



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION

The Traffic Commission held its rescheduled monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Captain Robert DiBari. Members present were: Kenneth Galligan, Fire Chief Richard Francis, D.P.W. Commissioner Michael Thoreson and Councilor Moises Rodrigues. Unable to attend were Councilor Dennis Eaniri, Paul Sullivan and Ken Goldblatt. Also present were City Councilors Michelle Dubois, Paul Studenski and Shirley Asack, as well as several residents.

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Chief Francis and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the December 5, 2013 and January 23, 2014 Minutes. As a courtesy to the councilors and residents present, several items were taken out of order.

180 CARL AVENUE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Louise O'Connor that a barrier be placed in front of her house at 180 Carl Avenue as her house has been hit twice.

Councilor Studenski explained that Carl Avenue has recently been repaved and because of this change, there is speeding on this street. Mrs. O'Connor's house has almost been hit and her fence has been torn down twice within a short amount of time. This house is at the intersection of Carl Avenue and Southfield Drive and traffic traveling from north to south is the problem. Mrs. O'Connor stated that the most recent accident was 12:30 at night and a car came right into her son's room and smashed the house. The car went through her fence and two cement blocks before it hit the house. It took from July until Thanksgiving to make the house repairs, and then a month later another car ran the stop sign, hit a car and took the fence down again. The intersection has gotten very busy; she has been there over thirty years without a problem and now there are problems every day. She would like to have a barrier of some kind on the corner lot to stop the cars. Councilor Studenski added that this house sits back off the road quite a bit and still is getting hit because the cars are going so fast. Mrs. O'Connor's son said that the last accident involved a 13 year old girl who tore up the fence which was cemented in, two cinder blocks, two birdhouses which were cemented in, and then hit the house and the car ended up inside his room. Ken Galligan asked if they had any idea as to what kind of barrier they would want, and Mrs. O'Connor said that she would like a guardrail on the corner of the lot. Ken Galligan asked if there was a lot of traffic on Southfield Drive and they stated that there was an average amount of traffic but there is also a school close by and they are concerned with the children walking home from school with the cars speeding by. Ken Galligan asked if traffic information could be provided regarding accidents at that location, looking for volume of traffic and speeding accidents.

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.

A brief discussion was held as to when the next Subcommittee meeting should be held. It was determined that the next Subcommittee meeting should be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

RODWELL STREET

Request from Councilor Michelle Dubois on behalf of a resident of Rodwell Street to have a "Caution Autistic Child" sign placed on the corner of Rodwell Street and Keswick Road.

Councilor Michelle DuBois stated that a doctor's note had been submitted to the Traffic Commission stating that it would be in the best interest of the child (Josiah) living on Rodwell Street to have a sign placed on the street. Donna Nixon from Brockton Area ARC works with the family and explained that Josiah is a 9 year old boy with limited verbal skills and no safety skills and one of the programs that they are working with him this summer is teaching him how to ride a bike and they are concerned for his safety. The mother would like the sign placed before Rodwell Street on Keswick Road, because Keswick Road is the street where the speeding occurs. Councilor DuBois stated that she believes the sign should not be placed directly in front of the child's home for safety purposes also. Commissioner Thoreson asked if they want the sign facing on Rodwell Street, or on Keswick and Ms. Nixon said on Keswick Road. Ken Galligan said that most likely two signs would be installed on Keswick Road both northbound and southbound and Councilor DuBois said that would be wonderful.

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.

BELAIR STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack to have the Traffic Commission review the speeding issue on Belair Street and to place more speed limit signs on the street.

Councilor Asack said that this issue came up when the street was repaved and she has had several constituents contact her regarding the speeding on the street. She stated that there is no real signage on the street except for one which is faded and bent and not readable. Councilor Asack said that she is also concerned because the George School is close by on Colonel Bell Drive.

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.

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.

Subcommittee recommends that DPW Commissioner Thoreson report back with further information about whether moving the "No Parking" restriction to the odd side of the street is a viable option. Commissioner Thoreson stated that he would have an answer back to the Commission by the end of the week.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

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.

Subcommittee recommends installing guardrail on the northeast corner of East St and Summer St should funding become available.

Councilor Studenski said that he would be happy with the Subcommittee recommendation.

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

VOTED: To install a guardrail on the northeast corner of East Street and Summer Street , providing funding become available.

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.

Subcommittee recommends installing 2 “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” signs on Pine St at Kingman Av, 1 on each side of the street; installing 2 “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” signs on Pine St at Taylor Av, 1 on each side of the street; installing 2 “Do Not Enter” signs on Pine St at Hammond St, 1 on each side of the street; installing 1 additional “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” sign on Pine St at Crescent St, just west of the driveway at #299 Pine St near the telephone pole.

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

VOTED: To install two “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” signs on Pine Street at Kingman Avenue, one on each side of the street; to install two “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” signs on Pine Street at Taylor Avenue, one on each side of the street; to install two “Do Not Enter” signs on Pine Street at Hammond Street, one on each side of the street; and to install one additional “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” sign on Pine Street at Crescent Street, just west of the driveway at #299 Pine Street near the telephone pole.

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.

Subcommittee recommends installing a Stop Sign on Backlund Drive at East Street. The sign can be attached to the existing “Backlund Drive” street sign post.

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

VOTED: to install a Stop Sign on Backlund Drive at East Street. The sign can be attached to the existing “Backlund Drive” street sign post.

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.

Subcommittee recommends installing 2 “No Parking This Side” on the odd-side of Snell Place in the following locations: near the property line dividing 9 Snell Place and 1007 Montello St; near the west property line of 13 Snell Place near the end of the street.

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

VOTED: To install two ‘No Parking This Side’ signs on the odd side of Snell Place in the following locations: near the property line dividing 9 Snell Place and 1007 Montello Street; and near the west property line of 13 Snell Place near the end of the street.

(On discussion on the motion, Ken Galligan said that as you turn onto Snell Place from Montello Street there would be no parking on the right hand side, and then at the little stub at the end of the street there will be no parking from the end of that dead end portion, which would free up his driveway. Commissioner Thoreson concurred.)

144 FIELD STREET

Request from Councilor Michelle Dubois on behalf of Mike Kelly of Foot Joy to have the Traffic Commission review the area in the vicinity of 144 Field Street and the crosswalk across the street to 7 Spark Street as pedestrians are having difficulty crossing the street as traffic fails to yield to them. Also, a request for signage to be added to make the crosswalk more obvious to drivers.

Councilor DuBois stated that she received an email from a manager of Foot Joy, who came to the last meeting but was unavailable for this night’s meeting. Councilor DuBois said that he is still getting a lot of complaints because they have 30 employees working there every day and cars do not slow down to allow for foot traffic. He would like to have the crosswalks repainted in the spring, signage warning drivers that there is a crosswalk ahead and some traffic enforcement. She stated that there is a big walking route there too, with people using the commuter rail and then walking home that way. She feels that multiple problems could be addressed and resolved. Discussion was held as to the correct location of the crosswalks and it was determined that the location would be on Intervale Street not Spark Street. Ken Galligan suggested that when the Subcommittee views the area that possibly the crosswalk should be closer to Intervale Street rather than in mid-block. Ken Galligan said that when the employees leave Foot Joy and head west, when they go passed the intersection where Intervale Street is, that would be the logical place to have the crosswalk. Councilor DuBois said that she thinks the location of the current crosswalk is at the intersection of Intervale and Field Streets. Councilor DuBois said that she will confirm with the manager of Foot Joy as to the requested crosswalk location and provide the information to the Traffic Commission.

Upon motion duly made by Chief Francis, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson 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.

Continued to discuss the status of obtaining a cost analysis for installing road reflectors along the center line of North Quincy St at North Cary St.

Councilor DuBois stated that two or three meetings ago this was on the Agenda and the residents were looking for signage with the chevron curve ahead signs on North Quincy Street before the 3-way

intersection where there is a curve in the road and a great deal of speeding. Chief Francis said that one of the issues with that project is that funding is needed and Commissioner Thoreson said that he has an application for signage improvements along high-crash curves from Mass. Highway. He stated that the Traffic Commission could work with the OCPC to apply for the grant. Councilor DuBois said that she would gladly help with a grant application also. Commissioner Thoreson said that he will also follow up on prices for the chevron type signs. Ken Galligan said that it had also been previously discussed to place reflectors in the blacktop along the yellow lines and Commissioner Thoreson said that the person from whom he requested pricing information has not gotten back to him with the information. Councilor DuBois said that it has been a long time working on this intersection and Ken Galligan stated that to date there have been reflective signs installed, curve ahead warning signs have been installed, and the yellow lines in the roadway are now very prominent. Councilor DuBois said that she would also like to bring up the issue of North Cary where it comes together with North Quincy Street and that snowplow operators tend to pile the snow at the intersection, which further impairs the site line and she requested that they be made aware that this presents a problem for drivers.

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 with the anticipation of receiving a report from the D.P.W. Commissioner.

(Councilor DuBois asked the members when she should inform the residents to return to a Traffic Commission meeting for further discussion on this issue, and she was informed that this issue would be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.)

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.

Subcommittee recommends leaving the intersection as a 2-way stop as, according to MUTCD, it does not appear to meet the criteria for a 4-way stop; installing double-stop signs on Park Rd at Moraine St in each direction.

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

VOTED: To install double Stop Signs on Park Road at Moraine Street in each direction and that this intersection not be made a 4-way stop.

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.

Subcommittee recommends installing a handicapped parking sign in front of 84 Ellis St approximately 20' north of the driveway at #84

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

VOTED: To install a Handicapped parking sign in front of 84 Ellis Street approximately 20 feet north of the driveway at #84 Ellis Street.

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 Avenue stop sign that has been struck several times.

Subcommittee recommends installing double-stop signs on Clifton Ave at Copeland St; installing a "Stop Ahead" on Clifton Av approximately 100 feet prior to the intersection.

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

VOTED: To install double Stop Signs on Clifton Avenue at Copeland Street and to install a "Stop Ahead" sign on Clifton Avenue approximately 100 feet prior to the intersection.

PLEASANT STREET and WEST STREET INTERSECTION

A request from Capt Steven Williamson for a status review.

This item was held for further discussion upon final approval of changes by the MaDOT.

Commissioner Thoreson said that he received a letter from MaDOT last week that states that the recommended changes that the city presented to them have been approved. Commissioner Thoreson wrote them another letter to get one final approval from the traffic group in Boston to see when the city will get the final approval and who will pay for the changes. Commissioner Thoreson said that he should have a response back by the March meeting and at that time he will bring in a cost estimate for the changes. Councilor Rodrigues said that one of the issues he has looked at with regard to this intersection is that an easier solution might be to put green arrows on the lights that tell you to turn right onto West Street. He believes that coming off Reynolds Memorial Highway, drivers see the green lights and it takes a few seconds before drivers realize that although there is a green light, there is also a red light for turning left onto Pleasant Street. If drivers are not paying serious attention they see the green light and think they can go left onto Pleasant Street. He believes that most of the driver errors occur with cars taking the left onto Pleasant Street on a red light instead of going straight ahead onto West Street. Ken Galligan stated that this was discussed previously and the reason it cannot be done is that if there is an exclusive arrow for West Street, it tells the driver that you have the exclusive right to go onto West Street when in actuality a car coming north on West Street that wants to make a left turn onto Pleasant Street would also have a green light and would cut right in front of the other car. Ken Galligan said that what the plan is, is to have an extra cycle in the light: to make West Street going north have their own light; then cars coming down the route 27 cutoff would have their exclusive light. Captain Leon McCabe stated that he was involved with this project as Traffic Commissioner at the beginning and most of the accidents are drivers coming out of West Street, who see the two lanes stopped and they proceed not realizing that the other two lanes have a green light. He agreed with the recommendations stated by Ken Galligan; if West Street is green then Reynolds is red. Councilor Rodrigues was concerned that the extra cycle would cause traffic backups and Captain McCabe said that safety had to be the priority and Ken Galligan and Commissioner Thoreson agreed. Councilor Rodrigues asked if there is something that can be done immediately and stated that the city is the 4th largest municipality in the Commonwealth and the city cannot sit back and wait until the state makes a final decision. He asked if there was something that the city can do. Chief Francis said that if the city touches the lights and there is then an accident that the city becomes liable. Ken Galligan said that this has already been done and the final approvals are coming soon. The members agreed to continue this matter pending final approval from the State.

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. Subcommittee recommends taking no action. Double-stop signs are already installed and a large boulder has already been placed on the lawn at #374 which, along with the trees, appears to provide ample protection of the property. Also, the intersection is scheduled to be reconfigured in the near future including the installation of a traffic signal.

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

VOTED: To take no action on this matter.

50 WINTER STREET

Request from Captain Williamson on behalf of resident Katelyn Nee and her mother to have a Handicapped Parking sign installed on the Douglas Avenue side of the property at 50 Winter Street near the walkway leading to the home. Ken Galligan asked if there was any doctor's note on this request and requested that one be provided by the family prior to the final determination.

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 with the anticipation that documentation will be received indicating the need for a handicapped parking spot.

ADAMS STREET

Request from Captain Williamson on behalf of resident Stephen Cook to consider a parking restriction, perhaps "No Parking" or "Resident Parking" on Adams Street.

Commissioner Thoreson asked whether this request was intended for the entire street and Ken Galligan recalled that previously there was residents only parking on the west side of Adams Street from Quincy Avenue south, in front of the 3 houses. The house on the corner was addressed when cars were blocking their driveway.

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.

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

VOTED: To adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission