



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
May 23, 2013

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 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, D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson, Fire Chief Richard Francis and Councilor Dennis DeNapoli.

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor DeNapoli and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the April 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 this item is on the agenda for further review as it is a continuing problem. He stated that a vehicle traffic count has been done and asked how the process for an engineering study would be initiated. Commissioner Thoreson said that it may be a budgetary issue as they can be very expensive and Chief Francis suggested continuing the issue until July or August to see if more money can be requested from the City Council in a supplementary budget. Captain Williamson stated that he would like to have some facts and figures established for specific needs before going to Council. Ken Galligan recalled that the Commissioner had a conversation with the State engineers about having a 3-way stop intersection and the state said they would not support that idea. Commissioner Thoreson said that the state is not amenable to putting a stop sign on North Quincy Street and suggested possibly putting up chevron signs on the left hand side of the curve and that may alert people to the curve. The other suggestion from the state was to make sure the fog lines on the other side of the street on the inside curve side are painted so that they are visible. Commissioner Thoreson said that the state said that the stop sign would not solve the problem and would back up traffic on North Quincy Street and then the residents will not be able to get out of their driveways. He said that more signage could be authorized and that at least would be a proactive approach to solving the problem. Ken Galligan suggested a flashing arrow sign, similar to one on Centre Street at Short Street. It is a diamond shaped sign on a short post and has a flashing LED arrow. There is another one on Temple Street in Whitman and another one of a similar design on the Route 27 cutoff approaching North Pearl Street. Commissioner Thoreson said that he will talk with the state DOT again and see what their opinion is of placing the flashing arrow sign at that location. Ken Galligan suggested that Commissioner Thoreson also get a cost estimate from the state on that type of sign. Discussion was held as to the price of a full engineering study and what the Commission would be looking for as an end result. Ken Galligan stated that if the state has already indicated that they would not support a stop sign there then an engineering study would probably show the same thing. Ken Galligan stated that his feeling is that placing the flashing arrow sign would show the councilor and the neighbors that the Commission has taken a large step forward in trying to resolve the problem. Commissioner Thoreson said that he will also talk to a couple of traffic companies to get an idea of costs.

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

VOTED: To continue the matter to the June meeting for an update from Commissioner Thoreson on the state's opinion of a flashing arrow sign and other possible solutions.

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.

Captain Williamson stated that a letter had been received from that state saying they had no record of the sign being approved for that location and Commissioner Thoreson indicated that after they received that letter the sign was removed. It is believed that the sign was placed there during the reconstruction period and not removed.

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

VOTED: To take no action on this matter as the situation has been remedied.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION BUDGET

Request from Fire Chief Richard Francis to have the Traffic Commission members vote to send a letter to C.F.O. John Condon requesting an increase in funding for the Traffic Commission budget.

Captain Williamson stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and he feels that more specifics are needed before the Commission asks for more money, and that the budget was already submitted months ago. Chief Francis stated that the Commission could wait until the budgets are passed and then go in for a supplemental appropriation over the summer. He stated that he feels badly when councilors and residents come to the Traffic Commission with legitimate concerns and the Commission members cannot do anything because of a lack of funds. Captain Williamson informed the members that the budget is around \$205,000.00, with the majority of it for line painting and signage. The line painting and signs line item is \$155,000.00. Captain Williamson said that on a typical night it costs around \$10,000.00 for the line painting, and then there is the cost of the police detail that goes with the painting crew. Ken Galligan stated that he is concerned about maintaining the infrastructure and maybe there should be a specific line item for that, and for guardrails. Councilor DeNapoli stated that he cannot remember the Traffic Commission ever asking the Council for more money and Captain Williamson stated that Captain McCabe had requested a small increase on the line painting last year. Captain Williamson said that he would like to have a solid figure for guardrail placement or repair. Ken Galligan stated that new line items should be included in the next budget and Councilor DeNapoli stated that he could not see any councilor voting against an increase as it is a public safety issue. Councilor DeNapoli asked if the members could get a figure on the accidents where a traffic light is knocked over and there is no insurance reimbursement. Captain Williamson said that would not come through his office and Chief Francis said that he could check with Bartlett Consolidated for that information. Chief Francis asked who would have information on the price of guardrails or a flashing sign and Ken Galligan said that Kevin could call Bartlett Consolidated and they should be able to provide figures. Chief Francis said that he would work on that for a report for next month’s meeting. Ken Galligan said that one of the issues to be determined before going to Council for additional money is what department is responsible for repairs: is it the Traffic Commission or the D.P.W. Commissioner Thoreson stated that he does not have a line item for those repairs but normally his department does repair them.

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

VOTED: To continue this issue to the June meeting.

SCHOOL STREET PARKING

Request from Parking Clerk Patricia Florio to have the Traffic Commission review the parking spaces on School Street adjacent to City Hall to see if more parking spaces can be safely added to accommodate citizens visiting City Hall.

Captain Williamson said that the Subcommittee viewed the area and there is room for three additional spaces just west of the crosswalk. There is a “No Parking” side further up.

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

VOTED: To install three additional parking spaces on the south side of School Street westerly from the crosswalk .

MENLO STREET and ETRICK STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis Eaniri to have the Traffic Commission review the 4 way stop intersection of Menlo Street and Ettrick Street and consider if the intersection needs more signage. A recent crash at the intersection caused significant property damage to a neighbor’s fence.

Captain Williamson stated that the Subcommittee viewed the area and there are visibility issues there and the recommendation is that double stop signs be placed in each direction and also a “Stop Ahead” sign at every approach. There are poor sight lines there and that is the reason for the recommendation. Ken Galligan asked if there would be 8 stop signs and Captain Williamson said 8 “Stop” signs and 4 “Stop Ahead” signs. There was also discussion about placing the red reflective lines and Ken Galligan stated that the “Stop Ahead” signs should have the yellow reflective stripe and the “Stop” signs would have the red reflective stripe.

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

VOTED: To place double “Stop” signs (8 total) and 4 “Stop Ahead” signs at the intersection of Menlo Street and Ettrick Street with red reflective tape on the “Stop” signs and yellow reflective tape on the “Stop Ahead” signs.

GLOBE ROAD

Request from Councilor Tim Cruise on behalf of Christopher Corteau of 21 Globe Road to have “Go Slow Children” or similar signs installed in front of his house.

Chief Francis suggested that this matter be referred to Subcommittee for review.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to SUBCOMMITTEE for review.

Informally the members also voted to refer the following streets to Subcommittee for review for signs similar to those requested for Globe Road:

- Leah Drive** on the low number side;
- Cathy Lane;** and
- Cumberland Drive.**

MAIN STREET at NORTH MAIN STREET CROSSWALK

Request from the office of Mayor Balzotti requesting that the Traffic Commission review the possibility of adding a crosswalk on Main Street, more specifically from Brockton Cable Access (1 North Main Street) to the Irving's store (10 North Main Street).

Upon motion being 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.

WEST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Captain Williamson received a request from Officer Scott Uhlman, Code Enforcement Officer, to designate a portion of the parking lot at West Junior High as either a Fire Lane or a No Parking area. The area is the easternmost section of the parking lot between the entrance and the exit. Councilor DeNapoli asked if that was in front of the school and Captain Williamson stated that it is in front of the parking lot, beside the school. Cars park there to pick up or drop off students and possibly park there at other times during the day and if a fire truck had to get in there would be a problem as it narrows the roadway.

Matter referred to SUBCOMMITTEE for review.

WARREN AVENUE

Councilor DeNapoli asked if the Subcommittee could informally view the area on Warren Avenue from School Street (High Street) to West Elm Street, that the lines be painted as there are three lanes there and the right lane should be right lane only. The sign is too close to the corner and the whole intersection is a mess and traffic backs up.

Ken Galligan brought up for discussion that the Brockton Fair is coming and he questioned whether the Traffic Commission needed to vote on the posting of the "resident only" parking for that area and also where West Street is made one way northerly from Forest Avenue to Belmont Street (next to the Fairgrounds). Captain Williamson and Councilor DeNapoli both stated that it has been done for years and Ken Galligan stated that in years past he believed that the Traffic Commission voted on it and a legal notice was published in the paper. Discussion was held as to whether the Commission voted to post it "annually" so that a vote did not need to be taken every year.

There being no further business to come before the members, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Thoreson, seconded by Councilor Dennis DeNapoli and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission