Street facing Carl Avenue directly in front of her home.

Councilor Jass Stewart asked if the resident was already aware of the recommendations as he will be contacting her, and was informed that she was aware and she agreed that the boulders would be a better solution than more guardrail.

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

**VOTED: To place a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign on pole #3; add a second Stop Sign for northbound traffic on Carl Avenue at Edson Street; and place a red reflector pole on Edson Street opposite Carl Avenue.**

## **201-205 NORTH MAIN STREET**

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart: George Vicente who owns the building at 201-205 N. Main Street, with a church and other businesses on the first floor, and apartments above. There is no off-street parking available and the side street, Rosseter St., has "no parking" signs on both sides of the street.

Captain McCabe stated that the Subcommittee went to the location to review that area and determined that parking would be allowed on the north side of Rosseter Street; it is not posted no parking and the only other recommendation would be to add a "No Parking from Here to Corner" sign at a distance from North Main Street equal to the beginning of the rear driveway of the building. Councilor Jass Stewart asked for clarification as to whether residents can park on the side street and Captain McCabe confirmed that parking was allowed on the north side, and to make sure that they park in the right direction and have to park properly. Chief Francis indicated that they have determined that this location is just outside the First Fire District and Councilor Stewart asked if someone would inform the police department regarding parking tickets. Captain McCabe stated that the residents might have been confused as to why they received parking tickets because when there is a snow emergency there is no parking on any street in the city. Chief Francis stated that the members talked to the owner of the bakery across the street, who owns the lot directly behind 201-205 North Main Street and it might be possible to make some agreement for residents to park in that lot. Councilor Stewart stated that the tickets were probably issued during the snow emergency and was told that was probably correct.

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

**VOTED: To place a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign on the north side of Rosseter Street at a distance from North Main Street equal to the beginning of the rear driveway.**

[On the motion, Ken Galligan asked if it would be wise to do both sides of the street, and Captain McCabe responded that the other side (south side) is already posted no parking.]

\*further discussion: Councilor Stewart remembered that the residents were getting tickets at 1:00 a.m. but they could park on North Main Street during the day, so it may not have been during a snow emergency. It was explained to him that the winter parking ban was from midnight to 7:00 a.m. from December 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> and on North Main Street there is no parking on either side, which is different than the restriction on Rosseter Street. Captain McCabe clarified that the restriction on Rosseter Street during the winter parking ban would be no parking on the east side of the street, unless otherwise posted. Councilor Stewart said he had visited that area and it is posted no parking on both sides and Captain McCabe said he did not recall seeing it posted as no parking on both sides; Chief Francis confirmed that it was not posted on both sides of the street. Captain McCabe said he would check the records to see if it was ever posted no parking on both sides of the street.

## **JON DRIVE**

1. Request from Lt. Donald Mills to have “No Parking on School Days” signs installed on the south side of Jon Drive from 159 Jon Drive to Sully Road. The side of the road is marked out for the children to walk, but cars keep parking on that side, forcing the children to walk in the middle of the road.
2. Request for a safety walk zone on Jon Drive, Sully Road and Lisa Drive.

Captain McCabe said that the Subcommittee went to the area and noted that the street is purposely hashed out as a walkway for the children, but parents ignore it and park there to pick up their children. The members recommended adding fog lines on Jon Drive, re-do the fog lines on Lisa Drive and add lines on Sully Road. Commissioner Thoreson asked if Jon Drive was already marked, and Captain McCabe stated that it was marked down to Sully Road from the school, but not the whole street, so they would add from Sully Road out to North Quincy Street. Captain McCabe indicated that one of the problems with line painting is that cars park all over the road and it is difficult to get the line painting done. They will attempt to paint all of Jon Drive, Sully Road and Lisa Drive but it may be difficult. Commissioner Thoreson asked if the contractor could possibly send letters or drop notices stating that they are coming in to paint and asking that cars be removed. Captain McCabe said that he will check into that possibility. It was also recommended that the Stop Sign on Sully Road be replaced at Jon Drive headed northerly and to remove the “No Parking” signs on the north side of Jon Drive near the Brookfield School. If the “No Parking” signs are removed on the north side of Jon Drive and replaced with the “No Parking on School Days” signs on the south side of Jon Drive, then people will still have a place to park. Paul Sullivan said that there is parking at the school and Captain McCabe agreed that the parking lot is huge and parking is only a problem because parents do not want to spend the extra 5 minutes it would take to park in the lot. Discussion was held as to wording the parking restriction to school days, and Captain McCabe said that the restriction could be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. but in the past that caused a problem with parking on Saturday and Sunday. Ken Galligan said that if the parking restriction is taken off of the north side the people can enjoy the same privileges they have now by moving to the other side of the street. Captain McCabe agreed, and said that this way the children also have their walkway.

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

**VOTED: To accept #1 and #2 of the requests, as amended:**

1. **Install “No Parking on School Days” signs on the south side of Jon Drive from 159 Jon Drive to Sully Road;**
2. **Add fog lines on Jon Drive, Sully Road and Lisa Drive.**

### **BATES STREET**

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli to have “Caution – Children” signs installed on Bates Street. Further request that there be no parking allowed on the even numbered side of the street.

Chief Francis stated that he had a conversation with Councilor DeNapoli, who told him that he was going to take this item off the agenda. Captain McCabe stated that the Subcommittee met with Councilor DeNapoli at this location and there is already a “Caution – Children” sign on Bates Street. Councilor DeNapoli had also talked with the residents, who did not want a no parking restriction, and wanted to withdraw the request.

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

**VOTED: To take no action on this matter.**

### **FOREST AVENUE**

Request from Captain McCabe for two “Reduce Speed Ahead School Zone” signs on Forest Avenue before the High School entrance, one east of the entrance and one west of the entrance.

Captain McCabe said he received a complaint from a woman who lives on Forest Avenue, who is concerned when she sees the kids crossing with the crossing guard there, that there is no sign to warn people to reduce their speed ahead. Because it is a high school, there are no flashing school zone lights. Captain McCabe recommended adding two “Reduce Speed Ahead – School Zone” signs on Forest Avenue, one on the east side of the entrance, and one on the west side of the entrance. Ken Galligan asked if the signs could be placed on poles rather than attached to telephone poles. Captain McCabe recommended going to the location at Subcommittee to make a determination where to place the signs.

Upon motion 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.**

### **MAIN STREET at UNION STREET**

Request from Monique Tully, a teacher at the Goddard School, for a crosswalk at Main Street and Union Street.

Chief Francis and Commissioner Thoreson questioned whether this issue was on the last agenda, and Captain McCabe indicated that Ms. Tully was present at the last meeting but the item was not on the published agenda, so the Commission let her speak but needed to

property advertise the issue. As the issue was previously discussed, the members determined there was no need to delay a vote or refer the matter to Subcommittee.

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

**VOTED: To place a crosswalk on the north side of Union Street at Main Street.**

### **NORTH MONTELLO STREET**

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart, forwarding a question from Phillip Bunker:

*“who can i talk to about the lights on north montello street near Madonald's, I almost got hit by a car 2 days ago in my elscric chaire crossing the street because the lights changed so fast”.*

Councilor Jass Stewart said that he had an exchange with Councilor Chris MacMillan on this issue, and Councilor MacMillan informed him that the light was previously extended from 7 seconds to 10 seconds and it was a 2 year process to accomplish that. This individual is in a wheelchair and it sounds like there is not enough time for him to get across the street.

Councilor Stewart indicated that Maureen Martin had concerns that it was more a problem with drivers stopping in the crosswalk as they are waiting for the light to change, so there may be two problems at that location. Councilor Stewart stated that controlling people’s driving patterns is something that may not be able to be done. Commissioner Thoreson felt that the Subcommittee should go view the location. Ms. Martin stated that she lives in the area and it is very busy; the cars that come down Howard Street do it less so than the cars coming down between the McDonald’s and Stop ‘n Shop, which are right on top of the crosswalk. Ms. Martin said that when she goes to Stop ‘n Shop she has seen that cars on the little side street between McDonald’s and Stop ‘n Shop use it as a cut-through from Main Street. Captain McCabe indicated that it is a tough area as all of the roads are four lanes of traffic and it takes more than seven seconds to get across four lanes of traffic. Commissioner Thoreson questioned whether when they put the Walgreen’s in, was there an issue with the State as to the timing of the lights and Paul Sullivan said that he believed that issue involved the lights at Stop ‘n Shop.

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

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

## **BELMONT STREET**

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart, forwarding a concern from Neal Siskind of Ward 2: Neal Siskind (Ward 2) has concerns that the Dairy Queen on Belmont St. doesn't have guardrails/poles to prevent an out-of-control car from plowing into the standing crowd waiting to buy ice cream.

Captain McCabe questioned whether that was really a Traffic Commission issue and Commissioner Thoreson asked if there had been any accidents at that location. Captain McCabe said that it is a great idea and many locations wish they had a barrier to prevent accidents like what happened at the Brockton Hospital, but the Traffic Commission cannot force people to put them up. Councilor Stewart asked if possibly it would be a Zoning Board issue and Commissioner Thoreson said he believed the resident was probably talking about putting up bollards on the sidewalk where people stand. Commissioner Thoreson stated that it is a narrow sidewalk there and a guardrail would not fit. Ken Galligan said that access would be limited and Commissioner Thoreson said that unfortunately the Dairy Queen is right up against the sidewalk. Ken Galligan stated that when they rebuilt Belmont Street, they took part of the Dairy Queen property and when they rounded the corner from Ash Street they took another piece of their property. Chief Francis suggested that the Subcommittee go look at the location to see if there is anything that can be done and Commissioner Thoreson said there definitely isn't room for guardrails; and Councilor Stewart asked if the bollards would be a possibility. Commissioner Thoreson and Captain McCabe said that there would be a problem in the wintertime with plowing and Ken Galligan questioned whether it would have to go to zoning to put them on private property. The members agreed that if bollards were put in on the city property at that location, then there would be requests all over the city for them. Ken Galligan said that there had been a petition before the Zoning Board that was denied because there were no sidewalks and no edgestone and it was a public safety issue; at least with this location on Belmont Street there is a granite edgestone at Belmont and Ash Streets. Chief Francis asked whether it was the owner who made the request and Commissioner Thoreson said it was not; Neal Siskind is an attorney in the building opposite the Dairy Queen. Ken Goldblatt suggested that the members view the area to make a final determination as to whether there is any action that the Traffic Commission can take on this matter.

Upon motion 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.**

[\*further discussion by Councilor Stewart on 201-205 North Main Street]

## **LINCOLN STREET**

Request from Robert Malley of the Brockton Parking Authority to have the Traffic Commission review the parking spaces on Lincoln Street to determine whether the street can accommodate the number and location of the present spaces.

Patricia Florio, Parking Clerk and Secretary to the Traffic Commission, informed the members that Bob Malley had a concern about the location where School Street converges with Lincoln Street at the tip of the triangular area there is one parking space lined out, then the entrance to the parking lot, and then more lined parking spaces. People are parking in the wrong direction in that spot all the time so different signage may be needed, but the first space is causing problems because the road is not wide enough to have a parking space and also two lanes of travel. One person who received a ticket measured the width of the street and Bob Malley expressed concern that the width may not be sufficient and that the parking space should be removed, and also that the Traffic Commission may want to look at all of the parking spaces lined out on the south side of Lincoln Street by the Chamber of Commerce building. Ken Galligan stated that he has turned that corner many times when leaving City Hall and he has never had a car parked there but with cars coming west on Lincoln Street he has been able to make the turn, but with a car parked there it would be difficult.

Commissioner Thoreson asked if it was a metered spot, which it is not, but it is in a one-hour parking area. Commissioner Thoreson stated that when they re-did the parking lot on Lincoln Street they widened the road and that may be when the spaces were added. Ken Galligan stated that the reason they were added is that there was a request for additional handicapped parking on School Street between Montello Street and the driveway to City Hall, so they changed two regular parking spaces to Handicapped parking spaces and moved the two regular spaces over to the Lincoln Street location. Ken Galligan suggested sending the matter to Subcommittee to review.

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

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

## **COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE**

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of a resident to have a “Caution – Children” sign added in the vicinity of 250 Country Club Drive.

Ken Galligan made a motion to have the sign added; Captain McCabe stated that his only concern would be that no one has viewed the area and there may already be a sign there.

Commissioner Thoreson said that he would check the street to see there was a sign.

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

**VOTED: To place a “Caution – Children” sign in the vicinity of 250 County Club Drive.**

### **WEST CHESTNUT STREET and SOUTHWORTH STREET**

Request from Councilor Eaniri to have a guardrail extension placed on West Chestnut Street and Southworth Street as it is a bad curve and the telephone pole there has been hit several times. The present piece of guardrail was purchased by the property owner and he is requesting the extension.

Ken Galligan stated that when this piece of property came before the Zoning Board to build a house with the driveway off of Southworth Street, there was a stipulation that the builder had to put the guardrail in and the owner had to assume the responsibility for the guardrail.

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

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

[Ken Galligan stated that on the curve on West Chestnut at Southworth Street, when Captain Gomes was Commissioner he had the line painting company paint a broken line, like a fog line, and that was very helpful. Captain McCabe stated that it was still there and Ken Galligan requested that if it is faded that it be repainted. Captain McCabe informed the members that it was repainted last year.]

### **SHIELDS STREET and MILL STREET**

Request from Councilor Eaniri to add a Stop Sign at Shields Street and Mill Street as cars keep going straight onto the private property on Mill Street. There are signs posted "Do Not Enter" but vehicles still go straight and turn around on the property. Accidents have also occurred at this location.

The members discussed the exact location for this request and determined that it should be referred to Subcommittee for review. Ken Galligan stated that there is a street light at the end of Mill Street, which is now a dead end and that is the intersection where it was requested that the street light at the end be moved as it encourages you to go straight rather than take the left hand turn the connector road. He did not see the need for a Stop Sign on Shields Street as there is no traffic on that street.

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

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Florio  
Secretary to the Traffic Commission