



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION

The Traffic Commission held its combined November/December meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 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, Fire Chief Richard Francis, Ken Goldblatt and Councilor Dennis DeNapoli. Councilor Todd Petti, Paul Sullivan and Commissioner Thoreson were unable to attend. Also present were City Councilors Michelle Dubois, Dennis Eaniri and Paul Studenski, as well as many residents.

Upon motion made by Dennis DeNapoli, seconded by Ken Galligan and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the November 7, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes.

As a courtesy to the councilors and residents present, several items were taken out of order.

BOUNDARY AVENUE and NORTH QUINCY STREET

Request from Captain Steven Williamson and Councilor Michelle Dubois on behalf of residents of the area to have the Traffic Commission review the area of North Quincy Street and Boundary Avenue due to the amount and serious nature of accidents at that location. *Update from November 7, 2013 Special Meeting.*

Captain Williamson reviewed the recommendations that were made at the November 2, 2013 Special Meeting and said that most of the signs have been installed at this time. Ken Galligan asked if the Town of Abington was going to cut back the vegetation on the southeast corner and Captain Williamson said that some has already been cut back. The residents stated that some was cut but not enough and Councilor Dubois said that they were looking for ten feet to be cut back. Captain Williamson informed the residents that the draft road safety audit report had been received and if anyone wanted a copy they could email to swilliamson@brocktonpolice.com and he would provide them a copy. Councilor Dubois said that she would also forward the report to the residents on her email list. Captain Williamson indicated that this was still a draft report so that changes could still be made. Frank Chaplin asked if there were any decisions made by the state and Captain Williamson said that the final determinations had not yet been made. He said that he has reviewed the report, which is lengthy, and it includes traffic counts and possible solutions but it is still a work in progress. Councilor Dubois asked if it would be beneficial to send the draft report to the residents and they could give back their opinions and input and Captain Williamson said that he would forward their opinions to the state but that they were already in the process of doing the final draft of the report as they have already asked for feedback. Frank Chaplin asked if the street was going to be one-way temporarily and Captain Williamson said that it could be discussed but he did not believe that would happen yet as there are still other streets that have to be considered as they

would be impacted. Frank Chaplin asked if there were any new information on the blinking light and Chief Francis indicated that he had received an email stated that it was not feasible for the Fire Department Signal Division to erect a mast arm signal with a flashing light at the intersection of North Quincy Street and Boundary Avenue and that the placement of any traffic control device must be designed by an engineer following an engineering study, and would require core testing to assess the ability of the soil to support a mast arm foundation. Chief Francis said that he went as far as he could in that direction but the flashing signal could not be installed. A resident asked if it was up to Brockton to make a decision on the one-way street and Ken Galligan stated that the Traffic Commission is deeply involved in trying to rectify this situation and are working toward a traffic signal installation, but the Commission does not want to do anything that goes against the State's recommendations, as the city has to work in tandem with the state. Captain Williamson said that the report lists all the different safety issues and possible enhancements but the final recommendations have not been rendered yet. David Killefer said that he is encouraged by the actions that have been taken and that the visibility is a lot better. He has two suggestions that things that would be helpful: (1) right at the corner there is a fire hydrant and in the winter it becomes buried with snow and he would request that the Fire Department put a reflective post on it so that it can be seen; and (2) on Chestnut Street if they could groove the pavement near Abington Glen and also one set at the water tower, and that would slow cars down. Ken Galligan asked if the street lights have been changed to high intensity sodium vapor lights and Mr. Chaplin said that they have been installed and the residents agreed that it is much lighter now. Ken Galligan stated that the Abington side was very dark and lights need to be installed there. Ken Galligan thought that the idea of the grooves in the road was a good idea.

Ken Galligan said that the community involvement with the neighbors bringing the issues to the Traffic Commission's attention has been a great help, and that changes would definitely be made but that certain procedures have to be followed and that the steps taken so far have made the intersection safer and the Commission will keep moving forward on the issue. Discussion was held regarding the fence on the southwest corner property and Councilor Dubois asked if the residents could talk to the owner of the property regarding the visibility issue and sight lines. Councilor Dubois said that there is a city ordinance that if you live on a corner nothing can be placed that will obstruct the view within twenty feet of that corner. The residents indicated that the property owner is a good guy and they would prefer to go to him informally. Captain Williamson requested that the residents inform him if the property owner is willing to move the fence. A resident stated that there are no sidewalks on Boundary Avenue and the children getting off the school bus have to walk in the street. Captain Williamson said that sidewalks is one of the enhancements being considered by the state and might be done if the intersection is reconstructed. Ken Galligan stated that if the state engineers the intersection for traffic signals there will be a road widening, land taking and most likely sidewalks installed, with handicapped ramps and the project will probably also include some land taking. The residents stated that if it would make the area safer then they would be okay with land taking. Councilor Dubois asked about the roundabout and the residents viewed a picture of a suggested roundabout, with several residents expressing that they liked the idea. Chief Francis stated that the roundabout could take the same amount of time as the traffic signal and could be as expensive. Captain Williamson reiterated that the state would make the final recommendation as to what action would be taken at the intersection, although they might ask for more input from the city.

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

VOTED: To continue the matter until the final report from the State is received.

GRAFTON STREET and MYRTLE STREET

Request from Mayor Balzotti and Councilor Dennis Eaniri on behalf of the residents (signed petition attached) to have the Traffic Commission consider modifying the intersection of Grafton and Myrtle Streets to a 4-way stop intersection due to the issue of individuals traveling this area at speeds in extreme excess of the speed limit.

Subcommittee recommends:

- 1. Installing two 30 MPH signs on Grafton St as follows: one on pole #32 so that it may be viewed by southbound traffic; one opposite to pole #41 so that it may be viewed by northbound traffic.**
- 2. Installing 2 double stop signs (4 total) on Grafton St at Myrtle St in each direction.**
- 3. Installing 2 “Stop Ahead” signs on Grafton St as follows: one on pole #36 so that it may be viewed by southbound traffic; one near the northeast corner of Grafton St and Custer St so that it may be viewed by northbound traffic.**
- 4. Tree trimming to provide a clear view of street signs as follows: the southeast corner of Grafton St and Myrtle St; the northeast corner of Grafton St and Custer St.**
- 5. Installing a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign on the northbound side of Grafton St 50’ south of Forest Av.**

Captain Williamson informed the residents present that there had to be a publication of the additional Stop signs before they could be installed, so that the entire process should take 4 to 6 weeks for them to be installed, allowing for the publication, ordering the signs and then installation.

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

VOTED: To install the signs as recommended by the Subcommittee.

BROOKSIDE AVENUE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski at the request of residents to have the Traffic Commission re-review the parking restrictions on Brookside Avenue.

Captain Williamson gave a summary of the original request from Councilor Eaniri and the recommendations from the Subcommittee that the restricted parking originally be on the south side of the street, but that there was a problem with a gas line and Digsafe issue where the signs were to be placed. The decision was then made to make the parking restriction on the opposite side of the street. George Brickhouse of 141 Brookside Avenue stated that it is his understanding there was no resident involvement with the decision to make the parking restriction on the other side of the street and Captain Williamson informed him that neighbors had made the request to Councilor Eaniri and their concern was parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Brickhouse said that with Brookside Avenue being a residential street with different age groups, parking on both sides of the street slows the traffic down and now with parking on only one side of the street the speed has increased. John Hefler said that the street has now become a raceway. Captain Williamson said that the street had recently been paved and traffic speeds always increase when new paving is done. John Hefler said that another problem is that on the northerly side of Brookside Avenue there are no less than seven multi-family homes and on the southerly side of the street there is one duplex with a full parking lot of off-street parking and then single family homes. He said that the majority of the people parking on street are people that live on the other side of the street and then have to cross the street to get to their apartments and they may have to transition down the street as they

may not be able to park directly across from their homes. John Hefler said that another problem he has with the parking restriction is that the northerly side of the street is in Ward 3 and the southerly side of the street is Ward 4, and this restriction has literally taken cars from Ward 3 and dumped them into Ward 4, and there was no communication to the residents of Ward 4 that this would happen. Captain Williamson asked what the primary issues are and the residents said that the inconvenience to the people living on the northerly side of the street is one issue and secondly a raceway has been created for cars to go from Copeland Street to Main Street. Another resident indicated that with parking on both sides of the street, cars have to navigate the road and therefore have to go slower. John Hefler said that fire apparatus has no problem going up the street, and that Clifton Avenue is 2 blocks down and that can be a cut-through instead of Brookside Avenue. In fact he said that trucks are restricted from the street. Captain Williamson said that his concern is that there were neighbors that wanted the restricted parking and that is the reason that the Traffic Commission took action. Mr. Brickhouse asked if there was a petition of a majority of the residents of Brookside Avenue asking for the restriction to be revised would it make a difference. Ken Galligan stated that this is a major street in the city and that what he has observed is that most of the cars have always parked on the northerly side of that street. He said that the Subcommittee recommended that parking should be allowed on the northerly side and prohibited on the southerly side, which would enhance the flow of traffic and make it a safer street but then it came back to the Commission that the gas main was a problem causing serious concern about putting posts in the ground which could rupture the gas line. In deference to that, the restriction was shifted to the opposite side of the street. Ken Galligan suggested that the commission could take another look at the street and the gas main. John Hefler said that he had suggested that the No Parking signs are placed in conjunction with telephone poles and if the signs are placed on the telephone poles then the Digsafe issue would be avoided. Captain Williamson said that the even numbered side of the street has poles, but the section where there are no poles is where the gas line is, and that is the problem. John Hefler said that his brother-in-law is an inspector for the gas company and he said that either side of the road would be a Digsafe issue as both sides of the street would have gas lines. Ken Galligan said that there is a preference to place signs on light poles so that they cannot be knocked over and also that on the north side of the street is where the fire hydrants are located, so that if there is no parking on that side then during the winter months the Fire Department has easier access to the hydrants. Captain Williamson suggested referring the matter back to Subcommittee for further review.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

MILL STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis Eaniri to have the Traffic Commission review the area of Mill Street to determine what measures can be taken to make motorists aware that Mill Street is a dead end street.

Subcommittee recommends:

1. Installing a “All Through Traffic Must Turn Left Ahead” sign on Mill St just south of Shields Av.
2. Moving the street light from pole #1 to pole#3.

Councilor Eaniri requested that the light not be moved to another pole, but rather to leave that light there and he will request an additional light on the second pole.

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

VOTED: To install an “All Through Traffic Must Turn Left Ahead” sign on Mill Street just south of Shields Avenue ; to leave the street light on pole #1 and to recommend that a second high intensity sodium vapor light be installed on pole #3.

EAST STREET and SUMMER STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of a resident to have a guardrail installed at the corner of East Street and Summer Street.

Councilor Studenski stated that this is a multiple-accident intersection and he is looking to have a guardrail installed on the northeast corner of East Street. The fence there has been knocked down a couple of times and the pole has been hit also. The fence on the southeast corner is also missing, and he believes that speed is a serious factor at this location.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

PINE STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of a resident to have the Traffic Commission review the signage on Pine Street as drivers are traveling the wrong direction on the one way street.

Councilor Studenski said the residents have reported that cars coming off of Crescent Street and making a left turn onto Pine Street and driving the wrong way. Ken Galligan said that this was an issue several years ago and he believes that “Wrong Way” signs were placed on Pine Street. Captain Williamson said that there may be an issue up near Taylor Avenue also and Chief Francis suggesting sending the matter to Subcommittee for review.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

BACKLUND DRIVE at EAST STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Mr. Sullivan to have a Stop Sign installed at the intersection of Backlund Drive and East Street.

Councilor Studenski said that the resident has a concern that people do not slow down or stop at the intersection and now it is a newly paved street and the problem has become worse.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

NORTHFIELD STREET at SNELL PLACE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Mr. Pina to have the Traffic Commission consider restrict parking on Snell Place as cars are blocking access to his driveway.

Councilor Studenski stated that the resident lives on Northfield Street but his driveway is on Snell Place and cars are parking behind his driveway and blocking so that he cannot exit the driveway.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

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.

Subcommittee recommends: Obtaining a cost analysis for installing road reflectors along the center line of North Quincy St at North Cary St.

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 January meeting.

BELMONT STREET

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have a "Right Turn Only" lane on Belmont Street at the entrance to Brockton High School from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily.

Subcommittee recommends: Taking no action. A "Right Turn Only" lane would create a possible hazardous situation where through traffic would be forced to merge from two through lanes into one lane.

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.

EMERALD STREET

A request from Capt Steven Williamson, on behalf of Janette Butner of 9 Emerald St, to install "Caution Blind Person" signs on Emerald Street.

Subcommittee recommends:

1. Installing 2 "Caution Blind Person" signs as follows: one on Emerald St pole #1 so that it may be viewed by southbound traffic; one on James St pole #4 so that it may be viewed by eastbound traffic.
2. Installing a "Handicapped Parking" sign 5' north of the driveway at #9 Emerald St. The sign shall be placed on the inside part of the sidewalk adjacent to the stone wall of #9 Emerald St.
3. Placing two "Emerald St" signs at each end of the street as the signs are missing.

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

VOTED: To install the signs as recommended by the Subcommittee above.

MORAIN STREET at PARK ROAD

Request from Capt Williamson and Councilor Tim Cruise on behalf of neighbor Robert Clemens to consider a 4-way stop at the intersection of Moraine St & Park Rd.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

84 ELLIS STREET

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan on behalf of resident Lucy Easler to have an HP sign installed in front of her home at 84 Ellis Street.

Ken Galligan requested that Ms. Easler provide medical documentation of the need for an HP sign.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

COPELAND STREET and CLIFTON AVENUE

Request from Capt Williamson, of behalf of neighbor Mike George, to have the Traffic Commission consider putting more signage at the intersection. Perhaps a double stop sign and a "Stop Ahead" sign on Clifton Av approaching Copeland St. There is a guardrail opposite of the Clifton Av stop sign that has been struck several times.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Chief Francis 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

A request from Capt Steven Williamson for a status review.

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

VOTED: To continue the matter to the next meeting.

EAST ASHLAND STREET and NORTH CARY STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis DeNapoli to have the Traffic Commission review the intersection of East Ashland Street and North Cary Street to see if new signage and line painting is needed.

Councilor Dennis DeNapoli said that if you are driving down East Ashland Street, the little island between Sidelines and the gas station is very flat and the “Keep Right” signs that used to be there have been knocked down. Ken Galligan said that the island needs two “Keep Right” signs, one on each end and they should have yellow reflective tape on the poles.

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

VOTED: To place two “Keep Right” signs on poles with yellow reflective tape on the island on North Cary Street south of East Ashland Street, one in each direction.

WEST ELM STREET and ASH STREET

Request from Mayor Balzotti and Councilor Cruise that the intersection of West Elm Street and Ash Street be placed on the Traffic Commission agenda for review. There was a recent accident there, in which a vehicle ended up on the lawn of 374 West Elm Street, and the resident there is asking about boulders, etc. between now and the time the lights are installed as part of the planned work at that area.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION BUDGET

Review of the FY2014 budget to discuss requesting additional funding to cover infrastructure maintenance and repair.

After discussion on the budget requests for FY2015, no further action was taken on this matter.

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

VOTED: To adjourn.

Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission