



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2016

The Traffic Commission monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at the Brockton Police Station, 7 Commercial Street, Brockton, MA 02302. The meeting was chaired by Captain Robert DiBari, Traffic Commissioner. Present were Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan, Ken Galligan, Mort Schleffer, Councilor Shirley Asack, D.P.W. Commissioner Larry Rowley and Planning Board representative Craig Pina. Also present were City Councilor Anne Beauregard, Councilor Jack Lally, Councilor Tom Monahan and residents Valerie Brower and Ginny Brady. Unable to be present was Councilor Moises Rodrigues.

Upon motion made by Kevin Galligan, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of all members present, it was voted to waive reading and accept the February Minutes. As a courtesy to the Councilor and residents in attendance, the following items were taken out of order:

LESTER ROAD

Request from Councilor Jack Lally to have the “Deaf Child” signs at #130 and #139 Lester Road removed as the residents have informed him that the child is now an adult and they are no longer in need of the sign. Councilor Lally informed the members that the person for whom the sign was installed is now about 26 years old and the parents informed him that the signs could be put to better use somewhere else, as they are not necessary at this location any longer.

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

VOTED: To remove the “Deaf Child” signs on Lester Road.

BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

Request from Councilor Jack Lally on behalf of the principal of the Brookfield School:

1. To have “No Parking” signs installed on Jon Drive and Sully Road; and
2. To remove the Stop sign on Jon Drive closest to the school, making that intersection a 3-way stop instead of a 4-way stop.

Councilor Jack Lally introduced Valerie Bower, principal of the Brookfield School, who informed the members that the second request is not needed any longer as the new parking situation has resolved the need for that. With the 4-way intersection, parents coming to school to pick up their children park on the 3 roads right up to the stop signs making it difficult for the school buses to make the turn. The crossing guards are unable to get the drivers to park their cars further back. Ms. Bower is requesting that there be no parking from the stop sign back a number of feet during school hours. Deputy Chief Galligan asked if the request was only for weekdays and Ms. Bower said that the morning is not even an issue, so if restriction is only

needed during the afternoon from 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on school days. Ken Galligan stated that if the restriction is going to be there then it should be all the time and Captain DiBari stated that if the parking is not an issue at other times, then it should not be a problem. Deputy Chief Galligan asked if there is usually parking on those roads and Councilor Lally stated that this is a residential area and everyone has driveways so there is not usually parking on the street. Deputy Chief Galligan stated that if parking is restricted at all times, then if a resident wanted to have a party then the parking could unnecessarily become a problem. Ms. Bower stated that the drivers picking up students have plenty of room to park further down the road. She also informed the members that she has gone to that location with the school police and they agree that just restricting the parking at the corners would alleviate the problem.

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

VOTED: Refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

** As the third Tuesday of April is during school vacation week, it was voted to change the Subcommittee Review to the second Tuesday of April, being April 12th. **

BATTLES STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of resident Ginny Brady to have restricted parking on both sides of Battles from North Main Street up to Richmond Street.

Councilor Shirley Asack introduced Ginny Brady, who informed the members that she has lived in the Battles Street neighborhood her entire life and there was never parking on either side of Battles Street since she can remember. There used to be signs on both sides from Montello Street all the way to Oak Street; now down at the corner of Battles Street and Main Street cars are parking there, and sometimes parking on the sidewalk. One day when she was traveling there around 11:00 a.m., an ambulance was trying to get up the street and could not because of all the cars parked there. There are still a few faded signs; and Councilor Shirley Asack confirmed that there are still some signs there. Ms. Brady said that in the past she was told that this was the First Fire District and no parking was allowed. Ken Galligan stated that in the past that was a main road for Ladder 3.

Upon motion made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

859 MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Paul Studenski on behalf of Austin Ahanon to have an HP parking space installed in front of 859 Main Street.

Subcommittee Recommendation: There is plenty of off street parking for this address. If they are unable to use the parking area, then we will approve the HP parking spot upon proper documentation.

Captain DiBari stated that when the Subcommittee reviewed this request, they had an incorrect address of 869 Main Street and believed that there was sufficient parking. Now that they have the correct address and understand that Mr. Ahanon's business is there, they will place the sign as requested. Mr. Ahanon appeared before the Commission and explained that the parking lot previously available has been blocked off.

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

VOTED: To place the HP parking space in front of 859 Main Street.

OAK STREET and RESERVOIR STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of some residents to have a pedestrian crossing button installed on the traffic signal at Oak Street and Reservoir Street.

Captain DiBari stated that they are still waiting for quotes on this issue and Councilor Asack suggested that the matter be postponed to the next meeting.

Upon motion made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To continue this request to the April agenda.

CENTRE STREET

Request from Robert Malley, Executive Director of the Brockton Parking Authority, to change the parking regulations governing the south side of Centre Street from Montello Street to Main Street, to remove the parking meters and make this block parking by permit only.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Approve the temporary permit parking.

Councilor Asack asked if the signs would say temporary parking and Captain DiBari said that the meters would be taken off and Deputy Chief Galligan stated that the street is getting a complete redesign and this is a temporary measure until the next design phase of that segment of the project. Then a decision will be made as to whether there will be metered parking, no parking, permit parking, etc. but for now they will grant the request. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley informed the members that the project might be done this year as the grant money is secured and it has been engineered so it now has to be designed. He believes that sometime late summer the project may be ready for review. Deputy Chief Galligan stated that when the plan is ready the Traffic Commission members will review the plan and make a permanent decision. The members were informed that W.B. Mason lost parking spaces in the old D'Angelo's lot. Deputy Chief Galligan said that right now if cars are not using the metered spots then there is no money being generated but with the permits W.B. Mason's will purchase permits. Ken Galligan stated that Bob Malley requested six spaces and they will remove three double-head meters and this would be the six parking spaces easterly from the west driveway to W.B. Mason.

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

VOTED: To approve the temporary parking and remove the three double-head meters and leave the poles for the six parking spaces easterly from the west driveway to W.B. Mason.

MAIN STREET

Request from Robert Malley, Brockton Parking Authority, to have the Traffic Commission members review the signage on Main Street between White Avenue and Pleasant Street, in order to clarify and simplify the parking restrictions in that area.

Captain DiBari informed the members that this item had to be postponed and the members will visit the site within the next week. A separate date will be chosen to do this site visit as it will take too long to be included on the regular Subcommittee agenda. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley requested that Tom Loughlin be included in this site visit.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter for a separate Subcommittee review on a date to be determined and to continue the matter to the next agenda.

7th DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL – COURT STREET

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of the 7th Day Adventist School on Court Street (formerly Sacred Heart School) to have a flashing school zone light installed.

Subcommittee Recommendation: Place 1 School Zone 20 MPH sign in front of #250 Court Street for westbound traffic and 1 School Zone 20 MPH sign on pole # 25 for eastbound traffic.

Deputy Fire Chief Galligan informed Councilor Beauregard that the Subcommittee is recommending signs rather than flashing lights as the lights are at a much higher cost. Councilor Beauregard asked if they were priced or if the members had any idea of the cost. Discussion was held as to who would be responsible for lights for a private school and who would maintain them and Councilor Beauregard said that the private school administrators had considered paying for them but that she was happy to start with placing the signs. She said at times there are two things going on at that location: the funeral home may have activity at the same time as activity at the school. Councilor Asack asked if the private school would be paying for the signs and was informed that the Traffic Commission would pay for the signs and have them installed. There is a considerable price difference between signs and solar flashing lights or regular flashing signs. Ken Galligan said that the Subcommittee recommendation should be corrected so that the sign is on a post with a yellow stripe next to the telephone pole, and not on the telephone pole itself. DPW Commissioner Rowley confirmed that no signs are supposed to be placed directly on telephone poles. Ken Galligan stated that the sidewalk has already been marked for the spot where the post and sign would be placed.

Upon motion made by Mort Schleffer, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To place one “School Zone 20 MPH” sign in front of #250 Court Street westbound traffic and one “School Zone 20 MPH” sign on a separate post with a yellow reflective stripe in front of pole #25 for eastbound traffic.

HOBSON STREET and KATHLEEN ROAD

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of the residents to have a Stop sign installed at the intersection of Hobson Street and Kathleen Road.

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

VOTED: To install a “Stop” sign for northbound traffic on Hobson Street at Kathleen Road.

LAWRENCE STREET and GROVE STREET

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of the residents to have either a flashing yellow light, a “Slow Down” sign or a “Stop” sign installed at the intersection of Lawrence Street and Grove Street as this is a dangerous location with bus stops for school children.

Subcommittee Recommendation: No signage necessary. Captain DiBari will have the traffic unit monitor the area and run radar.

Councilor Beauregard stated that the Subcommittee recommendation was fine with her.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to the Police Department for traffic enforcement.

FOREST AVENUE and BOUVE AVENUE

Request from Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan to have the Traffic Commission expend \$4,550 to have CDM Smith prepare an engineering plan for Forest Avenue and Bouve Avenue to include a pedestrian phase. (Tabled issue.)

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

VOTED: To continue the matter to the April agenda.

NORTH MAIN STREET

Request from Councilor Shirley Asack on behalf of resident Mary Houston to have speed limit signs installed on North Main Street near the Avon line.

Councilor Shirley Asack informed the members that Ms. Houston lives on a side street near the Dairy Queen and cars fly by on North Main Street. There is no signage there now but she believes the fundamental speed limit would be 30mph. She believes that in the past the traffic enforcement unit has gone there and she has asked Ms. Houston if there are specific times that this is an issue but Ms. Houston said that it happens all the time. DPW Commissioner Rowley agreed that this portion of road is less congested and a wider road so cars do speed there.

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

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee review and to take a look at the Avon side to see what signage is posted from Harrison Boulevard towards Brockton so that the signage can be consistent.

GRAFTON STREET and WEST HARVARD STREET

Request from Councilor Tom Monahan on behalf of a resident to have a Stop sign installed on Grafton Street headed northerly, at the intersection with West Harvard Street.

Councilor Tom Monahan informed the members that the resident has told him that cars speed there and you need to slow down to take a quick left or quick right. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley agreed that this is a dangerous location. Ken Galligan asked whether the Stop sign is requested for cars coming south on Grafton Street at West Harvard Street, or cars going north on Grafton Street. Councilor Monahan stated that it was requested for cars going north and Ken Galligan said that this will be a difficult placement because of the curve in the road. Councilor Asack asked if signs could be placed both directions and discussion was held as to whether there is or is not a stop sign coming south from Grafton Street to West Harvard Street. It was determined that there is not a sign there.

Upon motion made by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Craig Pina and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

CROSBY ROAD and WHITMAN STREET

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of residents that the Traffic Commission consider placing a Stop sign at this location as trucks are using the street for a cut through.

Councilor Beauregard informed the members that the problem is that the wires on the street are low and trucks keep hitting them and pulling them off of one of the resident's houses. There are residents and businesses have complained that because traffic gets back up at Centre Street and North Quincy Street, cars cut through the businesses to avoid the traffic. DPW Commissioner Rowley asked if they want stop signs, or trucks restricted from the street, and Councilor Beauregard stated that she felt the stop sign would be the best thing because then it would be more of a deterrent for all the cars driving down those streets. Councilor Asack asked where the signs would be placed if trucks were restricted so that drivers would know before they were on the street. After discussion, it was determined that it should be sent to subcommittee to determine the best solution. Deputy Fire Chief Galligan asked if Councilor Beauregard had the address for the house where the wires are getting pulled off and she informed him that it was on Whitman Street and she would send him the exact address. Ken Galligan asked for clarification that what she is looking for is to put stop signs on Crosby Road at Whitman Street for north and southbound drivers. Deputy Chief Galligan stated that it is a three-way intersection. DPW Commissioner Rowley asked if the members could also look at restricting trucks from those streets as a possible solution.

Upon motion made by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

PINEHURST AVENUE

Request from Councilor Anne Beauregard on behalf of a resident that a "Go Slow – Children" sign be installed on Pinehurst Avenue as cars are using it as a cut-thru and are speeding on this street. A further request that the radar machine be placed on Pinehurst Avenue to bring awareness to drivers as to their speed on this street.

Councilor Beauregard stated that a mother with young children complained to her about cars cutting through Pinehurst Avenue and speeding.

Upon motion made by Councilor Shirley Asack, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Galligan and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: To refer the matter to Subcommittee for review.

Prior to adjourning, Ken Galligan asked that the Traffic Commission address the issue of the crosswalk signs that are being placed in the middle of the street, especially in front of the schools. His opinion is that they are extremely dangerous; when fire trucks are responding and cars pulled over to let them go they travel down the middle of the street and if one of the trucks hits a sign it could knock out an air line and the truck could be disabled. He has seen a number of them in the street such that a truck could not make a turn from one street to another. He has also seen signs that have been run over and totally destroyed that are either in the street or on the side of the street. He believes that the Traffic Commission should look at this issue as a public safety hazard. At the schools if the custodians are going to place them in the street, then they should remove them at the end of the crossing time. Ken Galligan requested that a discussion be held as to who gave permission to place them in the street and what responsibility the Traffic Commission has to regulate them. Councilor Shirley Asack asked whether the Commission should address Michael Thomas, the Assistant Superintendent, and request that the custodians bring the signs in daily. Ken Galligan asked if Michael Thomas should be invited to the next meeting to discuss the issue, as he believes it is becoming a serious issue. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley informed the members that at the pedestrian safety

meetings and they are recommending that these signs be placed and he believes that there are going to be more of them placed. He also agrees that they are dangerous if left out all the time, but if they are brought in after the students are in school and this is a very important safety issue to put them out and then pull them over to the curb or bring them in afterwards. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley and Captain Robert DiBari both said that they would call Mike Thomas and have a conversation regarding the issue. Councilor Shirley Asack agreed that she sees them all the time and they should not be left in the middle of the road. DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley also informed the members that the city has been placing them in crosswalks at the direction of the Mayor. Ken Galligan asked what the rationale was and Commissioner Rowley stated that it is for public awareness that there is a crosswalk there; this catching driver's eye more than the painted crosswalk which may be faded. This is part of the MaDOT suggestion for pedestrian safety. Ken Galligan said that while the Commission may not be opposed to what they are proposing but maybe the suggestion of the Commission should be to place them at the gutter line and not in the middle of the street. Councilor Monahan stated that on Belmont Street you cannot see the crosswalks as they do not stand out.

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

VOTED: To invite Michael Thomas, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, or his designee, to attend the April 28, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting to have a discussion regarding the crosswalk signs at the schools. On the motion, Captain DiBari requested that the invitation be for Mike Thomas himself so that the discussion could be held without a designee having to go back to Mr. Thomas for direction.

There being no further business to come before the Commission upon motion duly made by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack and a unanimous vote of the members present, it was

VOTED: to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Florio

Secretary to the Traffic Commission