



**BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, December 3, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**\*\*VIA ZOOM MEETING\*\***

**MINUTES**

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting VIA ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner John Hallisey, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, Ken Galligan, Stephan Hooke, Councilor Jack Lally, Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes and Traffic Maintenance Man, Chad Cellucci. Also in attendance was Manny Pires, Sandra Tracy, Amarr Reid and Helena.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Hallisey. Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, to waive the reading of the October 22, 2020 Minutes. Motion carried by a show of hands; 6 in the affirmative.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. PEDESTRIAN LIGHT - 1380 MAIN STREET**

*Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of residents of BHA's Campello Housing Authority complex for a pedestrian light and crosswalk to be installed in front of 1380 Main Street to better protect elderly and disabled residents who wish to cross the street. I make this second request in light of a tenant recently being struck by a vehicle while crossing South Main Street.*

Discussion: Deputy Fire Chief Solomon stated that he is still getting together the quotes and that he has 2 and is waiting for the last quote. He stated the he sent the information on the 2 quotes to Commissioner Hallisey c/o the Law Department. He apologized for the process taking so long but he was seeking all-inclusive quotes (signals, excavation, etc.). Once all are received, he will reach back out to Tom Thibeault of the BHA to see how he wants to proceed. Councilor Nicaastro thanked the board for their patience and persistence because this is really important for the residents.

**VOTED: TO MOVE TO JANUARY 28, 2020 MEETING. DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SOLOMON WILL PROVIDE UPDATE.**

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

**2. SIGN REQUEST - FOSTER STREET & BROOK STREET EXT.**

*Request received from Elsa Fernandes who resides at 110 Foster Street and is Requesting a 4-way stop sign at the corner of Foster Street and Brook Street Ext. due to cars speeding down the street. Ms. Fernandes stated that there is already a stop sign there but believes a 4-way stop is needed.*

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

- **STOP SIGN SOUTH BOUND TRAFFIC ON BROOK STREET EXT. @ FOSTER STREET**
- **STOP SIGN NORTH BOUND TRAFFIC ON BROOK STREET EXT. @ FOSTER STREET**

**VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

**3. SIGN REQUEST - CHILDREN AT PLAY**

*Request received from Emanuel Pires who resides at 51 Ardsley Street and is requesting a Children at Play sign because of excessive speeding. Stop signs not labeled on floor, kids cross street to play in front yards and ride bikes.*

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

- **LINE PAINTING STOP BAR**
- **25 MPH STREET LIST**
- **POLICE ENFORCEMENT**

Discussion: Manny Pires stated that the subcommittee recommendation didn't seem adequate or follow in line with other street requests made and approved for the last 4/5 in the area (Bellevue Avenue, Shealey Avenue, Provost Street and Fenway Circle) that requested the same thing and actually getting the signs.

Commissioner Hallisey informed Mr. Pires that striping could be put on the stop sign for more visibility which Mr. Pires agreed with and explained that the "list" is a list of streets the board recommends should be 25 mph that has to be approved by the city council.

Councilor Lally asked that Mr. Pires go onto the City's website under City Council to obtain his contact information so that he could call him to discuss this further.

DPW Commissioner Rowley stated that he thought the engineer said that the board couldn't put up "Children at Play" signs. Ken Galligan agreed.

The Commissioner and Councilor Lally asked the secretary to get the information together on the streets Mr. Pires referred to and email it to them so that they can discuss further with Mr. Pires. Commissioner Hallisey said if "Children at Play" signs were put up, he will have them taken down in accordance with the engineer's recommendation.

Councilor Lally explained that the engineer made this recommendation to the board based upon studies done that statistically showed that drivers do not pay attention to them or notice them. Councilor Lally made a motion to accept the subcommittee's recommendation and hold over to the next agenda so that they could review the other signs referred to by Mr. Pires.

On the motion, Ken Galligan stated that the engineer also said these signs could create a legal liability. Ken Galligan asked Mr. Pires what street he saw the signs on and was told that he hasn't seen the signs, he was going by what's on the agendas. Mr. Galligan asked Mr. Pires if it was on an agenda or was it passed by the subcommittee.

Commissioner Hallisey made a motion:

**VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND HOLD OVER TO THE NEXT AGENDA (1/28/20). SECRETARY WILL PROVIDE SIGNAGE INFORMATION TO COMMISSIONER HALLISEY AND COUNCILOR LALLY ON THE 4 STREETS REFERRED TO. IF SIGNS ARE THERE, HAVE THEM REMOVED.**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Hallisey, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

#### **4. ASHFIELD DRIVE**

*Request received from Councilor Jeffrey Thompson for a "NO TRUCKS" sign on Ashfield Drive.*

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

- **NO TRUCKS WEIGHT LIMIT SIGN ON SOUTH EAST CORNER ASHFIELD DRIVE EAST OF NORTH CARY STREET**
- **NO TRUCKS WEIGHT LIMIT SIGN SOUTH BOUND TRAFFIC 30 FEET EAST OF EAST ASHLAND STREET ON BENNETT STREET (NW CORNER)**
- **GIVE COPY OF INFORMATION TO SPIEGEL SOUTH SHORE SCRAP METAL PRIOR TO SIGNAGE.**

**VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

#### **5. SIGN REQUEST - LONGVIEW ROAD & W. CHESTNUT STREET**

*Request received from Steven Pelaggi who resides at 5 Longview Road and is requesting a yellow free-standing triangle "Dead End" sign to be placed at the intersection of Longview Road and W. Chestnut Street. Mr. Pelaggi has witnessed many drivers and delivery trucks having to turn around while using Longview Road hoping to cut over to Linwood Street. Some have even run up*

against a stone wall he has around his driveway entrance used to turn around and go back to W. Chestnut Street.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

- **"DEAD END" SIGN NE CORNER END OF CURBING ON LONGVIEW ROAD.**

Discussion: Ken Galligan informed DPW Commissioner Rowley that when they looked at this area during subcommittee, there is a fire hydrant approximately 20' off of the street on someone's lawn.

**VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Steve Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

**6. WINTER PARKING BAN UPDATE**

*Attached are copies of this year's Winter Parking Ban notices printed in six (6) languages: English, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian French. Published in The Enterprise on November 19, 2020.*

Discussion: Ken Galligan asked about the status of the mobile traffic announcement signs that can be placed at high traffic areas to announce the Winter Parking Ban. Deputy Fire Chief Solomon stated that he has a sign at the station the needs a few bulbs but can be up and running next week. He will coordinate with Commissioner Hallisey and DPW Commissioner Rowley on locations. DPW Commissioner Rowley also stated that Commissioner Hallisey and other officers went out on Sunday night (11/29/20) and placed approximately 900 orange cards on windshields in targeted areas that notified drivers of the Winter Parking Ban and Snow Emergency.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**7. HOWARD STREET**

*Request received by Councilor Jack Lally on behalf of Sandra Terry who resides at 539 Howard Street and is concerned about speeding.*

Discussion: Ms. Terry thanked the board and stated that she initially wrote to the board in July. She explained that her house is either the first house in Brockton

or the last house in Brockton as her house is situated partly in Holbrook and Brockton. She said she has noticed a 100% increase in speeding with cars passing other cars that are going the speed limit which is 35 mph and she is concerned for her safety as well as her neighbors when she attempts to exit her driveway. She is also concerned about the safety of pedestrians and other drivers. She said the speeding starts at Winter Street and the state highway (Route 37) starts after her house. Ms. Terry also stated that there is a construction company on Howard Street and their trucks speed, as well. She has not seen any Brockton police cruisers but has seen Holbrook police cruisers in the area.

Councilor Lally said that he has visited Ms. Terry's house and stated that there is nothing to slow traffic down from Winter Street to the Holbrook line. He said that this is something that warrants action and moved to send to subcommittee.

Amarr Reid spoke to say that he lives off of Winter Street and sees what Ms. Terry is talking about. He referred to M.G.L. c.90, §17C, cities/town opting into a 25 mph speed limit that was discussed at the last meeting he attended and felt that this will help if and when adopted. He also stated that there is no police presence on that side of town.

Commissioner Hallisey stated that he would let the shifts know for enforcement but reminded those in attendance of that a lot of stops have been halted due to the current COVID situation unless they are egregious.

Steve Hooke stated he will talk with the Holbrook Police Chief about enforcement on the Holbrook side.

Ken Galligan stated that the subcommittee was there 8-10 years ago and he knows there are signs there and he's interested to see what the state has done since then. He made a motion to refer to subcommittee to see what signs are there on the Brockton side and the Holbrook side.

**VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Steve Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

## **8. WEST ELM STREET**

*Request received from the Brockton Parking Authority to install "No Parking" signs near 47 West Elm Street because people are parking on the left side (north side heading east) and when ticketed, their response is that there is no signage.*

Discussion: The board was informed by the secretary that the records do not show that there is "No Parking" in this area and approval and sign placement will officially put it on record.

**VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

## **9. MCGRATH AVENUE @ HEMLOCK STREET**

*Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicaastro on behalf of several nearby residents:*

*(1) to relocate the stop sign on McGrath Avenue at Hemlock Street so that it is closer to the corner and therefore more visible to drivers;*

*(2) to make that stop sign illuminated or blinking so that it catches the eyes of drivers; and*

*(3) to erect 'No Parking' signage on both sides of McGrath Avenue and Hemlock Street close to the intersection of the two streets to eliminate blind spots and Parked cars or buses dangerously narrowing the road so that passing vehicles may safely turn from one street to the other, or for such other relief addressing these three issues as the Traffic Commission may deem appropriate.*

Discussion: Councilor Nicaastro spoke to say that this has been a continuing problem in Precinct 4A off of Clinton Street and it's an older section with houses close together. It's densely populated and roads are very narrow. She stated that

she'd be surprised if 2 cars could pass each other. There is parking on both sides of the street.

Councilor Nicastro requested a stop sign on Hemlock Street when she first became a city councilor 3 years ago. A constituent calls her repeatedly telling her that people are constantly blowing through the stop sign from McGrath Avenue taking a right onto Hemlock Street to go out onto Clinton Street. The constituent thinks part of the problem is the stop sign is back a ways and people don't see it from the corner. Also, instead of parking in their driveways, people are parking in the street. There is a guy there that police are repeatedly called on because he seems to be running an informal car business on his front lawn. Councilor Nicastro stated that when she was there recently, there was a handicapped van parked on the street right by the corner of McGrath Avenue and Hemlock street with no plates on it. There's stuff going on there and the police are called. Sometimes they catch it, sometimes they don't. It would help the neighbors a lot if the area around the intersection was made no parking.

Ken Galligan stated that a number of years ago, a stop sign was placed on the back side of the sidewalk up against a fence so it wouldn't get hit by snow plows.

Councilor Nicastro stated that this was an enforcement issue and asked if she could have stepped up enforcement during the early morning hours and midday while the subcommittee tries to figure out what to do. She further stated that there is one house that houses a school bus driver who parks the school bus by the intersection while they're home midday which blocks the view to take the corner. Ken Galligan stated that this is a public safety issue because fire trucks can't make the corner.

**VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Upon motion duly made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

**LATE FILE 11/30/20:**

**10. MORAIN STREET AND WEST ELM STREETS**

*My name is Joanna Creighton, and I reside at 400 West Elm Street, East. I need for someone to take this matter seriously, as we are growing concerned regarding the constant traffic accidents which occur at the intersections of Moraine and West Elm Streets.*

*At approximately 1:15pm today, we have (what I believe to be) the 5th accident within the past 30 days. There were two which occurred within 2 hours of each other. At this time, I am asking that you seriously consider adding a 4-way traffic signal to these corners. I do understand that we are in trying times, and money is not readily available for this; but the addition of traffic signals needs to seriously be considered.*

**VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

**\*THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021. DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THE JANUARY 28, 2021 MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021.**