



**BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
July 28, 2011**

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 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 Ken Galligan, Chief Richard Francis, Paul Sullivan and Todd Petti. Also present were residents Robin Travers, Susan Curry, Patricia Ramacker, Jill Ramacker, Lisa Peterson and Harold Peterson, and City Councilor Jass Stewart.

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 June Minutes.

In consideration of the residents present, issues of interest to them were taken out of order as follows:

FOSTER STREET

Request from Councilor Tom Monahan on behalf of Robin Travers of 10 Foster Street to have the “No Parking” signs removed from the area in the vicinity of 10 Foster Street.

Councilor Todd Petti indicated that Councilor Monahan was unable to attend the meeting due to his work schedule. Robin Travers indicated that she has lived on Foster Street for 15 years in a two-family home. When she originally moved there, there were no signs on the street and she believes that the parking restrictions were placed there because of a large apartment building on Warren Avenue and many cars would park on Foster Street and there was also a Nissan bakery up the street and the trucks were having difficulty on the street. The signs are on both sides of the road on her end and the rest of the street you can park on both sides. She would like to be able to park in front of her own house as there are several family members with cars living there, and they occasionally receive parking tickets. Ms. Travers said her portion of the street is the wide end and she is the only house there, so she does not believe that it would effect traffic to allow parking. Captain McCabe asked whether she wanted the restriction removed on both sides of the street or just one side, and Ms. Travers indicated that she would like it removed on her side of the street. After discussion it was determined that she lives on the south side of the street. Ken Galligan indicated that the reason that the parking restriction was instituted was that several years ago a request was made as people were parking there from Warren Avenue and during the winter when there is a parking ban on Warren Avenue the cars were moving onto Foster Street. Also, the turning radius for the trucks going to the bakery was difficult with cars parked there.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

[Captain McCabe informed Ms. Travers that the second Tuesday of the month the Subcommittee meets, and that at the August meeting a vote would be taken, but that it seems like a reasonable request. Ms. Travers stated that there is one sign on a telephone pole on the corner of Track Street and Forest Street, and one on a pole facing her house and she would like the Commission to look at both signs.]

CONNELL AVENUE * Correction from Cornell Street *****

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli on behalf of Susan Curry of Connell Avenue to have 4-way stop signs installed at the intersection of Connell Avenue and Ruth Road. It is currently a 2-way stop sign.

Susan Curry indicated that the stop signs are on Ruth Road, so that Connell Avenue is a straight throughway. Patricia Ramacker and Jill Ramacker indicated that Connell Avenue is a speedway and they drag race on the street. They felt that stop signs on Connell Avenue would at least slow the drivers down, and indicated that this has always been used as a cut-through because it runs between Court Street and East Ashland Street. Susan Curry indicated that sometimes they go as fast as 60 mph. Ms. Ramacker indicated that they have had their cars hit and their pets hit. Ms. Curry indicated that her 1-year-old grandson is moving in with her, and she is fearful that he could get out onto the street. Ms. Ramacker indicated that when her son was 4 years old, at certain times of the day she would not take him out in the front yard because of the risk of injury. Captain McCabe asked if this was a year-round problem or mainly when the high school is in session. The residents indicated that the kids driving are a problem and they have called the school but had no response. They believe that at least if there is a stop sign halfway down, then they would have to stop and then start up again so that speed would not be so much of an issue. Ms. Ramacker indicated that when she moved into the neighborhood in 1987 there was a very bad crash from someone coming across Ruth Road at Connell Avenue, and Ms. Curry said that a girl driving to the high school and not paying attention actually drove into the back of her car while it was parked in her driveway. The residents indicated that it is not just student drivers and sometimes late at night they can hear the squeal of tires. Ms. Ramacker indicated that if there are activities at school at night, it is a problem then too. Ms. Curry also presented a petition signed by residents of Connell Avenue. Ken Galligan requested that the Commission be provided with a police report for accidents at that intersection.

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

VOTED: To refer this matter to Subcommittee for review.

[Captain McCabe indicated that the Subcommittee would review the area and that in the meantime he would send a traffic enforcement unit to the location. Ms. Ramacker asked if someone in a private car could go there after school starts about 2:00 p.m. or 7:30 a.m. to do traffic enforcement.]

WALDO STREET

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart on behalf of Lisa Peterson to have a “Caution Children” sign placed on Waldo Street.

Lisa and Harold Peterson appeared before the Commission. Mrs. Peterson indicated that they have 2 children and there are many children between their street, Locust Street, Clyde Street, Winston Street who play outside. Waldo Street is used as a cut-through from North Montello Street to North Main Street and there is a car dealership on North Montello Street and cars are test driven up their street. Cars go very quickly up and down the street and they are concerned that someone will be hurt. She is requesting a “Go Slow – Children” sign as a possible deterrent. Ken Galligan recommended that the other streets be included in the Subcommittee review and Mrs. Peterson mentioned that Frankton Street and Locust Street have similar traffic problems. Ken Galligan asked if there are any signs there now, and was informed that there are none. Chief Francis suggested that the Subcommittee view the area and then they can make a determination as to what should be done.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee to review Waldo Street, Frankton Avenue, Locust Street and the entire area.

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 on Ash Street.

Captain McCabe said that Subcommittee members Ken Goldblatt, Ken Galligan, Chief Francis, and himself, along with Lt. Donald Mills from the School Police viewed the area and determined that several things needed to be done: No parking on the west side of Ash Street from one blinking yellow school light to the other blinking yellow school light (directly north to directly south from light to light); No parking on the east side of Ash Street from the further south blinking yellow school light to the first crosswalk at the school.

There is a side entrance that cuts through that has a “Do Not Enter” sign on it; the sign will be removed so that cars can enter that way, circle into the parking lots and the exit driveway;

On the driveway exiting the school the “No Parking” sign will be moved from the north side of the road to the south side of the road, subject to the approval of the school principal. Lt. Mills will get hold of the principal for approval. Lt. Mills is in favor of all these recommendations. Ken Galligan stated that with the driveway it is going to be from Ash Street to Old Ash Street; move it from its current spot on the north side to the south side. It might be easier to explain that it is the driveway between Ash Street and Old Ash Street. Ken Galligan further stated that they recommended placing the “No Parking” signs on individual posts on the back side of the sidewalk.

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

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee referenced above as follows:

- 1. No parking on the west side of Ash Street from one blinking yellow school light to the other blinking yellow school light (directly north to directly south from light to light);**
- 2. No parking on the east side of Ash Street from the southern blinking yellow school light to the driveway at the school.**
- 3. There is a side entrance that cuts through that has a “Do Not Enter” sign on it; the sign will be removed so that cars can enter that way, circle into the parking lots and the exit driveway;**
- 4. On the driveway exiting the school the “No Parking” sign will be moved from the north side of the road to the south side of the road, subject to the approval of the school principal.**

[Memo: At a later point in the meeting, Ken Galligan commented about no parking on the east side of Ash Street from the blinking yellow light at the south end of the school to the first crosswalk; he questioned whether the first crosswalk is at Old Ash Street and whether there is another crosswalk at the driveway going into the school. He believes that it was brought up at Subcommittee review, and if it is written up as the “from the blinking yellow light to the first crosswalk” which would be the one at Old Ash Street, so it should be written up as “the driveway of the school” rather than “the first crosswalk”. He believes it was the Subcommittee’s intention to bring it down to the driveway for visibility. The wording of the Vote and work order will be changed to “on the east side of Ash Street from the southern blinking light to the driveway of the school.”

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 stated that after the Subcommittee reviewed the area it was the recommendation that the signage was sufficient and it is not necessary to add more signage.

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

VOTED: To take no action on this matter.

NORTH MONTELLO STREET

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart, forwarding a question from Phillip Bunker to have the Traffic Commission review the lights on North Montello Street near McDonald’s.

Captain McCabe stated that they contacted Peter Tupper from the Fire Department Signal Division, who got in touch with the State and they went to that location to review it. The State came back to Peter Tupper and indicated that the lights were proper as programmed and up to code specifications and for the Traffic Commission to go any further they would have to send a letter and ask for an extension.

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

VOTED: To take no action until the Commission gets more definitive information on the problem.

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 stated that the area was reviewed by the Subcommittee and there is an area large enough on the west side of the building that isn’t a drive-thru but people may be using it as a drive-thru to cut from the west side of the building right onto Belmont Street. It was the Subcommittee’s recommendation to have the owner put security poles up (bollards) to prevent cars from exiting that way. Ken Galligan stated that it would appear that it is not in the Traffic Commission domain and that the only thing that might be suggested is that the Traffic Commission bring to the attention of the owner that this has been brought to the Commission’s attention and have him look at the situation and see if he is experiencing cars driving out that way. He does not see the need for the Traffic Commission to get involved in placement of bollards. Captain McCabe stated that a communication could be sent to Councilor Stewart and he could follow up with Neal Siskind. Chief Francis agreed that they should approach the owner and Todd Petti asked if anything has ever happened at that location, as he does not recall any accidents there. Ken Galligan agreed that the area has lights, a telephone pole, a light pole, a fire hydrant and it is a very tight area that is pretty well protected but there is that one spot where cars can park.

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

VOTED: To take no action on this matter.

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.

Captain McCabe stated that the Subcommittee viewed the area and did not see any problem with the parking spaces. If people park properly, cars heading up School Street and making a U-turn to head down Lincoln Street can make the turn. Also, without a center line there was a concern that people would confuse whether it was a one-way street or two-way street. Captain McCabe indicated that a center line has already been painted on Lincoln Street and that should alleviate most of the problems on that street and the parking spaces should be left as is.

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

VOTED: To place a yellow line for the center line of the road on Lincoln Street from Montello Street to School Street.

[Captain McCabe indicated that the line has already been painted as it was there previously and it was not repainted after the road was reconstructed.]

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.

Paul Sullivan asked if this area had been viewed previously and it was recalled that arrows were painted in the road. Ken Galligan recalled that the contractor came before the ZBA to put a house on a lot that had frontage on both West Chestnut and Southworth Streets and as a condition of the variance he was required to place a guardrail there because of the curve in the road. The house was then sold and the new owners would like an extension placed on the guardrail. Ken Galligan stated that the concern was that the guardrail was not placed there by the City of Brockton, it was placed by a private contractor and to have the city add on to it, does it become a legal issue to tie onto the guardrail and extend it. The Subcommittee members discussed the issue with Councilor Eaniri and suggested boulders instead of an extension to the guardrail. The councilor indicated that might be a good resolution and the councilor was going to get back in touch with the homeowner to see what they wanted to do. Todd Petti asked if the guardrail was on Southworth Street or West Chestnut Street and was told that it is on West Chestnut Street, behind the sidewalk.

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

VOTED: To continue this matter to the August meeting.

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.

Captain McCabe indicated that the Subcommittee reviewed the area and stated that as you are driving northerly on Mill Street and the road bends to the left (westerly) there are "Do Not Enter" signs straight ahead, but they have arrows there and the arrows make it confusing to the motorists. The recommendation is to remove those arrows from the signs, to add a broken fog line around the bend of the

road, and to add a sign prior to the bend that “All Traffic Bear Left”. Captain McCabe also stated that it might be a good idea on the barrier at the end of the road at the dead end to add reflective tape, and Ken Galligan indicated that he believed the tape was there now; that when the barrier was put up the ICC tape was placed on the inside. Ken Galligan stated that the members also talked about moving the streetlight from the end of Mill Street where the barrier is, to the corner of Mill Street and Mill Connector Road. Captain McCabe suggested sending a letter to the D.P.W. Commissioner regarding that issue. Ken Galligan stated that at the corner of Mill Street and Mill Connector Road there are two telephone poles on the side of the street and one has a light on it and the other one does not and it is very dark there. The high intensity sodium vapor light at the end of Mill Street draws your attention to go toward that light and if that light wasn’t there and was moved back to the corner it would accentuate the marking on the street and the dead end sign and would help immensely and would not be adding a new street light, just moving one.

Todd Petti asked if he could add to the request and stated that as you pull out of Metro South Athletic Club taking a left onto Mill Street, right where the brook is, that the brush is overgrown and hangs over the guardrail and should be cut back. Ken Galligan stated that from Liberty and Mill Streets to Mill and Shields Street should all be cut back. Captain McCabe indicated that he would notify D.P.W. Superintendent of Operations Craig Young requesting that the brush be cut back.

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

VOTED: To remove the arrows from the “Do Not Enter” signs; to add a broken fog line around the bend in the road; to add a sign prior to the bend that “All Traffic Bear Left”; to send a letter to D.P.W. Commissioner Thoreson requesting that the high intensity sodium vapor light be moved; and to contact D.P.W. Superintendent of Operations Craig Young to have the brush cut back.

LEACH AVENUE

Request from Councilor Eaniri that Leach Avenue from Warren Avenue be made one way headed west (toward South Middle School).

Captain McCabe stated that Councilor Eaniri has contacted the neighbors and assured him that there is no problem with making the street one way.

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

VOTED: To make Leach Avenue one way westerly from Warren Avenue to Keith Avenue Extension.

HOWARD STREET

Request from Captain McCabe to review speed limit signs and caution children signs on Howard Street from approximately #230 Howard Street to the Holbrook line.

Captain McCabe indicated that he viewed the area and within a short distance there are a 40 mph sign, a 30 mph sign, a fundamental speed limit sign, and then another 40 mph sign. He recommended that the whole area be viewed so that they can streamline it and decide whether to make it all 30mph or 40mph and to add the appropriate “Caution Children” signs as necessary.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

COMMERCIAL STREET

Request from Captain McCabe to review the east side of Commercial Street between Crescent Street and School Street to remove the six meters and add two (2) hour parking signs.

Captain McCabe indicated that this was a request from the owner of the building at 142 Crescent Street and that he and Bob Malley viewed the area and Mr. Malley does not have any objections to the request. Mr. Malley indicated that those meters do not bring in much money and it would give the business owner some additional parking spaces that are needed for his customers.

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

VOTED: To remove the six meters on Commercial Street between School Street and Crescent Street and replace with “Two Hour Parking” signs.

DOVER STREET

Requests from Captain McCabe on behalf of Community Police Officer William Healy:

1. Place Crime Watch sign on telephone pole in front of #93 Dover Street (have sign facing in the direction for those travelling west to see it).
2. Place Crime Watch sign on pole in front of #144 (have sign facing in direction for those travelling east to see it).
3. Replace Crime Watch sign in front of #226 Dover Street.

Captain McCabe stated that there are extra crime watch signs so there would be no additional expense to add these signs.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

WEST HARVARD STREET

Requests from Captain McCabe on behalf of Community Police Officer William Healy:

1. Place Crime Watch sign on pole next to #223 West Harvard Street (have sign facing in direction for those travelling east to see it).
2. Place Crime Watch sign on pole in front of #193 (have sign facing in direction for those traveling west to see it).

Ken Galligan commented that in this case, where they are requesting a sign in front of house #223, for cars heading east that means that the sign has to go on the north side of the street.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

FRANKTON AVENUE

Request from Councilor Jass Stewart on behalf of Allison Lincourt to have the 30mph speed limit on Frankton Avenue reduced.

As this issue was addressed with the problems on Waldo Street and Locust Street, it has been referred to Subcommittee for review without further vote of the Traffic Commission.

[Councilor Jass Stewart arrived at the meeting at this time due to a prior engagement. The Traffic Commission members reviewed the issues presented by him and notified him of the recommendations already discussed and voted upon.]

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 a letter was sent to the State Department of Transportation but no response has been received to date.

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

VOTED: To continue this matter to the August meeting.

COMMERCIAL STREET

Request from Councilor Tom Monahan to have the three parking meters removed from Commercial Street near the intersection of Crescent Street and to have two hour parking at that location.

NOTE: As this is the same request made by Captain McCabe no discussion was needed.

ROCKLAND STREET

Request received from the Mayor’s Office from Martha Forrester for:

1. Install a crosswalk at 71 Rockland St and Rockland Dr. This is directly in front of the Mihos family home;
2. Put signs up at 71 Rockland Street and at 149 Rockland Street to "remind" drivers of the rules of the road.

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

VOTED: To refer this matter to Subcommittee for review.

CRIME WATCH SIGNS

Request from Officer William Healy to have Crime Watch signs installed at:

- Dover St #93 and # 144;
- W. Harvard St. #223, and # 193;
- Country Club Ln./ Dr. # 26 and #190

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

VOTED: To refer this matter to Subcommittee for review.

There being no further items on the Agenda, several informal discussions were held on unscheduled matters.

Councilor Todd Petti questioned whether there are any Traffic Commission rules regarding where driver's education cars can and cannot go to instruct drivers. Captain McCabe stated that he did not believe the Traffic Commission could regulate that. Councilor Petti stated that Harlan Drive has about 6 or 7 children there now and driver's education cars practice there. Chief Francis stated that the driver's education companies take their students on the streets where the Registry of Motor Vehicles conducts their driver's tests. Councilor Petti requested that a letter be sent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles requesting that they no longer do driving tests on Harlan Drive and Harlan Circle anymore as there are children living in that area.

Councilor Todd Petti requested that a suggestion be made to Craig Young or Bob McFaun of the Highway Division that for visibility purposes at the corner of Ash Street and Forest Avenue at the set of lights, at the white house on the southwesterly corner, the tree has grown over onto the sidewalk and needs to be cut back to the grass line.

Chief Francis requested that at the Subcommittee review, D.P.W. Commissioner Thoreson join them to view the area at Pleasant and West Streets to see if any additional signs are needed there. Chief Francis indicated that if they allow cars to cut across into the gas station there will be traffic congestion. He also requested that at that intersection coming off Reynolds Memorial Highway and then turning westerly there should be a "Right Turn Only" sign. Captain McCabe suggested that Chief Francis call Commissioner Thoreson to ask him to join the Subcommittee to view that area. Ken Galligan asked if at the westbound curve there is a sign up, and Chief Francis stated that there is only a "Yield" sign. Chief Francis stated that Commissioner Thoreson indicated that they were going to extend the island out far enough so that cars could not go across Pleasant Street, but that they cut it short. Ken Galligan stated that if you exit the gas station at the easterly discharge to go up to the Route 27 cutoff there is no light and cars exiting cannot see which cars have the green light.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission