



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
March 28, 2013

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2013, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain Stephen Williamson. Members present were: Kenneth Galligan, Paul Sullivan, Fire Chief Richard Francis, D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson and Councilor Todd Petti. Also present were City Councilors Thomas Monahan and Timothy Cruise and residents Mark Sweeney, Sabine Sweeney and Denise Renaud.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Thoreson, seconded by Councilor Petti and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the February minutes.

NORTH QUINCY STREET AND NORTH CARY STREET

Request from Councilor Michelle Dubois for a review of the need for more traffic signals, signage and guardrails in front of certain residences at the intersection of North Quincy Street and North Cary Street due to the number of motor vehicle accidents and property damage.

Captain Williamson stated that the Subcommittee viewed the area and did not make any specific recommendations but rather determined that further discussion should be held at the next meeting. Captain Williamson gathered information on accidents that have occurred at that location and passed a packet out to the members and residents. Discussion was held on the possibility of placing a stop sign at North Quincy and North Cary Streets, which would be a drastic change to the intersection. Captain Williamson stated that the manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices put out by the United States Department of Transportation indicates that it would be mandated that an engineering study be done prior to placement of any sign like that. Captain Williamson referred the members to page 52, section 2B.07 – Multi-way stop applications, which outlines the regulations for a multi-way stop. Ken Galligan stated that when the Subcommittee viewed the area they got a good indication of what the residents go through, and further stated that the members felt that it would be very difficult to put boulders or guardrails up that would prevent accidents, as the cars could go right in between the boulders or guardrails and still end up on the property. Commissioner Thoreson stated that after the Subcommittee review, he spoke with the Old Colony Planning Council and they would have some data available within the next few weeks after doing a traffic count at that location. He does not believe that is an official engineering study, but would be a piece of the study and provide information. Commissioner Thoreson will find out exactly what is needed for an official engineering study and what the cost might be. Captain Williamson said that he is also somewhat concerned as to what findings and recommendations might be made by the state after an official engineering study, and whether the city would be bound by their recommendations.

Ken Galligan indicated that the Traffic Commission realizes that there is a bad situation at that location and has begun the process of reviewing the options to see what can be done to improve it. Mark Sweeney said that he does not feel that any more signage would make a difference as a majority of the bad accidents happen at 1 or 2 a.m. and most of those people are not paying attention to a sign or a light anyways. He feels that a broader look at the whole intersection can result in some significant changes. Mark Sweeney said that he observes a number of people walking on the street towards Massasoit, and he is concerned as a driver because it is a tight turn. Ken Galligan stated that even if you are doing the posted speed limit, the turn jumps at you and you can find yourself going over into the other lane. Sabine Sweeney asked whether there was a possibility of having cameras installed pointing heading south towards Brockton and north, because her car was hit in her driveway and completed totally, but the car took off and it was a hit and run. With a camera installed she thought at least they could get registration numbers on cars that cause damage. The members stated that they did not know of any traffic cameras installed in the city and that it was also a money issue. Ken Galligan stated that this is a unique situation there and if a stop sign were installed for northbound traffic then the overhead flashing yellow light could be changed to a flashing red. He felt that this could have an impact on the traffic headed north. Chief Francis asked what the pros and cons

would be if the stop sign were removed from North Cary and placed on North Quincy Street, and the members said that they would look into that option. Captain Williamson stated that he believes there are more cars on North Quincy Street than North Cary Street at that intersection.

Captain Williamson stated that there are intersections that have more accidents than this locations, but that these accidents involve cars ending up damaging residents' property and Ken Galligan stated that two cars hitting each other and crashing at an intersection is one thing, but these cases are different. Mark Sweeney stated that at the last meeting it was mentioned that this was a state road at that location and that might add complications and Ken Galligan stated that the members are not sure how that would play out but the city may still have total control over the road. He further stated that before steps are taken the members need to make sure that proper procedures are followed.

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

VOTED: To continue the matter to the next meeting in anticipation of a report from the D.P.W. Commissioner regarding a traffic study and receiving the report from the Old Colony Planning Council on their study.

MULBERRY STREET

Request from Councilor Michelle Dubois and Councilor Dennis DeNapoli requesting resident only parking on Mulberry Street.

Captain Williamson stated that the Subcommittee recommends installing a "Resident Parking Only" restriction on the odd-numbered side of Mulberry Street between Elliot Street and the fire hydrant at #23 Mulberry Street. Commissioner Thoreson asked how resident only parking is enforced and Captain Williamson informed the members that it is mostly a complaint-driven issue and that the registration of the cars are run and if they do not come back to being registered on that particular street then a ticket is issued.

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

VOTED: To install a "Resident Parking Only" sign on the odd-numbered side of Mulberry Street between Elliot Street and the fire hydrant at #23 Mulberry Street.

NORTH CARY STREET

Informal review of the signs on North Cary Street headed northerly from East Ashland Street. The sign for truck weight limit is not visible until you get to Ames Street. The second concern is coming south on North Quincy Street onto North Cary Street, with sign is on the left side of the road at the bend after the blinking light.

Captain Williamson stated that this is a "no truck" zone on North Cary Street between Ames Street and North Quincy Street and the commission is looking for better signage. The subcommittee viewed the area and recommends installing an additional truck restriction sign, "No Trucks Over 15000 GVW" on the southbound side of North Cary Street at North Quincy Street. Captain Williamson clarified that there is already a sign on the left side and this would place a second sign on the right side of the street as you are heading south entering North Cary Street from North Quincy Street.

Captain Williamson stated that the second recommendation was to install a "Truck Restriction Ahead" on North Cary Street northbound at East Ashland Street.

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

**VOTED: To install an additional truck restriction sign, "No Trucks Over 15000 GVW" on the southbound side of North Cary Street at North Quincy Street; and
To install a "Truck Restriction Ahead" on North Cary Street northbound at East Ashland Street.**

NEWBURY STREET

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have the Traffic Commission consider placing Stop Signs at the intersection of Newbury Street and Green Street.

Resident Denise Renaud stated that this is a bad intersection and there are many accidents there. Captain Williamson stated that at the present time there is are stop signs on Green Street, and now they are looking for a four-way stop at that location. Councilor Monahan indicated that the resident has informed him that everyone

speeds down that street. Ms. Renaud said that everyone, even the police, speed down Newbury Street. Captain Williamson asked whether she wanted more traffic enforcement or stop signs and she indicated that she wanted maybe a yellow flashing light. Councilor Monahan stated that this resident called last year about the speeding and traffic enforcement was sent there and now she called again recently. Captain Williamson stated that speeding is an issue on many streets and Newbury Street would certainly be a cut-through street. Councilor Monahan said that a 4-way stop sign might help and Captain Williamson said that you cannot install stop signs to control speeding, but rather due to accidents at a location. Ms. Renaud said that she has a hip condition and other medical issues and can hardly walk to get to her car and she has almost been hit trying to get to her car. Ken Galligan asked if she sees cars going through the stop signs at Green Street and she said yes. Captain Williamson said that he would compile the accident history for that location and the members decided to refer the matter to subcommittee. Ken Galligan asked if there is a particular time of day she observes speeding and she said mostly at night. Captain Williamson said that he would send his traffic enforcement unit to that location and the matter would be referred to subcommittee.

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

VOTED: Refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

PLAIN STREET at MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski to review the “No Turn on Red” sign on Plain Street at Main Street to see if it can be returned to an allowed right turn on red after stopping.

Patricia Florio informed the members that Councilor Studenski called the Traffic Commission office to request that this matter be placed on the agenda. He said that there always was a right turn on red there, but when the intersection was reconstructed it was changed to a “no turn on red”. He has received complaints and asked that it be reviewed. Commissioner Thoreson stated that he believed it was wide enough there to allow for a right turn on red. He believes that the intersection is under our control and he will contact the state to check with them on any restriction and will report back at subcommittee.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Request from the Mayor’s office on behalf of a constituent to have the Traffic Commission consider placing additional “One Way” signs on the portion of West Chestnut Street between Donald Street and Warren Avenue as there has been an increase in the frequency of cars coming out of Echo Street and traveling the wrong direction to cut over to Hardy Avenue and Lilly Avenue.

Paul Sullivan stated that Councilor Dennis Eaniri was before the Traffic Commission on the same issue a few months ago. Ken Galligan stated that when you come down Echo to West Chestnut Street there used to be a sign on a post and he believes that was knocked over and it may be that the sign that used to be there just needs to be replaced. As you approach West Chestnut Street going south on Echo Street there could probably be a sign there that says “right turn only” and that this should be easy to fix.

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 ELM STREET

Request from Capt Steven Williamson on behalf of neighbor Lenny Alkins to have the Traffic Commission consider a truck restriction on West Elm St. The street is predominantly residential between West St and Warren Av. The road is heavily travelled and in poor condition.

Councilor Tim Cruise stated that he believed the request was actually for West Street and that Mr. Alkins lives on the corner of West Street and West Elm Street, and was requesting that no trucks be allowed to travel on West Street. Captain Williamson said that the members could look at both streets in their review. Discussion was held as to whether there was truck traffic on West Elm Street and Captain Williamson said that he would inquire of the resident again to clarify. Commissioner Thoreson said that he did not believe the truck traffic could be restricted on West Street as it is a major road in the city. Councilor Cruise stated that if West Elm Street was restricted that might solve this resident's problem. He also asked for the traffic enforcement unit to monitor West Street for violators on a semi-regular basis. Commissioner Thoreson said that he travels West Elm Street 4 or 5 times a day and he will check to see if there are large trucks traveling there when he is there. Councilor Cruise stated that he did not want to place a restriction that then causes trucks to utilize the side streets and causes traffic problems on them.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

QUINCY STREET and COURT STREET

Request by Capt. Williamson on behalf of Mary O'Connell of 2 North Quincy Street, to review the intersection of Quincy Street & Court Street to come up with possible safety measures, perhaps a protective property barrier. The intersection is heavily travelled and has had numerous accidents involving damage to neighbors' property. Captain Williamson stated that this request was triggered by the recent accident at that location; although this resident was not directly affected that time. This resident lives on the northwest corner of the intersection.

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

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission