



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, September 23, 2021
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic Commission held its monthly meeting at the Arnone School Cafetorium/Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2021.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner Mark Porcaro, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph DePasquale, Stephan Hooke, Director, BEMA, Interim DPW Commissioner, Pat Hill, Ken Galligan, Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes and Councilor Jack Lally.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Porcaro at 6:05 p.m. Upon motion made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Rita Mendes, to waive the reading of the July 29, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried by a roll call 7-0 in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PROSPECT STREET – BETWEEN NORTH ASH STREET & PLEASANT STREET

Requested by: Brenda Rodrigues, 375 Prospect Street

Issue/Request: Heavy truck traffic between N. Ash Street & Pleasant Street and impact on bridge

Request of Brenda Rodrigues, 375 Prospect Street, for the Traffic Commission to evaluate whether the section of Prospect Street located between N Ash Street and Pleasant Street should be marked to limit use by tractor trailer trucks. The resident observes an increasing number of these large, heavy trucks using the street at all hours, and is concerned about impacts on housing located close to street and on the bridge at street end.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

TO CONTINUE TO THE 10/28/21 TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING SO THAT INTERIM DPW COMMISSIONER HILL CAN OBTAIN A QUOTE FOR THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE TO 10/28/21 MEETING.

2. CAIRN ROAD AND MILDRED ROAD

Requested by: Ward 5 Councilor Jeff Thompson/Joe Lowry

Issue/Request: Speeding

Request received from Ward 5 Councilor Jeff Thompson who forwarded an email from his constituent, Joe Lowry. Mr. Lowry would like the speeding situation between Cairn and Mildred Roads addressed and states that neighbors have been posting on the "See Click Fix" website. Mr. Lowry thought perhaps new signage is needed to alert motorists of the speed limits both on Cairn/Mildred Roads. This is an ongoing issue which needs to be addressed before someone is injured or killed.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CAIRN RD. AND MILDRED RD.

A. ADD RED STRIPING TO THE TWO STOP SIGNS ON CAIRN RD. @ MILDRED RD.

B. ADD A THIRD 36-INCH STOP SIGN ON MILDRED RD. ACROSS FROM THE END OF CAIRN RD.

C. INCREASE POLICE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS WEEKDAY (AFTERNOON) ISSUES RELATED TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC AND WEEKEND ISSUES (AFTERNOON AND EVENINGS) RELATED TO NEIGHBORS SPEEDING.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. 74 MARKET STREET (1170 WARREN AVENUE)

Requested by: Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro & Councilor-At-Large Winthrop Farwell o/b/o Lloyd Hargrove

Issue/Request: Need for stop light at intersection with Warren Avenue/guardrail

Request of Ward 4 Councilor Susan Nicastro and Councilor At large Winthrop Farwell on behalf of Mr. Lloyd Hargrove of 74 Market Street, the corner of Warren Avenue and Market Street, for a stop light to control traffic in the intersection and the erection of a guardrail barrier of sufficient size to protect his home. In the 20 years Mr. Hargrove has resided at this address, his property has been hit FOUR TIMES by vehicles traveling too fast across this intersection. Attached is a map showing the property.

Also attached is a photo taken Friday evening, July 30, shortly after the porch on his home was again struck by a vehicle. His family often enjoys sitting on this porch on warm summer evenings. Mr. Hargrove has unsuccessfully requested a stop light before, after seeing a car flipped and a woman die in this intersection. He pays his property taxes and wonders why the City does not address this problem that is not of his doing. He has been told the city will erect a small guardrail for protection but he doubts that is enough to address the problem. We ask for the requested relief for Mr. Hargrove or such other relief as the Traffic Commission deems appropriate to satisfactorily address this problem.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- A. ADD ANOTHER GUARDRAIL PANEL ALONG THE MARKET ST. SIDE OF THE PROPERTY.**
- B. ADD ANOTHER GUARDRAIL PANEL OR TWO ALONG THE WARREN AVE. SIDE OF THE PROPERTY**
- C. UPGRADE THE OVERHANGING FLASHING AMBER AND RED LIGHT AT WARREN AVE. @ MARKET ST. WITH LED LIGHTS.**
- D. TRIM THE TREE IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH AT WARREN AVE. @ MARKET ST. SO THAT NORTHBOUND MOTORISTS CAN SEE THE OVERHANGING FLASHING LIGHT BETTER.**
- E. ADD ANOTHER STOP LINE AND STOP SIGN JUST EAST OF THE CROSSWALK ON MARKET ST. @ WARREN AVE. (EASTBOUND LANE).**

Discussion: Councilor-At-Large Winthrop Farwell appeared and informed that board that Councilor Nicasro was unavailable due to a schedule conflict. Councilor-At-Large Farwell explained the concerns for public safety in this area and wanted to thank the board for what has been done thus far.

Ken Galligan reminded the board that at the 8/26/21 Traffic Commission meeting, he recommended and the board approved the accident history be obtained and that this matter be sent to Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) to start the process for installation of traffic lights.

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, AS AMENDED (OBTAIN ACCIDENT HISTORY AND SEND TO OCPC).

4. CLIFTON AVENUE AND WARREN AVENUE

Requested by: Ward 3 Councilor Dennis Eaniri

Issue/Request: Stop sign going east or west

Request received from Ward 3 Councilor Dennis Eaniri that a STOP SIGN be placed at Clifton Avenue and Warren Avenue, going East or West.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- A. ADD STOP PAVEMENT MARKING AT THE SECOND STOP LINE CLOSEST TO THE INTERSECTION.**

Upon motion duly made by Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale, seconded by Steve Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

SIGN REQUESTS:

5. FARRINGTON STREET

Requested by: Antonio R. Oliveira, Jr., 77 Farrington Street

Issue/Request: "Dead End" and "Stop" sign

Sign request form received from Antonio R. Oliveira, Jr. who resides at 77 Farrington Street and is requesting a "Dead End" sign and "Stop" sign to avoid accidents from happening and also to stop incoming traffic onto dead end street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- A. ADD A DEAD END SIGN W/POST TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE FARRINGTON ST. @ WAYLAND ST. INTERSECTION.**
- B. STOP SIGN REQUEST DENIED (VERY FEW HOUSES ON THE DEAD END PART OF FARRINGTON ST.)**

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. MERTON STREET

Requested by: D. Stephen Knight, 40 Ridge Street

Issue/Request: "No Parking" signs on Merton between Edgar and Ridge Streets

Sign request form received from D. Stephen Knight who resides at 40 Ridge Street and is requesting "No Parking" signs on Merton Street between Edgar Street and Ridge Street because the road is too narrow and cars parked make it difficult to get through.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

- A. ERECT NO PARKING ON PAVEMENT SIGNS ON MERTON ST. BETWEEN RIDGE ST. AND EDGAR ST. IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

- **POLE #10-84 (MERTON ST. @ RIDGE ST.)**
- **TREE IN FRONT OF 90 MERTON ST. (REMOVE WORN CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN PER PREVIOUS ENGINEERING REPORT)**
- **POLE #9**
- **POLE #8 (IN FRONT OF 76 MERTON ST.)**

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. NORTH QUINCY STREET AT NORTH CARY STREET INTERSECTIONS

Issue/Request: Dan Murphy, Jr., PE/Senior Project Manager, Tighe & Bond will provide update for the North Quincy Street and North Cary Street intersection

Dan Murphy, Jr., PE/Senior Project Manager, Tighe & Bond previously stated that he would give the North Quincy Street and North Cary Street intersection further consideration pro bono and asked that he be provided with 3-5 years of crash reports so that he could give a short-term recommendation. He asked to give him a week or two (after receipt of the crash data) to compile the dated and that his recommendations should be completed in two months. It was voted to continue discussion on this intersection until the September 23, 2021 Traffic Commission meeting.

Discussion: Dan Murphy provided a breakdown of accidents at this intersection from 2016-2021. Most of the collisions involved single vehicles so signalization would not solve the issue of drivers speeding and recklessness. Almost half of the accidents resulted in personal injury with most occurring during off peak hours (9:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m.). This intersection is a geometric problem and the short-term solution is to bring the signage up to MUTCD standards at the curve/turn which includes installing chevrons and placing signage appropriately as well as adding a light up speed sign.

Councilor Lally asked Mr. Murphy if there was no real structural solution in which Mr. Murphy responded by saying not as a short-term solution but long term would involve flattening the curve and having to take properties.

Ken Galligan stated that the board put up the flashing arrow and striped North Cary Street to a 90° angle and you can see by the data provided that these helped reduce accidents. He opined that the Traffic Commission has done everything possibly and now the issues need to be done. He continued by saying that he felt most of the problems are cars heading northbound that end up in yards damaging property and this is because the cars gain a lot of speed coming from East Ashland Street plus the time frame of most of the accidents appear to be from impaired drivers.

Dan Murphy will continue with bringing the signage up to MUTCD standards and Councilor Lally stated that he would recommend to the Mayor that he add this intersection to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Upon motion duly made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Councilor-At-Large Mendes, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT DAN MURPHY, JR., PE/SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, TIGHE & BOND BRING THE SIGNAGE UP TO MUTCD STANDARDS AND THAT COUNCILOR LALLY REQUEST THAT THE MAYOR ADD THIS TO THE TIP.

NEW BUSINESS

8. BELMONT STREET AND BELMONT AVENUE

Requested by: Councilor-At-Large Winthrop Farwell, Jr.

Issue/Request: Discuss potential accident mitigation options

"Discussion of accident issues at Belmont Street and Belmont Avenue."

Discussion: Councilor-At-Large Farwell appeared and stated that the worry he has is when you have vehicles going off the road and hitting a building. Particularly in a densely populated area where there are sidewalks. He said that it is only good luck and by the grace of God that a pedestrian hasn't been hit. He asked that the subcommittee really give a very close look whether it be guardrails, TIP program or pedestrian lights, clearly something is wrong and he's not so sure that it is due to speed. More that people are on their phones and it's driver inattention.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

9. 34 MARKET STREET (*Board members attachments previously provided*)

Requested by: Sandra Tavares

Issue/Request: Handicapped Parking Sign in front/side of residence for wheelchair accessible van

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

10. 62 TROUT STREET (*Board members attachments previously provided*)

Requested by: Adilson Rodrigues

Issue/Request: "No Parking Violators Will Be Towed" or "Resident Parking Only – Violators Will Be Towed" – neighbor transformed backyard for hosting gatherings/parties

Discussion: Captain Porcaro indicated that he spoke to Lieutenant Schlieman about this and it is on the Quality of Life's agenda.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

11. 14 CARROLL AVENUE

Requested by: Edcar Johnson

Issue/Request: "No Parking" sign on tree in front of property

Email request received by Mr. Johnson who would like to get a no parking sign installed on the tree in front of my property at 14 Carroll Avenue Brockton, MA 02301. I have multiple drivers residing at my residence and they have difficulty finding parking in front of my house because other cars are always parked there. Also, I would like to limit the amount of trash being thrown on my property from people who park their cars in front of my house. I find it very disheartening that I have to clean up after other adults. Please let me know the best solution.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

12. BATES ROAD

Requested by: Ward 5 Councilor Jeff Thompson

Issue/Request: Acceptance as a 25 mph reduced speed limit street

"Can you add Bates Rd to the agenda for acceptance as a reduced speed limit street".

Discussion: Ken Galligan requested that the board be updated on the progress of the 25 mph street list.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

13. NORTH CARY STREET BETWEEN MOODY STREET AND BOYDEN STREET

Requested by: Ward 5 Councilor Jeff Thompson

Issue/Request: Guardrail

"Can you please add to the next traffic commission agenda a request from a constituent to add a guardrail on North Cary Street between Moody St and Boyden St."

Discussion: It was recommended by the board that this item be deferred to the 10/28/21 Traffic Commission meeting. More information is needed.

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

VOTED: TO DEFER TO 10/28/21 MEETING.

14. PARKLETS – POLICY & DESIGN GUIDELINES

Requested by: Rob May, Director of Planning and Economic Development

Request from Rob May to present a draft policy and design guidelines regarding Parklet. It is our hope that the Commission will adopt the policy and guidelines at their October meeting after due deliberation.

Discussion: Rob May and Emily Innes, AICP, LEED AP ND, of Innes Associates gave a presentation on parklets and explained that they are not just for outdoor dining. Retail businesses can use them, they can be used as greenspace or used by community organizations. The Traffic Commission will be the approving body and the parklet applicants have to have community approval and insurance among several other requirements. The period for parklet use will be April 1st through December 1st but the end date may change subject to weather. Meetings are still taking place but they would like to come back before the board at its October meeting with updates.

Councilor Lally asked who would be handling the fees if the Traffic Commission was the approving body and was told that they are still reviewing that aspect. He then asked if the board was supposed to vote on this policy tonight and was informed by Mr. May that this was an informative presentation that should be reviewed by the subcommittee and any questions/comments can be forwarded to him. Mr. May also stated that the Mayor thought that the Traffic Commission should be the responsible party but others from the task force thought the City Council should be by way of ordinance. So, right now the question is should this be policy or ordinance and that question is in the Law Department for guidance.

Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale that further discussion should be done because there are several other agencies involved. He also opined that the Building Department may be a better lead agency. Ken Galligan whoever is designated the lead agency, there should be a departmental sign off sheet.

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

VOTED: ROB MAY WILL COME BACK BEFORE THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION WITH UPDATES.

15. 609-627 PLEASANT STREET

Requested by: Philip Nessralla, Jr., Esq. on behalf of Red’s Pleasant Street, LLC
Issue/Request: Constructing gas station/convenience store

Request received from Attorney Nessralla to be placed on the traffic commission agenda for September 23rd regarding a traffic report regarding the above address. I represent Red’s Pleasant St. LLC, an entity intending to construct a gas station/convenience store at that location.

Discussion: Attorney Nessralla spoke briefly and stated that this project will be going before the Zoning Board in October. He provided a four-page conclusion that is within the three-hundred-page traffic report submitted. Attorney Nessralla stated that the gas station’s primary customers will be those heading in a westerly direction as there are two other gas stations opposite.

Attorney Nessralla then introduced Andrew Arsenault of Vanesse & Associates, who is the engineer that performed the traffic report. Mr. Arsenault stated that a Road Survey Audit at Reynolds Memorial Highway will be performed for a short-term solution which will be turned over to the city.

Ken Galligan stated that the Pleasant Street and West Street signal/intersection should be taken into consideration.

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

VOTED: TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT. AFTER THE ZONING BOARD DECISION, ATTORNEY NESSRALLA WILL CONTACT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION TO BE PUT BACK ON THE AGENDA, IF NEEDED.

16. 183 BOYLSTON STREET *(Board members attachments previously provided)*

Requested by: Armeia Barros Andrade
Issue/Request: “Autistic Child” sign *(medical documentation received)*

Discussion:

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

VOTED: APPROVE. REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LOCATION AND APPROVE AT THAT TIME.

17. M & M SEAFOOD – 1114-1124 MAIN STREET *(Board members attachments previously provided)*

Requested by: Attorney John Pavlos
Issue/Request: Rental of seven (7) spaces in front of grocery store accompanied by signage that read “Parking for M & M Seafood”, or words to that affect.

Board members: Previously approved on 3/21/19 - LIMIT 1 HR PKG (WALKING BEATS WILL MONITOR) AND 3 "ONE HOUR PARKING" SIGNS SPACED APPROPRIATELY FROM PERKINS AVE TO E. MARKET ST ON THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN ST

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

18. ABBOTT PLACE/PROSPECT STREET CORNER (Board members attachments previously provided)

Requested by: Gwendolyn Ford

Issue/Request: "Dead End" sign

Discussion: Although sign request form stated Abbott Street, Ken Galligan said it should be Abbott Place.

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

VOTED: GIVE TO THE TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE MAN TO PUT SIGN UP.

LATE FILES:

19. Requested by: Bruce and Lindsay Bilotta

Issue/Request: "Stop" sign on Keswick Road meeting with Ardsley Street & Speeding

Board members: Currently "Stop" signs on Ardsley Street east and west at Keswick Road intersection.

Sign request form received from Bruce Bilotta: "We have witnessed multiple cars SPEEDING with no slowing on keswick road meeting ardsley street. So many neighborhood children playing , riding bikes and crossing the street with no stop sign and it needs to be a priority to keep the kids safe".

Sign request from received from Lindsay Bilotta: "I am requesting a dangerously needed stop sign where keswick road meets Ardsley street in Brockton. I have 3 young children who ride their bikes along with tons of other neighborhood young children all in this area and cars FLY by without even slowing or breaking on keswick road and coming from ardsley street where we live. It is beyond dangerous. My son was riding his bike the other day when we were on a walk and I screamed at him to stop because someone was literally going at least 50 going down the street. I don't understand why all the other adjacent streets to ardsley street have stop signs except this one where people cut through because of Brookfield school traffic and coming from winter street as well . I'm asking this to be a priority as someone is going to get hurt if not addressed ASAP- thank you."

Discussion: Councilor Lally stated that he spoke with Mrs. Bilotta and there is a lot of speeding plus Keswick Road was paved recently. He explained that if you are heading eastbound, it's the first road that connects Winter Street and Hovendon Avenue so it receives a lot of attention from people wanting to cut through. He continued by saying that he is aware that you cannot put up a 4-way stop due to speeding but he opined that from the public safety aspect, a review is warranted.

Ken Galligan commented that there is a 4-way stop at Ardsley Street and Bourne Street that is adjacent to Ardsley Street and Keswick Road. Plus there are no sidewalks in this area.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

20. PROSPECT STREET AND BELAIR STREET ONTO PLEASANT STREET

Requested by: Ward 7 Councilor Shirley Asack o/b/o Al Morris, 405 Prospect Street

Issue/Request: Re-review

Email request received from Councilor Asack on behalf of her constituent, Al Morris who resides at 405 Prospect Street. Councilor Asack is requesting to take another look at Prospect Street and Belair Street at the one way intersection onto Pleasant Street.

Discussion: Councilor Asack stated that this is an ongoing problem and she receives numerous complaints from constituents about speeding and cars traveling in the wrong direction. She also stated that there are accidents constantly at the intersection of Prospect Street and Belair Street.

Ken Galligan stated that the Traffic Commission has recently put up additional signage (No Right Turn, Wrong Way heading in wrong direction, etc.) and that the problem in this area is sheer volume. He further stated that there may be truck limit signage coming when a determination is received from DPW. He doesn't know what more the Traffic Commission can do.

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

VOTED: TO REFER TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Councilor Lally made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Hooke. Meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Milligan
Secretary to the Traffic Commission

****THERE IS NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021. DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THE MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021.***