



**BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
December 8, 2011**

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on December 8, 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: Captain Leon McCabe, Councilor Dennis DeNapoli, Commissioner Michael Thoreson, Chief Richard Francis, Paul Sullivan, Ken Galligan, and Councilor Todd Petti. Also present were Councilor Robert Sullivan and Councilor Jass Stewart, along with residents Karen Shea and Carrie Theodossion.

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

STERLING ROAD

Request from Councilor Todd Petti on behalf of Patti Smith-Gallagher regarding the traffic speed on Sterling Road and

BEAUMONT AVENUE

Request from Deborah Kerr, Admissions Director of Champion Rehab and Health Center “regarding the issue of motor vehicles speeding on this street”.

After Subcommittee review, Captain McCabe reported that the recommendations were:

1. To have traffic enforcement check the area;
2. There were already two pedestrian crossing signs on Beaumont Avenue and it was recommended that they be moved closer to the crosswalk and also add an arrow pointing down towards the crosswalk, so that there would be a pedestrian crossing sign east and west on Beaumont Avenue in front of the crosswalk that is right in front of the Champion Rehab and Health Center;
3. Add “No Trucks Over 15,000 GVW” sign on Beaumont Avenue at Quincy Street;
4. Clear the tree branches from the Stop Sign on Christos Way coming onto Beaumont Avenue and from the Crime Watch sign on Beaumont Avenue at pole #281.

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

VOTED: To accept the recommendations of the Subcommittee as stated above.

CLAREMONT AVENUE

Request from Councilor Dubois on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood to have “No Parking Here to Corner” signs installed on Claremont Avenue in the vicinity of Claremont Avenue and Howard Street.

After Subcommittee review, Captain McCabe reported that it was recommended:

1. Add a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign on the south side of Claremont Avenue on the telephone pole approximately 47 feet from the corner of Howard Street;

2. Add an additional “No Parking Here to Corner” sign on the north side of Claremont Avenue on its own pole approximately 91 feet from the corner of Howard Street.

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

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee as stated above.

1452 MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of a constituent to have a “Caution – Blind Person” sign installed in the vicinity of 1452 Main Street.

After Subcommittee review, Captain McCabe reported that he contacted Councilor Studenski and the gentleman lives at 1452 Main Street. The area was reviewed and it was recommended:

1. Add two “Caution Blind Person” signs on Main Street: one southbound on pole #97 and one northbound on pole #103.

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

VOTED: To approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee as stated above.

CRIME WATCH SIGNS

Captain McCabe said that Officer William Healy is the Crime Watch coordinator and he is requesting signs at 147 Wilson Street and 209 Falconer Avenue. Captain McCabe informed the members that the signs have already been purchased by the Crime Watch group and Councilor Eaniri was involved with this group also.

After Subcommittee review, it was recommended to:

1. add one sign at 147 Wilson Street on pole #10 facing eastbound for traffic coming off of Channing Avenue;
2. Add one sign at 209 Falconer Avenue northbound on pole #8.

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

VOTED: To accept the recommendations of the Subcommittee as stated above.

As Councilor Robert Sullivan and two residents of Greenfield Street were present to speak on this issue, Captain McCabe took the Greenfield Street article out of order.

GREENFIELD STREET – Winter Parking Ban

Request from Councilor Robert Sullivan on behalf of residents at 53 Greenfield Street and 45 Greenfield Street to have the winter ban parking restriction on Greenfield Street revised so that parking is allowed on the even-numbered side of the street rather than the odd-numbered side of the street.

Councilor Robert Sullivan stated that this is a unique request because historically within the city parking is always on the odd numbered side of the street, but that both of these residents of Greenfield Street will explain why they feel that this is appropriate, and that when he met with them and discussed the issue he concurs with them. The street is unique and on the even numbered side it tends to be a lot of multi-family homes with many cars whereas on the odd numbered side it tends to be single family residences. Councilor Sullivan stated that he strongly supports this request. Carrie Theodossion indicated that most of the residents on the even numbered side of the street are multi family houses and they all have their own cars and park in front of the homes on her side. Even when there is a parking ban for both sides, they ignore it and snow removal is difficult and there is a hazardous condition as you could not get emergency vehicles down her

street last year after the big storms. She cannot see traffic when trying to get out of her driveway and if anyone parks directly behind her she cannot get out of her driveway at all. She feels that it would be in everyone's best interest to at least try for one year having the parking on the other side of the street and that it would relieve some of the problems. Karen Shea stated that it impacts snow removal with vehicles on both sides of the street and a lot of times when there are cars parked in front of your house you cannot get out. She lives at the wide side of the street but closer to the opposite end it is narrower and cars parked on both sides causes more of a problem. Captain McCabe asked if the single family homes are on the odd side and the multi-family are on the even side and the residents indicated that when you get to the end of the street, those are single family also. Councilor Sullivan indicated that it is from Augusta Avenue three-quarters of the way up to North Ash Street that is a problem. Captain McCabe asked if parking is allowed on both sides of the street normally, and if the people in the single family homes use their driveways or the street and the residents indicated that was part of the problem because people that have driveways still use the street to park. Captain McCabe stated that it might be a simpler solution to post no parking on the odd side of the street year round, but if the single family homeowners use the street to park also then that might not be a good idea. He asked if the single family homeowners would be upset if it was posted no parking year round on the odd side of the street and the residents stated that some of the residents actually have parking on Fairfield Street. Ken Galligan stated that he used to live at 64 Greenfield Street and he is very familiar with the situation there and provided historical information of the area. He felt that if the city enforced the parking there and started tagging and towing cars then the problem would resolve. He stated that most of the residences have driveways that could handle 4 or 5 cars.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

JORDAN STREET

Request from Councilor Michelle Dubois that a "no thru road" or "dead end" and "Stop" sign be placed going southerly on Jordan Street where it meets Hovendon Ave. (This is the dead end portion of Jordan that has recently been repaved.) There was a stop sign there prior to the repaving. Since the repave the stop sign was not replaced. Last month a person leaving a birthday party on the dead end section of Jordan, who was unfamiliar with the area, did not stop coming onto Hovendon and hit a motorcyclist. So the Stop sign is very much needed. Placement of a 'slow children' sign on this portion of Jordan Street.

The members were informed that the Department of Public Works researched the issue and found that there was no stop sign there prior to the repaving and Commissioner Thoreson concurred. Therefore this should be a request for a new sign rather than replacement of an old sign.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

ARTHUR PAQUIN WAY

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of the residents in the area of Arthur Paquin Way to have signage put up showing that this is not a thru street. It was suggested that a "Not A Thru Way" sign be placed on Richmond Street at the northwest corner of North Warren Avenue.

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

VOTED: To put a "Not a Thru Way" sign on Richmond Street at the northwest corner of North Warren Avenue.

PADDY LANE at LEGION PARKWAY

Request from Captain McCabe to add a Stop Sign on Paddy Lane at Legion Parkway.

Captain McCabe informed the members that an officer had brought to his attention that cars come directly out onto Legion Parkway from Paddy Lane and he thinks a stop sign is needed there. Commissioner Thoreson stated that this is two-way traffic on that street, and that Paddy Lane goes from Frederick Douglas Way to Legion Parkway. As a piece of trivia, Ken Galligan informed the members that the prior name of Paddy Lane was Alton Street.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

PLEASANT STREET AND WEST STREET INTERSECTION

Captain McCabe informed the members that the Traffic Commission met with the representatives from the State Highway on Friday, December 2, 2011 and the State would not make any changes without having the engineering plans changed. Commissioner Thoreson contacted the engineers and a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th and they were very cooperative and will get back to the Commission with quick changes with the lights, as the main problem is the traffic lights coming off Reynolds Memorial Highway when two lights are green and two lights are red. They should have a recommendation by early next week, and then the Commission will contact the State and the lights can be changed. Commissioner Thoreson explained that they will do a two-phase fix at the location with the quick safety fix for the phasing of the lights and then they will look at making other changes for a long-term solution. Commissioner Thoreson also contacted the Old Colony Planning Council and they went up and did traffic counts and those were sent to the designer also to factor into the revised plans. Captain McCabe indicated that while the members were at the location, they noted other problem areas. As you are headed west on Pleasant Street there is a "No Turn on Red" sign that is about 60 feet in the air so that no one can see it; it was recommended that the sign be moved down to street level. Another recommendation was that heading south on Reynolds Memorial Highway to add more lane marking arrows, which would designate the two inside lanes for left turn and the two outside lanes for straight ahead. This would bring the lane marking back further. The engineering company did indicate that they had forwarded amended plans to the State Highway because back at the initial meeting when the project was underway it had been recommended that they move the island on West Street because the BAT buses could not make the turn and move the stop line at the A T & T customers could get out of the building, but the State did not follow the amended plan, so both the island and the stop line are in the wrong places.

Ken Galligan indicated that there was one suggestion that was made that the State representatives said could be done now, and that is to put the "Do Not Enter" sign on the exit coming from Route 27 to Pleasant Street going west, so that a car coming down Pleasant Street would not take a left into that lane. He recommended that this be done now. Commissioner Thoreson said that there are two poles there if you are coming off Reynolds Memorial Highway and are headed west on Pleasant Street, there are two signs there and he recommended that the "Do Not Enter" signs be placed on those poles.

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

VOTED: To place two "Do Not Enter" signs on the poles located as you are coming off Reynolds Memorial Highway and are going to head west on Pleasant Street.

WARREN AVENUE and WEST ELM STREET

Captain McCabe indicated that a response was received from Mass. Highway Department and they are not inclined to remove the “No Parking” signs and believed that it would be hazardous to remove them. Captain McCabe stated that to remove them now would be going against the plans and would place liability on the city. Councilor DeNapoli asked if this was because of the church parking issue and that was confirmed.

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

VOTED: To take no action.

Captain McCabe indicated that there was one more issue on the Reynolds Memorial Highway issue, regarding the puddling of the water that Ken Galligan noticed when the Commission members viewed the area. Captain McCabe asked if that was something that Landers Company could correct and Commissioner Thoreson stated that it had been mentioned to them but he would make sure that it gets added in to the list of changes. Ken Galligan stated that if it is not fixed now, it will be a problem forever, and that it is on the Route 27 cutoff in front of the appliance store and that when they were laying the final coat of blacktop they pitched it wrong and that there is a catch basin beyond where the puddle is so that what is happening is that the cars drive through the puddle and carry the water up to the Route 27 cut-off so that in the wintertime when you have the snow melting during the day and then freezing into ice at night, it will need continual sanding and it should be fixed now before the project has been finally accepted and while the contractor is still accountable.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made by Paul Sullivan, 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