



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, March 25, 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, March 25, 2021.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner Mark Porcaro, DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, Ken Galligan, Councilor Jack Lally and Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Porcaro. Upon motion made by Ken Galligan, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, to waive the reading of the February 25, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried by a roll call 6-0 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.

VOTED: TO POSTPONE UNTIL THE APRIL 22, 2021 MEETING TO OBTAIN UPDATE ON ENGINEERING STUDY.

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, seconded by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

2. APOLLO FURNITURE 747 NORTH MAIN ST

Request received from Councilor Shirley Asack asking the Traffic Commission to see if the city can work with National Grid as their pole is on city property in the middle of the entrance to their drive way is causing accidents.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

A. RECOMMEND THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION WOULD NOT OPPOSE MOVING THE UTILITY POLE, BUT IT IS NOT A TRAFFIC COMMISSION ISSUE.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

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

3. CROSS STREET

Request received from Councilor Shirley Asack on Behalf of residents on Cross Street to have the commission enforce speed limit and possibly install signs. In the meantime, I would like to request patrols on Cross Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

A. POSSIBLY REPOSITION THE EXISTING 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGN THAT IS CURRENTLY ATTACHED TO A UTILITY POLE ON CROSS STREET NEAR LEO AVENUE SO THAT IT IS MORE VISIBLE TO DRIVERS TURNING ONTO CROSS STREET FROM PROSPECT STREET (NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC).

B. INSTALL TWO ADDITIONAL 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON CROSS STREET. BY DOING THIS, IT WILL BRING THE TOTAL 30 MPH SIGNS ON CROSS STREET TO FOUR.

C. INSTALL A DIGITAL SPEED LIMIT SIGN.

D. CONTINUE POLICE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT.

***E. DOUBLE YELLOW LINE - RESIDENTS STATED THEY WERE THERE BEFORE ROAD BEING REPAVED.**

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Discussion: *On the motion, Ken Galligan pointed out that the subcommittee also recommended to repaint the double yellow line.

Upon motion duly made by DPW Commissioner Larry Rowley, seconded by Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Solomon, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 6 in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

4. 611 EAST ASHLAND STREET

Request received from Councilor Jack Lally on behalf of Dan Dernier who resides at 611 East Ashland Street and is requesting a "Blind Driveway" sign. Mr. Dernier states that his driveway can't be seen coming up or going down the street.

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.

5. ENDICOTT STREET

Request received from Councilor Jack Lally on behalf of Eric Osborne who resides at 12 Endicott Street and is requesting

a 25mph speed limit sign and stop signs on Endicott Street. He states that few of his neighbors and himself have had a problem with cars driving in the neighborhood well over 30mph and also not stopping at the top of Royal Road when turning right or left onto Endicott Street. Also, not slowing down at the end of Endicott Street turning left or right onto Leahy Road.

Discussion: Councilor Lally stated that this is a small street and that people speed up and down this street even though it is poorly paved.

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; 6 in the affirmative.

6. SOUTH LEYDEN STREET

Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro on behalf of residents of South Leyden Street, for the erection of two stop signs on S. Leyden at the intersection of Coral Street, to make it a four-way intersection, to address speeding and drag racing on the street, or such other relief as the Commission may determine will deter vehicles frequently being operated at excessive speeds through this nice Ward 4 neighborhood.

Discussion: Several residents appeared to speak on this issue. Christine Moore started by thanking the board for having detail at the intersection. She referenced the last Traffic Commission meeting she attended and stated that nothing has changed. They still have heavy trucks going up and down the street. There was a truck sign down near Summer Street but cars/trucks continued to speed - sometimes side by side.

Commissioner Porcaro stated that he assigned the detail there after speaking with Councilor Nicastro and that the detail will continue.

Laura Lopes spoke next and stated that the last time she was before this board, it was for truck signs that were put up. She thanked the board for doing that. Ms. Lopes agreed with Ms. Moore regarding the trucks that are still up and down the street at high rates of speed. As a result of that, she cannot open her window while she's on a Zoom. She has been working from home the last year and is in Zoom meetings all day. The other concern is that there is a number of children on

their street and cars seem to accelerate heading towards Perkins Avenue (45-50 mph) and on weekends, they have drag races and ATV's racing up and down the street at all hours. The speeding problem is afternoons, evenings and weekends.

Ken Galligan stated that previously, the neighbors complained about trucks in the industrial area early in the morning and flyers were dropped off at area businesses to give to their truck drivers to stay off of Leyden Street. This was in addition to signs being put up. He asked the residents in attendance if the trucks that they are seeing now are the same trucks from a year ago. Those in attendance stated that they were. Mr. Galligan suggested handing out flyers again but he thought the problem is the trucks that are doing business with the businesses in the area.

Ms. Moore commented that it worked for a while and that it was quieter in the morning. She stated that her house shakes when the trucks go by (concurred by another resident in attendance).

Commissioner Porcaro stated that flyers will be dropped off to area businesses again. He also said that after speaking with Councilor Nicastro about the truck traffic in the early morning hours (4:00 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.) that he sent a cruiser at that time. Ms. Lopes stated that there's not that much of a problem at that time that it's mostly in the afternoons, evenings and weekends with speeding and open trucks going by.

Councilor Lally explained that this will be referred to subcommittee where 2-3 members informally get together to look at items on the agenda to see for themselves. He stated that he will call Councilor Nicastro about 20 minutes before their arrival so that she can call the residents to meet so that they can show the commission the problems directly.

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.

7. GORDON STREET

Request forwarded from Councilor-At-Large Mendes and Councilor Dennis Eaniri on behalf of Sonja Dubuisson, who resides on Gordon Street and is concerned about speeding and the high volume of traffic at the intersection of Gordon Street and Forest Avenue. She has witnessed pedestrians almost

getting hit even though there was a newly placed pedestrian walk. Something needs to be done about this and I think it would be a great idea to make Gordon Street a one way so that cars can come down Gordon Street from Forest Ave but not come up from Ash. This would decrease traffic; control speeding better and make Gordon a more pleasant street to live on. This idea would also not interfere with the direction of Breer Street which is also a one way. This one way would be in the opposite direction.

Discussion: Councilor Eaniri voiced his concerns about making Gordon Street a one way. He stated that Breer Circle is already a one way and to make Gordon Street a one way could still create a problem but it is something to discuss. He informed Ms. Dubuisson that she would have to have everyone in the area agreeable to making Gordon Street a one way. He said when they go to subcommittee, signage may help (mph, slow children, etc.). He stated that there is a "No Parking During Fair" sign that has to be removed.

Ms. Dubuisson said that she works from home and is able to see people in the crosswalk being completely ignored by cars coming in from Forest Avenue or in from Gordon Street. She feels that signs are ignored which is why she is requesting the one way. She said that Brockton High School and Kennedy elementary school is in the are and she is concerned about the safety of the kids. The city needs to be proactive in figuring something out.

Councilor Lally stated that he had asked for a one way in his ward and the board was reluctant to do so and that it had to be unanimous from everyone in the area but in these time during the pandemic it may be problematic in obtaining signatures. Councilor Lally made a motion to refer to subcommittee.

On the motion, Ken Galligan informed the board that about 4-5 years ago, the board voted to put up two (2) yellow "Caution-Pedestrian" signs with yellow stripe. He asked Ms. Dubuisson if these signs were still there and was told they were not. Mr. Galligan stated that the board approved signs on Gordon Street, one was 100 feet north of Ash Street and the second was about 100 feet south of Forest Avenue.

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

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

8. SIGN REQUEST: FOREST ROAD

Sign Request form received from Sybil Hambley who resides at 25 Forest Road and is requesting "No Parking This Side" and "Slow Children" signs. Ms. Hambley states that vans and trucks park on both sides of Forest Road and children play in the area making it difficult to see traffic on the street.

Discussion: Teresa Maloney discussed her and her neighbors concerns about the ongoing issues from James Edgar Park with vans with ladders and wheel barrows on top, vehicles parked side by side and traffic flying up and down the street. There is also a business being operated in 1 or 2 of the homes. There are no sidewalks and no signs and it is difficult to exit their driveways. They call the police department at least 3-4 times a week.

Sybil Hambley stated that something has to be done about the traffic. She is concerned that the little ones will get hurt. She feels like a prisoner in her own home with the parking issue. There are 27 trucks, vans and cars parked on the street.

Ms. Maloney and Ms. Hambley stated that they contacted Councilor Monahan and he hasn't been any help.

Commissioner Porcaro stated that the Traffic Commission deals with traffic issues but if there are other issues, they can be referred to code enforcement. He informed Ms. Maloney and Ms. Hambley to continue to call the police department if vehicles are parked illegally.

Councilor Lally stated in response to the comment made about Councilor Monahan, that a lot of what the councilor's do is dependent on other departments. So, what Councilor Monahan would do, like myself or any other councilor, is call the Police Department, Board of Health or Quality of Life task force and then waiting on them to see what needs to be done. A lot of times it is frustrating.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Milligan

Secretary, Traffic Commission

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021.
DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THIS MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY, MAY
14, 2021.**