



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Thursday, January 28, 2021

6:00 P.M.

****VIA ZOOM MEETING****

MINUTES

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting VIA ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner John Hallisey, DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, Ken Galligan, Stephan Hooke, Councilor Jack Lally, Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes and Traffic Maintenance Man, Ed Sylvester. 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 be 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.

VOTED: TO TABLE UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 25, 2021 MEETING TO OBTAIN UPDATE FROM DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF SOLOMON.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

2. HOWARD STREET

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

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: POLICE ENFORCEMENT FOR SPEEDING

Discussion: Councilor Lally stated that he will follow up with Ms. Terry in 1-2 months' time to see if the speeding issue has improved. If not, he will refile this matter.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

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

3. 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- **MAIN TO WARREN NORTH SIDE OF STREET "NO PARKING" SIGNS**
- **"NO PARKING THIS SIDE" WITH ARROWS ON PROPERTY LINE BETWEEN 47 AND 65 WEST ELM STREET**
- **"NO PARKING THIS SIDE" WITH ARROWS ON PROPERTY LINE BETWEEN 95 AND 65 WEST ELM STREET**

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; 6 in the affirmative.

4. 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- **MCGRATH AVENUE STREET SIGN NEEDED**
- **"NO PARKING CORNER TO HERE" WEST SIDE ON MCGRATH AVENUE 50 FEET NORTHERLY FROM HEMLOCK STREET UP TO (REAR DRIVEWAY #20 HEMLOCK ST)**
- **"NO PARKING CORNER TO HERE" ON MCGRATH AVENUE EAST SIDE 25 FEET NORTHERLY FROM HEMLOCK STREET (AT END OF GUARDRAIL)**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

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

5. MORaine 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- REPLACE CURRENT "STOP AHEAD" SIGN ON MORaine STREET SOUTH BOUND ADJACENT TO POLE #25 (2FT NORTH) OF THE POLE**
- MOVE CURRENT "STOP AHEAD" SIGN FOR NORTH BOUND TRAFFIC APPROACHING WEST ELM STREET IN FRONT OF POLE #29 EAST SIDE.**
- ADDITIONAL STOP SIGN ON MORaine STREET WITH RED STRIPE NE CORNER FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC**
- STOP SIGN WITH RED STRIPE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF MORaine STREET CLOSE TO THE WALL.**

THIS WOULD MAKE A DOUBLE STOP SIGN ON MORaine STREET BOTH WAYS APPROACHING WEST ELM 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; 5 in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

6. 346 FOREST AVENUE

Request received from Latoya Scott who resides at 346 Forest Avenue who is requesting barriers on all 4 corners of the intersection of Forest Avenue and Ash Street and any other safety recommendations due to the numerous accidents and property damage sustained.

(Board members: attached is accident history spreadsheet).

Discussion: Kevin and Latoya Scott spoke about their concerns at this intersection. They have lived on the corner of Ash Street and Forest Avenue for six years and have sustained property damage numerous times and have had to file insurance claims and pay deductibles. The accidents are not fender benders, cars are going into homes and fences and the last accident, the car went into their yard. Thankfully, it was cold out because normally their kids would've been playing in the yard. Mrs. Scott is also concerned about the students walking to and from BHS. They take their life in their hands crossing the street. Cars beep their horns while they're attempting to cross. She doesn't know why there are so many accidents with cars causing property damage, honking horns and road rage.

Kathleen Downes who is on the agenda for Oak Street commented that she thought it interesting that she could say all the same things for her concerns on Oak Street. She stated that there this is a city-wide problem about speeding and thought there should be a larger city-wide campaign rather than street by street. She feels that something should be done throughout the city to raise awareness among the citizens and preventative measures are needed along with getting the attention around for people to slow down. It is becoming a common place thing that cars and trucks are going into buildings and causing serious damage. This issue is much bigger than the complaints on this agenda. Ms. Downes suggested enforcement with tickets being issued, demanding they get paid and possibly connect to the RMV to prevent people from re-registering cars if they aren't paying their tickets.

Councilor Lally stated that he represents the northeast part of the city and have a lot of these problems (speeding and intersections that are problematic). He feels one of the biggest contributors to the problem is the state with their restrictions and requirements. An example offered was when he had asked for a 4-way stop in his ward and the request was denied by the state because there weren't enough accidents at the intersection. He would like to work with the state delegation to change some of this. He suggested that the Scott's contact him or their city

councilor (Dennis Eaniri) who would then contact them when they are on their way to personally review at subcommittee on February 16th.

Ms. Downes asked what the process was to address the larger issue. She asked if she would have to come before the Traffic Commission again. Captain Hallisey advised her to contact the Mayor and/or the City Council members.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Steve Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

7. IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

Request received from Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes and Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of Helena Andrade:

This past year, my family and I continue to search for answers regarding the unfortunate and tragic loss of our late beloved Aunt, Maria Graca. She was a mother, a wife, a daughter, an aunt, and a best friend to many, sadly a victim of vehicle homicide. The accident occurred on South main street directly across Vincent's Tropical Groceries. If you are familiar with the area, you'll recall that South Main street is a relatively long strip of busy, poorly lit commercial area with a mixture of residential roads. Your first traffic light starts at Maple Ave, later to be followed by the second set of lights on South street intersection. Roughly 1.4 miles apart. Sadly, Maria was not the only victim killed; there was Mr. Taveras, who was struck by a vehicle in the same manner and on the same street just months apart from each other. Please reference

[:https://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/20191210/brockton-woman-struck-by-police-cruiser-succumbs-to-injuries](https://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/20191210/brockton-woman-struck-by-police-cruiser-succumbs-to-injuries)

How many more deaths must one inflict or experience to see change?

In all due respect to my late Aunt, and many other victims whose lives were taken from them due to unfortunate accidents that could have been avoided. I would like an opportunity to review and discuss the city's engineering and infrastructure plans. We have a chance to enhance our community's safety and preventing others from being victims of death.

Below I've outline potential improvements that can increase and protects our community by the following:

- Adding a sidewalk will decrease the potential of a vehicle homicide and increase safety: There is no adequate sidewalks*
- Adding a cross walk. It's a busy road with a lot of shops and people walking around, including children. There is no adequate crosswalks*
- Adding additional lighting to increase the visibility of traffic and residents. There is no adequate street lighting*
- Adding traffic lights to keep people from speeding. It would decrease speeding. There is most certainly no Traffic Lights to break up the long road.*

How do I go about proposing Change to this neighborhood? What are the next steps? Maybe the answer is not just one infrastructural implantation but a combination of such.

I'm open to ideas and welcome your feedback. I hope we can partner to discuss ways to increase public safety and decrease deaths.

Discussion: Ms. Helena Andrade spoke and agreed with everything that had been said and would like to second Ms. Downes with her campaign plan for infrastructural engineering. Ms. Andrade pointed out that as the city grows, and more people are living in the city, it's time for us to invest in the infrastructure starting with this neighborhood on Main Street. As mentioned in her letter, there's a lot of things that we can do. That area as we know it is filled with shops (funeral home, Dunkin Donuts, Mom & Pop shops). There is no reason why two individuals were killed. Luckily, some of the complaints discussed tonight are for property damage but what are we going to do about the infrastructural changes, things that we can do and preventative measures to avoid a child, a mother, a father or one of us being hit crossing the road because we don't have adequate lighting, no cross guards, no crosswalks. We have 1.4 miles of free road where people can do 25 to 80 mph and no one is being held responsible. How do we go about implementing change and making Brockton safer for pedestrians?

DPW Commissioner Rowley stated that roughly a month ago, Councilor Susan Nicastro reached out to him to say that there wasn't much street lighting in this area. He did go out and check and there was lighting but it was still a dark area. He stated that he found 3 poles there that he is going to put street lights on.

What took so long was that they had to be ordered. They are being installed tomorrow (Friday, January 29, 2021) so that the area will be lit up better. That's one step in the right direction we can help with. Ms. Andrade thanked the commissioner.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Steve Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

8. ELVERA'S CAFÉ - 132 MAIN STREET

Request received from Councilor Jeff Thompson on behalf of Sandra Martin, owner of Elvera's Cafe, 132 Main Street, to install a 15 minute parking sign in front of her coffee shop for her patrons.

Discussion: Ms. Paula Tsitsopoulos from the Brockton Parking Authority (BPA) spoke in opposition of this request. She stated that the BPA was established by state legislation in 1982 to manage free and paid for public spaces in the downtown area. The BPA had a parking study done a few years ago that stated downtown should be regulated the same way which is what they have done over the last 2 years. The BPA has added meters, taken down hodgepodge signage that was up and installed new meters that take a phone app, credit card, or coin. People can pay on their cell phone on their way to work, on their way to an appointment or on their way to a restaurant. They can pop a credit card in the meter or pay by coin. This actually frees up parking according to all parking studies that have been done. Actually, it is more feasible to have metered street parking than nothing there. It's easier for enforcement purposes. We have done the same thing (meters) from the Y to Pleasant Street and Warren Avenue down to Montello Street.

There's a loading/unloading spot if you're coming up Main Street, it's on the right side before the coffee shop. This area has been monitored for the last 2 months since the complaint came in. Other than early morning deliveries for the construction company, there's always a parking spot or two available on that block.

Sandra Martin, owner of Elvira's logged into the meeting however, the item had concluded and voted on.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

10. SOUTHWORTH STREET & WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Request received from Councilor Dennis Eaniri on behalf of a constituent to discuss the safety issues at this location. The guardrail that was there was knocked down for the 3rd time in 2 years. Councilor Eaniri would like to also discuss the possibility of placing boulders or concrete barriers there.

Discussion: Councilor Eaniri appeared to discuss this request. DPW Commissioner Rowley stated that the residents can place all the rocks/boulders they want as long as they're on private property.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

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

11. HILLBERG AVENUE

Request received from Councilor Dennis Eaniri requesting four (4) 30 MPH signs placed on Hillberg Avenue, from Warren Avenue to Longwood Avenue (going East to West. Hillberg Avenue was newly repaved last spring/summer 2020. We now have a speeding problem. I have received several calls from residents of the street as well as those who travel the street, including myself. Please send this item to sub-committee for review, and I will be present at that meeting.

Discussion: Councilor Eaniri appeared to speak on this request and stated that there are no speed limit signs the length of Hillberg Avenue.

Ken Galligan requested that the secretary research the records to confirm that there should be "No Parking" signs on the south side of Hillberg Avenue from Warren Avenue to Longwood Avenue. *(Secretary confirms that this was on record and voted on 4/6/70 and sent work order to have signage replaced).

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

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

12. OAK STREET

Request received from Kathleen Downes who resides on Oak Street and requests that the speed limit be enforced. She has noticed an increase in heavy truck traffic with the trucks barreling through at 50 mph all day and night.

Discussion: Councilor Shirley Asack thanked the board for their assistance with the prior numerous issues that have come before them for Oak Street. The last time was last year for crosswalks and signage requests.

Kathleen Downes spoke to say that Oak Street's speed limit is 30 mph and people do not adhere to it. She would like to see enforcement where people are being ticketed. She suggested to put up light up boards that show what the speed limit is and what speed a vehicle is traveling.

Ken Galligan asked Ms. Downes what part of Oak Street she was concerned about. Ms. Downes said by CVS where the curve is. Basically, from the park down to CVS is her main concern because people try to beat the light. She also asked if a median strip could be installed.

Councilor Asack asked the board if enforcement could be assigned there during late morning/early afternoon. Ms. Downes stated that speeding occurs anytime for enforcement purposes.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

13. PEARL STREET

Email request forwarded from Councilor Dennis Eaniri from Maryann Calnan as follows:

I am a resident of Ward 3D for 26 years and I think that Brockton is a great city. My concerns at this time are:

There needs to be a change in the traffic lights in the following areas:

1. Corner of Pearl and Torrey St -- arrows would be very helpful because making left turns at the corners, it is very difficult to see what is coming from Rte 138 up to the intersection. Too many drivers honk if you don't move ahead quickly, but it is difficult to see, some people do not use their directionals, and at certain times of day, sun glare is a dangerous factor.

2. The large intersection where Cumberland Farms is located on Belmont and Pearl is better than in years past, but there is still a strong need for better arrow lights for each direction. You know that there are too many accidents there. Numerous times I have witnessed cars and trucks blowing/speeding through yellow lights and even red lights because it is such a wide area and they hope to get through..... very scary.

Discussion: Councilor Eaniri spoke to say that the turns are incorrect and are outdated and need to be updated. He suggested to send to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) to have them take a look to change the intersection.

Ken Galligan stated that this location at Cumberland Farms has been before the board many times relative to the left turn business and asked if this board ever sent a letter to the state outlining the board's concerns on this intersection. DPW Commissioner Rowley responded by saying that he had heard that this intersection is in queue with the state for studying this intersection. He didn't believe a letter was sent to the state but thought it would be a good idea to send one. Ken Galligan stated that if a letter was sent to the state informing them that the board has received numerous complaints about the left turn problem there, it may spark an interest with them that this board is watching that intersection.

Regarding the Pearl Street and Torrey Street intersection, Ken Galligan stated that this intersection belongs to the city. If arrows are requested then the whole intersection would have to be upgraded.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE AND SEND LETTER TO STATE (MASSDOT) FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE/GUIDANCE WITH LEFT ARROWS AT THE PEARL STREET AND BELMONT STREET INTERSECTION.

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

14. DORIS AVENUE & KENELWORTH AVENUE

Request received from Ethan Lawless who resides at 40 Doris Avenue and is requesting a guardrail with arrows and a curve sign. He states this is a dangerous curve with multiple property damage (2 fire hydrants, telephone pole and cars running up to lawn 4 times).

Discussion: Ethan Lawless said that he has lived in his home for 20 years and has had to have his fence repaired/replaced numerous times from people flying down Kenelworth Avenue and not seeing the bend in the road that goes to the left. As a result, they continue and drive through his fence. This happens every winter but this winter has been the worst. He has had to replace two fences and lost two huge rhododendron bushes, Potentially, he is looking for a guardrail with arrow or something that will notify drivers of the bend or curve in the road. He stated that people damage his property then take off.

Ken Galligan said that there are other areas in the city with similar problems. The board recommended installing arrows that measured 3'-4' long, 2' high and if Mr. Lawless had no objections, this type of signage could be erected at the curve north of Kenelworth Avenue so that headlights hit the sign. Mr. Lawless did not object.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

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

15. CHARITY GUILD - 501 MAIN STREET

Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of The Charity Guild, 501 Main Street, to increase the size of the parking area on the Dover Street side of Building to make it easier for trucks of the Greater Boston Food Bank and others to deliver food and supplies.

Discussion: Ken Galligan stated that he was asked to say a few words on this matter. He continued by saying about a year ago, this came before the board because neighbors down there were parking right in front of the loading dock of this building. He thinks the loading area created was probably one car length long. They are still experiencing problems trying to get in with the truck and he thinks the request is to slightly expand the size of the loading area.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

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

16. NETFLIX MOVIE

Commissioner Porcaro would like to discuss the anticipated traffic/parking issues related to the upcoming Netflix movie being filmed in the city.

Discussion: Commissioner Porcaro informed the board of the anticipated traffic/parking issues relating to the Netflix movie "Don't Look Up" and schedule.

Ken Galligan stated that he was okay with the recommended schedule and traffic/parking requests and asked how a snowstorm would affect the schedule provided.

As a result, the board provided a blanket approval in the event there is any delay due to a snow storm.

Commissioner Porcaro stated that he would email the schedule to city council members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Milligan

Secretary, Traffic Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021.
DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THIS MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY,
FEBURARY 12, 2021.**