



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION

April 26, 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 26, 2012, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. The meeting was called to order by Captain Steven Williamson. Present were: Paul Sullivan, Ken Galligan, Councilor Todd Petti and D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson. Lisa Noonan was present to discuss a request for Bryant Avenue; several residents of the Plain Street/Tenth Avenue area were in attendance: Steve Broberg, Donna Beals, Jasmine Detulio, and Al Boone; and also present were Councilor Michelle Dubois, Water Commission Member Patrick Quinn, and Marc Resnick of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority.

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

As a courtesy to accommodate Mrs. Noonan and her young son, Captain Williamson took the Bryant Avenue issue out of order.

BRYANT AVENUE

Request from Councilor Tim Cruise on behalf of Lisa Noonan of 10 Bryant Avenue for an "Autistic Child" sign to be placed at the corner of Bryant Avenue and Pleasant Street.

Lisa Noonan presented a letter from her son's doctor advocating on his behalf, and stated that she has an autistic child and would like the sign posted. Ken Galligan asked whether the sign should be placed on Bryant Avenue or whether it would be better placed on Pleasant Street and Mrs. Noonan requested that it be placed on the corner of these two streets. She indicated that Bryant Avenue is only 4 or 5 houses and that cars tend to speed going up and down the street and her son does not have the verbal skills and does not understand the dangers of traffic. She is always in his care, but is concerned should he ever go near the street. She would like the sign to be easily viewed and said that their street sign is on a telephone pole and she would like the sign on a post next to that pole. Commissioner Thoreson questioned whether traffic coming from Pleasant Street would be able to see the sign in time and questioned whether placing the sign several feet onto Bryant Avenue would make the sign more visible as you turn onto the street. Mrs. Noonan stated that the street is so short and she is only one house in from Pleasant Street so that she thought Pleasant Street was the critical location. Commissioner Thoreson stated that on Pleasant Street the sign would have to be placed in the direction of the traffic flow, so that once you turned onto Bryant Avenue you would lose the effect of the sign intent.

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 for review.

PLAIN STREET and TENTH AVENUE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Donna Beals and other residents to review the parking problems occurring on Plain Street and Tenth Avenue as a result of cars parking there to pick up students from the Davis School.

Captain Williamson informed the members that the Subcommittee recommended that a “No Parking” sign be added just west of the intersection on the eastbound side of Plain Street by the crosswalk, and that a second “No Parking Corner to Here” sign be added just east of the intersection on the eastbound side of Plain Street approximately thirty (30) feet from pole #43. Mrs. Beals said that the recommendations were great and asked how long before they would see the signs installed. Captain Williamson indicated that it would be as soon as possible, and that it takes a couple of weeks to have the signs made and then they would be installed. Captain Williamson asked if anyone else would like to speak on the issue, and the residents were satisfied with the recommendations.

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

VOTED: That a “No Parking” zone be created and place the two “No Parking” signs as described and recommended by the Subcommittee.

OAK STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Request presented by Councilor Chris MacMillan on behalf of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority to have the Traffic Commission review a proposal for streetscape improvements along Oak Street in the vicinity of the entrances to D.P. Field Park. The purpose of this project is to reduce vehicle speeds, increase the connectivity between the two sections of the park and improve the overall look of the park.

Captain Williamson informed the members that the Subcommittee recommended that we improve the curbing of the islands with the one foot gutter line, closing off of two of the crossovers per the design plans, put in a crosswalk on the west side of the island by the Fuller Museum at the telephone pole where there is a light attached, and maintain the current fog line. The Subcommittee does not recommend reducing the travel lane to eleven feet with a five foot bike lane. After these improvements then maybe the Traffic Commission could revisit the bike lane issue.

The Subcommittee also recommended that should money become available that they would consider adding a cross light at the park entrance.

Marc Resnick of the BRA reiterated the Traffic Commission recommendations and confirmed that the white line three or four feet in from the existing curb should not be revised and that a one foot gutter line should be put on the new curb and that the remainder of the plan could stay the same.

Ken Galligan stated that the concern was reducing the traffic lane based upon the amount of emergency vehicles that travel that road and that the plans show that when this project is done the street width will be reduced from 20 and 22 feet to 18 feet and that with a line on each side, we will then end up with a 14 or 16 foot wide travel lane, and then at some point in the future the project could be revisited. Ken Galligan stated that the Commission was not approving the plan that came before them, but the plan as amended to show that the bike lane is eliminated. Marc Resnick stated that as long as it would not hold up the work, he would have an amended plan drawn for the record. Ken Galligan stated that they would vote on the plan with amendments to eliminate the five foot bike lane as shown and to maintain the fog lines as currently configured.

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 plan with amendments to eliminate the five foot bike lane as shown on the plan and to maintain the fog lines as currently configured.

CENTRE STREET in the vicinity of BATES ROAD and ADDISON AVENUE

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli to have a crosswalk added on Centre Street in the vicinity of Bates Road and Addison Avenue.

Captain Williamson indicated that Bates Road and Addison Avenue do not intersect and Ken Galligan agreed that they do not. Patricia Florio informed the Commission members that Councilor DeNapoli had intended to attend the meeting but had a medical issue and was unable to be present. Commissioner Thoreson suggested sending the Bates Road part to Subcommittee and then contact Councilor DeNapoli for clarification and Captain Williamson suggested that maybe it was two separate issues. It was decided to refer the entire matter to Subcommittee, even if it is worded incorrectly, and then the entire matter can be acted upon.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for Review.

SIGNS FOR TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli on behalf of Trinity Catholic Academy to have informational or directional signs installed at the following locations:

1. North Main Street;
2. Belmont Street in the general area of the VA Hospital; and
3. Centre Street or Crescent Street in the general area of Christos Restaurant.

Paul Sullivan suggested sending the matter to Subcommittee and Commissioner Thoreson questioned why the signs were requested. Patricia Florio informed the Commission members that people are having trouble finding Trinity Academy campus and they would like directional signs similar to those used by Cardinal Spellman High School. She indicated that Councilor DeNapoli stated that Trinity Academy would pay for the signs to be made if the City would install them and maintain them. Ken Galligan suggested that the Commission should tell Trinity Academy what the signs should look like so that they are in conformance with signs in the city, possibly white with green lettering. Ken Galligan suggested that Councilor DeNapoli should contact Commissioner Thoreson to determine what signs to get and where to buy them. Commissioner Thoreson confirmed that the D.P.W. would make recommendation as to what kind of signs, and would probably suggest that Permaline make the signs. Todd Petti noted that Massasoit Community College has some signs up near the V.A. Hospital and said that possibly these signs could go on the utility poles near there. Ken Galligan stated that the city has been notified to stop putting signs on the utility poles and that the city should conform to that request and if a sign is going to be installed then Trinity Academy should pay for the post as well as the sign, and then the D.P.W. would install it. Todd Petti said that it should be kept in mind that there is construction work being done in the vicinity of the V.A. Hospital so that the sign isn't installed and then have to be removed due to construction. Ken Galligan suggested that Councilor DeNapoli should be contacted concerning specific locations for the signs. Commissioner Thoreson suggested that the matter be referred to Subcommittee and then have Councilor DeNapoli determine with the Subcommittee where the signs should be placed.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

WINTER STREET AND NORTH CARY STREET- Stop Sign

Request from Captain McCabe to discuss the ongoing problem at this intersection due to the State's removal of the Stop Sign and blinking red light, and replacing them with a blinking yellow light. The State has now indicated that no further action will be taken at this location and that neither the blinking red light nor the Stop Sign will not be reinstalled.

Captain Williamson informed the members that he had spoken with Captain McCabe about this ongoing issue. He said that Mr. Feeney of the State Highway requested a letter from the Engineer, but upon receipt of the letter the State still has not taken any action. Captain McCabe proposed that the Commission could reach out to State Senator Thomas Kennedy and State Representative Michael Brady and have them contact the State inquiring as to the issue and what is needed to resolve the problem. Ken Galligan stated that this has been going on for over two years, since the road was reconstructed and the State removed the Stop Sign and blinking red light. He stated that it is a blind intersection for the vehicles exiting the fire station there. The Signal Division has indicated that it could change the blinking yellow light to a blinking red light and the City could reinstall the Stop Sign, and he was of the impression that it was just a matter of getting it done and that the State had indicated that the City could do whatever it needed to do at its own cost.

Councilor Michelle Dubois asked if she could get copies of the correspondence between the City and the State and she will then present it to Representative Christine Canavan with a request that she intercede on behalf of the City. Captain Williamson suggested that the Commission do a motion to have the Traffic Commission send a letter to the local representatives as well as having Councilor Dubois forward the information to Representative Canavan. Ken Galligan stated that this is not a cost issue for the State; the city is willing to do the work involved.

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

VOTED: To provide documents to Councilor Dubois in order for her to contact Representative Christine Canavan and to have the Traffic Commission contact Representative Michael Brady and State Senator Thomas Kennedy and request that all of them send letters to the State Highway – District 5. On the motion, Ken Galligan stated that the Commission could hold off on sending their letter until Captain Williamson can review the prior correspondence to see if there is anything from the State saying that the City can go ahead with the changes without any further state approval.

Councilor Dubois asked to speak informally before the Commission with regard to the issue of signs recently installed on North Quincy Street. She believes that one of the signs is a problem for the homeowner due to its height and location and needs to be removed. The sign blocks the homeowner's vision as he leaves his driveway and looks to the right. She would like the sign moved to the opposite side of North Cary Street or making it a few feet higher. Commissioner Thoreson stated that the height should be changed. Ken Galligan stated that the Subcommittee went to the area and what they were using as reference were signs that were installed on West Street, about one foot wide and thirty inches high, and that once those signs were installed the problem was resolved. He has viewed the signs installed on North Quincy Street and agreed that they need to be moved or repositioned. Captain Williamson stated that the signage has already been approved so there is no need to wait for another meeting; the changes can be made without delay. The purpose for originally placing the signs at four feet was so that drivers would see the sign with their headlights as they approach the curve in the road. Ken Galligan suggested that if the signs were placed on the

back side of the sidewalk or against the fence then they would be out of the way. Councilor Dubois requested that the Commission members use their discretion to see where the proper placement would be.

Ken Galligan asked to speak informally to the Commission members about having the D.P.W. employee who installs the signs go with them when they view the sites on the Subcommittee agenda. In the past, that employee would be there and mark exactly where the signs should be placed. He would like to have that practice reinstated and feels that it is critical to have them present when the discussion over sign placement is made. Commissioner Thoreson requested that the Traffic Commission make a request in writing to have an employee present at the Subcommittee site review meetings.

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

Voted: to have a letter sent to the D.P.W. Commissioner strongly urging that when the Subcommittee meets, that the person who is in charge of placing the signs accompanies them on the site visits.

Councilor Dubois also informed the Commission members that she had received complaints about the location of the tonnage signs on North Cary Street. She stated that the Traffic Commission put up some signs limiting trucks over a certain weight from using North Cary Street, and one is near 784 North Cary Street and the residents think that the sign is on the wrong side of the road. She asked that the members take a look to confirm that the sign is on the correct side of the road. The other issue she has is that the first sign for North Cary Street does not exist until you are near East Ashland Street, and then the trucks only avenue out is to go down Ames Street. The resident thinks that the sign should be after the intersection of North Cary Street and East Ashland Street pointing trucks up East Ashland Street to hook onto North Quincy Street at the lights and not let them go up North Cary Street just to go down Ames Street. Ken Galligan stated that the Subcommittee had looked at the area and the rationale for taking the trucks off of that street is the condition of North Cary Street north of Ames Street. The heavy trucks were breaking up the street but North Cary Street from East Ashland Street to Ames Street is in very good condition. Councilor Dubois stated that she has not received any complaints from the residents of Ames Street and Ken Galligan stated that it is a main thoroughfare.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made by Paul Sullivan, seconded by Todd Petti and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission