



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
September 25, 2014

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. Present were Traffic Commissioner Captain Robert DiBari, Ken Galligan, Acting D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, Councilor Moises Rodrigues and Councilor Dennis Eaniri. Unable to be present were Mort Schleffer and Ross Messina. Also present were Officer Bill Healy, Councilor Shirley Asack, Councilor Tom Monahan, and Councilor Robert Sullivan with Tommy Sullivan, as well as Crown Linen representatives George Spilios and Joe Mulvey, and residents Chet Young, School Committeeman Ray Henningson, Fred Noonan, Andrea Neal and Virginia Brady.

Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Councilor Dennis Eaniri and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the August Minutes.

HERROD AVENUE

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of the Labossierre family to have an "Autistic Child" sign installed in front of their property at 79 Harrod Avenue.

Subcommittee recommended installing an "Autistic Child" sign on the property line between #63 and #67 Herrod Avenue.

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

VOTED: To install an "Autistic Child" sign on the property line between #63 and #69 Herrod Avenue.

GORDON STREET

Request from Councilor Dennis Eaniri to have a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign installed on the telephone pole closest to Forest Avenue on the west side of Gordon Street for traffic headed southerly. Subcommittee recommended:

Take the Pedestrian sign off of pole #1 and put it on pole #2.

Install a "No Parking Corner to Here" sign on pole #1.

There will be no parking on the west side of Gordon Street southerly from the corner of Forrest Ave to pole #1.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Dennis Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To proceed as recommended by the Subcommittee.

MORSE AVENUE

Request from Councilor Dennis Eaniri to have the Traffic Commission review the issue of truck traffic on Morse Avenue and Neubert Street.

Councilor Robert Sullivan, Councilor-at-Large and City Council President, spoke on behalf of resident Paul Murphy, who brought to his attention that Sysco Commercial trucks are using Morse Avenue on a regular basis to bring food products to Westside Pizza. On both sides of Morse Avenue there are “No Thru Truck” signs posted and he is concerned and would request that the matter to sent to Subcommittee to look at the situation. Councilor Sullivan said that it is a public safety issue, although it is a gray area, and he has called the vice president of Sysco and spoke with him a few weeks prior. Paul Murphy stated that he was before the Commission in July of 2013 with Councilor Jass Stewart and “No Thru Truck” signs were posted on Morse Avenue and Neubert Street. Mr. Murphy stated that there are no businesses on Morse Avenue or Neubert Street so any trucks coming through to deliver to Westside Pizza or Bank Santander are using these streets as a cut-through. He has no problem with fuel oil trucks or delivery trucks, but he has a problem with trucks using these streets for their convenience. He stated that there are many children on the street. He stated that the trucks that use the streets are obeying the residential, thickly-settled speed limit but that it is a dangerous situation because it is a residential street with many children. Mr. Murphy stated that Rick Jordan, Vice-President of Operations for Sysco Foods spoke with Mr. Murphy and told him that Captain DiBari said that the use of Neubert Street to turn right onto Morse Avenue to deliver at Westside Foods was okay. Captain DiBari stated that he did tell him that. Mr. Murphy said that this perturbed him, because there is a restriction in place and he believes that this includes from Torrey Street to West Elm Street, Neubert Street to Morse Avenue. He said that Westside Foods and Santander Bank are not on Morse Avenue and trucks that service these places are “through trucks”. Mr. Murphy also stated that the tenants at 75 Morse Avenue are contractors for Jordan Furniture and Collins Movers with large trucks so maybe they can get away with coming into the neighborhood and dropping off people who live at 75 Morse Avenue but what he doesn’t like is the fact that they park there overnight. Because they are neighbors he is not going to harp on that issue and he realizes that the enforcement pressures of the Brockton Police Department make it difficult to enforce but he would like traffic enforcement to occasionally leave a ticket to dissuade them from parking at 75 Morse Avenue. He is hoping that Sysco Foods and all other companies that use this neighborhood are good neighbors and will help out. Captain DiBari stated that he spoke with Rick Jordan, and there was a different tone to their conversation and he also spoke with another gentleman from Sysco, who was looking to see whatever they could do to make everyone happy. Captain DiBari was not aware that there was a truck restriction on Neubert Street, but he told them to continue doing what they were doing as it is the only way to service Westside Pizza. He did not feel that it was being used as a convenience or cut-through and that the no through trucks designation was more for trucks who might be trying to avoid traffic lines and cut over. He does not feel that this is the case in this situation, and the trucks are coming down West Street, taking a left onto Neubert Street and a right on Morse Avenue so that they can come up behind Westside Pizza, make a delivery and then go out to Torrey Street. He feels that this is the best way for deliveries to be made without tying up traffic on Torrey Street. Mr. Murphy said that is not his problem and he has seen Sysco semi trucks come from Torrey Street, left onto Morse Avenue, down far enough and back in, and that is acceptable to him because there are fewer homes affected. He said that for him the solution is to restrict them completely from that street: figure it out. Mr. Murphy stated that he gave Sysco Foods a suggestion that they park on West Street and talk to the owner of Dunkin Donuts and get an okay from then to cross over their property with their 2-wheelers and deliver to Westside Pizza. Captain DiBari asked what time deliveries are made and Mr. Murphy stated that there are different times of the day, so Captain DiBari said that it would not be feasible to try to cross over the Dunkin Donuts property. Mr. Murphy said that are far as he is concerned these are infractions and he realizes the enforcement issue is

tough but for him when he sees the trucks he is going to report it. He said it is absurd that this small neighborhood is being invaded by these large trucks and that Sysco Foods should be able to figure this out. Councilor Sullivan stated that he is not trying to diminish Westside Pizza's longstanding great business in the community and that Sysco has been delivering there for a long time, and he wondered what they did before they used Morse Avenue. Mr. Murphy stated that anything that can be done to help, he really appreciates.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

CROWN LINEN

Request from the members to have representatives from Crown Linen appear before the Traffic Commission to discuss the traffic routes and traffic impact of their new business on Battles Street.

George Spilios and Joe Mulvey from Crown Linen appeared to speak with the Commissioner members. Mr. Spilios stated that they care very much for the safety of the residential neighborhood and they have done their best to clean up the surrounding area and to improve the visibility of Battles Street. Five days a week between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00 a.m. Crown Linen has ten trucks that are departing and those same trucks return in the afternoon between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. In addition, there are 2 trailers and a straight truck. There are 3 entrances to the property; one is at 309 Battles Street and is an employee only entrance with no trucks entering or leaving. The drivers are instructed that if they are going right on Oak Street they are to leave towards the church and take a right turn. If they are taking a left turn, then they exit right on Battles Street at the exit near CVS and then take a left turn onto Oak Street. Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan asked whether the official address for the facility is 309 Battles Street and stated that if drivers are following gps then they would end up on Battles Street. Mr. Spilios stated that there will be signs placed on the employee entrance stating that no deliveries can be made and directing them to the Oak Street entrance. Deputy Chief Galligan asked how many non-company trucks would be coming to the facility and Mr. Spilios stated that it would just be deliveries such as FedEx or UPS. Ken Galligan commented that if there are going to be a number of trucks coming in from the Route 24 side, it might be wise to put a sign at Oak Street just before Battles Street notifying them that all trucks entering the facility should go straight ahead (and not take a right onto Battles Street). Mr. Spilios stated that there will be a sign where the old Fairfield Farms sign is that will say "Deliveries, truck entrance only". Ken Galligan suggested that any signs placed on the city street should go through the Traffic Commission for approval. Fred Noonan commented that he lives on Sophia Avenue, right across the street from Crown Linen, and one of the big concerns is Battles Street and the fact that there are no real sidewalks for kids to walk on, and that trucks using Battles Street create a dangerous situation. He is concerned that trucks may use gps and come up Battles Street to get to Crown Linen so that they would not see the signs for trucks to enter on Oak Street; and that if they changed their address to a fictitious Oak Street address then the gps would send them to Oak Street. Mr. Spilios stated that they are a family business and the safety of the neighbors is important to them and they want a good relationship. Mr. Noonan said that his only other concern is the mound of dirt and asked whether there were any plans to reduce it. Mr. Spilios stated that the dirt is for sale and they are marketing it, so ideally it will be gone soon and then the visibility will be even better. Ken Galligan stated that over the years there have been many accidents in that area and that one of the problems has been the sight line and that what Crown Linen has done is a huge improvement over what was there previously.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Dennis Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To accept the report as presented.

HOMESITE ROAD

Request from Community Police Officer William Healy to make Homesite Road a dead end at the Westland Street end. (this was originally identified as Homesite Avenue, but it is Road)

Officer Healy stated that he lives at 18 Keene Street and on behalf of the neighbors and himself he is requesting that Homesite Road at Westland Street be blocked by way of a barrier, either bollards, a jersey barrier or a locked fence that could be opened with a key. Officer Healy has lived on Keene Street for 21 years and over the course of the last couple of months there has been an increase in traffic going down Keene Street onto Homesite Road. The apartment complex there has approximately 96 units and the residents and guests are using Keene Street to access the complex. There is also a speeding problem on this relatively short street. There are also a couple of special needs children on Keene Street and there is a concern for their safety. Officer Healy has a petition from the residents of the 9 homes on Homesite Road, who overwhelmingly support this idea. Also, they are repaving Westland Street over and if a barrier is going to be approved then it would be a good time to do it now before the repaving is done. There have also been a couple of shootings at Westland and Homesite Road and Officer Healy stated that although 99% of the people in the complex are good people there is a small element of people that cause problems and this might help with that element also. The members were informed that Councilor Tim Cruise called the Traffic Commission office to state that he had a work obligation and could not attend the meeting but that he is in favor of Officer Healy's request and he recommended that the matter be referred to Subcommittee so that he could meet the members there and discuss it further. Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan stated that he has received a couple of telephone calls in support of this request also. Acting D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley said that he has concerns about snow removal and where they would be able to place snow. Officer Healy suggested that there is a huge area for visitor parking on Westland Street and it is usually empty. Ken Galligan stated that there is a fire hydrant there and in that entire complex there is no other fire hydrant and it must be kept clear. He also stated that if Homesite Road is shut down to through traffic then traffic will now go down Alandale Street and then they will have complaints. Ken Galligan also had concerns that having a fence with a key will not work because they will not plow the gate so that it can be opened in an emergency and that once you decide to shut a street down, its final. He asked if having the street made one way had been considered. Officer Healy said that he will mention the idea of one way traffic to the Crime Watch meeting attendees.

Upon motion duly made by D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

HERROD AVENUE

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack to have a "Dead End" sign placed on Herrod Avenue at North Main Street.

Councilor Asack informed the members that there was a major issue with illicit activities and that she had worked with the School Department and a ten foot fence was put in place, as people had been cutting through to get to North Junior High. There is still an issue with cars parking at the end of the dead end street, and the neighbors would like to have a "No Through Way" or "Dead End" sign placed there. There are also cars speeding up the street. Captain DiBari said that the Subcommittee had been there previously and Ken Galligan said that it would make sense to put a "Dead End" sign at Sawtucket Avenue and Councilor Asack said that she would like the sign at North Main Street as cars are coming up from North Main Street and going up to the end of the street and then realizing that it is blocked.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

CRICKET ROAD

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack to have the Traffic Commission review the issue of speeding on Cricket Road.

Councilor Asack said that she had a complaint from a constituent and since then she has received copies of the Minutes from prior meetings when this same issue was reviewed. The problem is during the school year when people are rushing to get to the George School. Ray Henningson, the Ward 7 School Committee member, said that he lives off of Belair Street and agrees with Councilor Asack. He stated that some of the school crossing guards were let go and there are more children walking to school, which is a concern. He uses this road a lot and sees a lot of speeding, especially in the morning, or when the children are getting out of school. Captain DiBari stated that he would send the traffic unit up to that area for traffic enforcement.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to the traffic unit for enforcement.

BATTLES STREET and RICHMOND STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack to have the Traffic Commission review the Stop signs and Speed limit signs on Battles Street and Richmond Street.

Councilor Asack stated that she was contacted by a constituent regarding this problem. Virginia Brady was present at the meeting and stated that she sees cars “roll stop” at the stop sign at Battles Street and Richmond Street, or sometimes just go right through without stopping at all. She is concerned that since the accident when the young boy was killed she has noticed it more and has lived there for 44 years and seen many accidents. She said there are many children who walk to school on this street, and there is a lot of foot traffic. One resident made the suggestion that an empty police cruiser be placed there as a deterrent. Ms. Brady said that more police presence needs to be in that area so that drivers would get the message. Captain DiBari said that he would assign the traffic unit there and add that area to their list. Ms. Brady stated that there has been less large truck traffic since the accident. Ms. Brady also said that after dark there is a lot of speeding on that street. Captain DiBari suggested that the matter be referred to traffic enforcement but Ken Galligan also requested that the matter be referred to Subcommittee so that they can look for possible solutions to the problems.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to traffic enforcement and to Subcommittee for review.

BARRETT B. RUSSELL SCHOOL

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have lights installed and a crosswalk painted at the Barrett B. Russell School on 45 Oakdale Street.

Councilor Monahan stated the school police and School Committee member Andy Robinson would like to have crosswalks and flashing lights installed for safety issues. School Committee member Ray Henningson stated that this school is going to be a kindergarten center and there will be a lot more children coming to this school. Ken Galligan stated that the lights that were there previously were probably removed when the school closed and there would have to be a new appropriation for new lights to be installed. It was suggested that the School Department would have to pay for the lights. Councilor Dennis Eaniri suggested that possibly the crosswalks could be painted in now and Captain DiBari stated that he would add this to his list of locations.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

ALLEN STREET

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan to have a “Go Slow - Children” sign installed in front of 32 Allen Street.

Councilor Tom Monahan stated that the residents have complained to him that cars speed down Allen Street and resident Andrea Neal stated that the street is used as a cut-through from Main Street to Montello Street.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Dennis Eaniri and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

30 THAYER AVENUE

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Jill Conceitao to have an “Autistic Child” sign installed near her home at 30 Thayer Avenue.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Dennis Eaniri, seconded by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

SCHOOL STREET at MONTELLO STREET

Request from Mayor Carpenter’s office to have a “Do Not Enter” sign installed on the southeast corner of School Street at Montello Street to prevent eastbound traffic from entering the one-way section of School Street.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

GARFIELD STREET

Request from Ken Galligan to have the Traffic Commission review the issue of truck traffic on Garfield Street and whether the truck route is supposed to go all the way down Plain Street rather than allow them to turn onto Garfield Street.

Ken Galligan stated that Lynch’s Towing had advised him that trailer trucks are sideswiping the telephone pole at Montello and Garfield Streets and there is a real problem with negotiating that turn. Ken Galligan believes that there used to be a sign on Montello Street that directed the trucks down to Plain Street but during the reconstruction the sign was removed. The state has a sign “Through Trucks” on Montello Street south of Garfield Street that would direct vehicles to take a right turn onto Plain Street but there should be a sign placed on Montello Street north of Garfield Street with the same verbage but with an arrow pointing straight ahead.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

MAIN STREET

Request from Police Captain Emanuel Gomes to have the Traffic Commission review the parking restrictions on Main Street in the area of M & M Seafood at 1122 Main Street.

Captain DiBari stated that the gentleman that owns the store there has complained that people are parking there for hours and the traffic units have been assigned there. Councilor Dennis Eaniri said that it is a difficult area but for people who shop he does not understand why they do not use the parking lot on South Street. On Main Street there is a 30 minute parking limit currently.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

59 RAINBOW CIRCLE

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of Smith Vil to have an “Autistic Child” sign installed in front of 59 Rainbow Circle. (continued from July and August meetings)

Councilor Asack said that she still has not received a doctor’s note from Mr. Vil.

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

VOTED: To take no further action on this matter.

201 NEWBURY STREET

Request from Councilor Thomas Monahan on behalf of resident Dorothy Hearn to have an “Autistic Child” sign placed in front of her home at 201 Newbury Street. (Continued from July and August meetings)

Councilor Monahan has not had any further contact with Ms. Hearn but he will take a ride there and see if he can contact her.

Upon motion made by D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: to take no further action on this matter.

Prior to adjournment, Ken Galligan and Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan informed the members that after a request was made for a crosswalk on Pleasant Street, they were contacted by the State DOT and went to the Pleasant Street site and conferred with the state representatives and the crosswalk and curb cuts were installed on that date. Councilor Asack thanked the members for accomplishing this so quickly.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made by Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan, seconded by D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Florio
Secretary to the Traffic Commission