



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, October 27th, 2022
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic held its monthly meeting at the Arnone School Cafetorium, Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27th, 2022.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Deputy Fire Chief Joseph DePasquale, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, Director Stephan Hooke, James Sweeney, Councilor Shirley Asack and Councilor-at-large Rita Mendes.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:01 p.m. Upon motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack, to waive and approve the reading of the September 22nd, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried by a roll call 7-0 in the affirmative

OLD BUSINESS

1. PARKING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES ON STREETS

Requested by: Deputy Fire Chief Edward Williams

Issue/Request: Specifically to look at trailers and semitrailers parking on city streets. (Board Members please see attached Fall River ordinances hereto for reference).

VOTED: TO SEND A LETTER TO THE CITY OF BROCKTON LAW DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO CREATING A TRAFFIC COMMISSION REGULATION SUCH AS THE ORDINANCES OF FALL RIVER THAT WERE PRESENTED AND TO CONTINUE TO THE OCTOBER MEETING.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Asack, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO CONTINUE TO THE DECEMBER MEETING.

2. PEARL AND DARTMOUTH STREET

Requested by: Deputy Fire Chief Edward Williams o/b/o the Quality of Life Task Force

Issue/Request: Requesting No parking in this area. (Board Members please see attached Petition).

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TAKING NO ACTION AT THIS TIME. THE CAUSE OF ANY PARKING ISSUE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BY OTHER CITY AGENCIES. THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION IS RELUCTANT TO BLANKET THE AREA WITH NO PARKING REGULATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE PARKED VEHICLES ARE NOT CAUSING TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

Discussion: Resident from 106 Pearl Street was present and objected to the subcommittee recommendation to take no action at this time. He stated that this issue has been a constant disturbance to the neighbors in this neighborhood for approximately five (5) years now. He did a petition and everyone in this neighborhood is for the no parking signs because once this court order is over the parties are going to start back up at 100 Pearl Street and it's a disturbance. He stated that he spoke to his Ward Councilor Thomas Minichiello and Councilor Minichiello would like to know if this item could be continued for further discussion as he was unavailable to attend tonight's meeting. The resident showed the Traffic Commission some metal spikes that he had purchased to place in his private driveway to stop individuals from turning around in his driveway. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro informed the resident that this meeting was being recorded, asked the resident to take the spikes back and also stated to the resident that he wouldn't recommend placing those spikes in his driveway to accomplish one purpose and the resident forgets to take one of those spikes up and some kid walks on them going to school. He stated these are things the resident needs to think about. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated that he understands his frustration, however, he wouldn't recommend putting the spikes down in his driveway. The resident again asked that because Councilor Thomas Minichiello couldn't attend the meeting tonight that this issue be continued to the next meeting. Captain Hallisey spoke briefly about the extent of the parties at the 100 Pearl Street location. He stated that he understands that it's not a traffic issue, however, he has seen the parties himself and the neighbors are frustrated. He's gone there and there were hundreds of cars and the owners of the home haven't been very cooperative up until the Brockton Police have taken the charges out on them. He stated in the residents' defense this may not be a traffic issue, it is however, the number one (1) issue like this that the City of Brockton has seen relative to the extent of the parties at 100 Pearl Street.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Asack, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO CONTINUE THE DECEMBER MEETING.

3. PLEASANT STREET

Requested by: Chanese Pearson

Issue/Request: Public safety issues. Would like to request a speed bump, street light and/or more signage in this area.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INSTALLING A STREET LIGHT ON POLE # 29 AND TO REPLACE ANY EXISTING AND FADED SIGNS.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. CHAMPION REHABILITATION AND NURSING HOME- 2 BEAUMONT AVENUE

Requested by: E.J. Richards

Issue/Request: Request is for a speed bump at this location as motorists fly down the street with total disregard for the crosswalk at this location.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

- A. ENHANCE THE EXISTING CROSSWALK INTERIOR WITH THE LADDER DESIGN;**
- B. ADD “STOP FOR PEDESTRIAN” SIGNS ON ONE POST AT THE SOUTH END OF THE EXISTING CROSSWALK. ONE SIGN WILL FACE EAST AND THE OTHER SIGN WILL FACE WEST;**
- C. REPLACE ANY EXISTING AND FADED SIGNS AND STRAIGHTEN ANY POSTS;**
- D. INSTALL ONE “CROSSWALK AHEAD” SIGN BETWEEN 2 AND 19 BEAUMONT AVENUE (NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET) FOR WESTBOUND TRAFFIC; AND**
- E. ADD ONE “SLOW” SIGN AT THE BEAUMONT AVENUE AND STERLING ROAD INTERSECTION SO AS TO SLOW STERLING ROAD TRAFFIC AS IT TURNS ONTO BEAUMONT AVENUE.**

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

NEW BUSINESS

5. 454 MORAIN STREET

Requested by: Jean Jackson

Issue/Request: There is on street parking to the left and right of her driveway. Vehicles will park obstructing the driveway. A No Parking sign is requested.

Discussion: Present was Jean Jackson. She stated that her house is at the corner of Moraine and Avon Streets, that there is a rooming house next to her property and that they block her driveway when they are parking on the street. Since 2019 she has had a problem with the residents of this rooming house blocking her driveway, which is located on Avon Street. It's an issue with trash removal and snow removal. She brought pictures of the issue and the Traffic Commission members viewed the pictures that she brought. There is no signage at this location and she would like them to stop blocking her driveway. The Traffic Commission confirmed with Ms. Jackson that the number of the rooming house is 452 Moraine Street. Retired Fire Chief Galligan also confirmed with Ms. Jackson that her driveway is in fact located on Avon Street. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro then confirmed with Ms. Jackson that she would like the No Parking signs located on Avon Street near her driveway.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Shirley Asack, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

6. COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE

Requested by: Matt Gardner

Issue/Request: There is a path to walk to the Kennedy school located on Cottage Grove Avenue and people park on both sides of the street, leaving the children to walk in the middle of the street. Cars also speed down the street making it very dangerous. A No Parking sign between 8am-10 am and 2pm-4pm is requested on the odd side of street at 55 Cottage Drive to the path.

Discussion: Present was resident Danielle Gardner. She stated that there is a pathway right next to her home and that the parents drop off and pick up the students from the Kennedy School. They did pave the street and there is a crosswalk at this location. They are parked right at the path and the kids that come off of the path from school are forced to walk into the middle of the road because of the way that the cars are parked. She also stated that when the cars

are coming down the street it's hard for them to see the kids coming off the path. Her husband has placed cones near her house so that the kids that come off the path can walk to get to the cars that they need to get to safely and this has helped because the cars coming down the street can actually see the kids now. She stated that she did speak with the principal and she feels as though nothing is happening to fix the issue. DPW Commissioner Hill asked if she wanted signs on both sides of the street and she stated only on the west side. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked Ms. Gardner if she had spoken to her school committee member and she stated no. He recommended having a conversation with the School Committee member letting them know of the issue and also asked her if she wanted to prohibit parking on the school side of Cottage Grove and Mrs. Gardner stated yes. Mrs. Gardner stated that there is definitely more traffic in the afternoon than there is in the morning. Councilor Asack stated that this is a process and in the meantime she recommends that Mrs. Gardner contact her school committee member, Jared Homer and ask him to assign a crossing guard at this location.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Director Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a roll call vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

7. COURT STREET

Requested by: Ana Moreira

Issue/Request: There is already a pedestrian crosswalk at the location (Court St, N. Quincy St., and Quincy Street intersection) however, it is missing a push button at all the traffic light poles. There also is a school bus stop located at this location. Requesting that the poles have a push button for pedestrian safety.

Discussion: Present was resident Ana Moreira. She stated that this is a very dangerous intersection. She stated that there's about 3 or 4 school bus stops at this location which require the children to cross the road. She had some pictures with her that she presented to the Traffic Commission to view. North Quincy and Court Streets on the corner has a bus stop and on the other side there is also a Southeastern bus stop. Her son has to cross the street to take the school bus as well. A few days ago, there was an accident at this location and a few years ago there was also a huge accident at this location which involved a school bus and a trailer that pushed the bus into the house at the intersection of North Quincy and Court Streets. She stated only a few blocks away is the Mary Baker School and they have a crosswalk there. The intersection is getting worst. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated to Ms. Moreira that she can send the pictures and video to the traffic commission email address and we will send them to all the Traffic Commission members. Council President Jack Lally spoke briefly on this issue as well and represents the north half of this intersection. He stated that this area has a lot of traffic through the intersection. He stated that

you have the elementary school and Cardinal Spellman and we have had efforts on this location such as extending sidewalks, etc. in the past. The foot traffic at this intersection is more than a lot of other schools, in term of the intersection, a lot of kids that walk to school have a quieter neighborhood to do it but not at this location. This creates its' own problems and he knows that there will have to be significant work that needs to be done at this intersection. Councilor Lally stated it may be possible to explore with the Old Colony Planning Council to have some money available for a light at this intersection. Deputy Fire Chief DePasquale recommended that this be sent out for an Engineering study as there isn't a lot of infrastructure that could handle a traffic light and there would be quite a few upgrades that would need to be done. Council President Lally suggested that the Traffic Commission ask the School Committee to expand the time that the crossing guards are out at this location in the afternoons.

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

VOTED: TO SEND FOR AN ENGINEERING STUDY AND TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BROCKTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE ASKING TO EXTEND THE HOURS OF THE CROSSING GUARDS (STAY LATER) IN BOTH THE MORNING AND THE AFTERNOON AT THIS LOCATION.

8. BREER STREET AT ASH STREET

Requested by: Amanda Hayward

Issue/Request: Breer Street does not have sidewalks and Ash Street does not have sidewalks on the side that connects to Breer Street. When children have to cross the street heading to either the Kennedy School or Brockton High School it is extremely dangerous and they have to wait for the traffic to pass. Requesting a crosswalk at this location.

Discussion: Present was resident Amanda Hayward. She presented the Commission with a photograph of the intersection in question. The Kennedy school is located ½ mile away. There is a lot of traffic at this location both in the mornings and the afternoons. She would like to have a crosswalk at this location for the safety of the kids going to and from school. She also presented to the Commission a petition from the neighbors that supports the request for a crosswalk at this location. James Sweeney stated that he is familiar with this location and that there are no sidewalks at this location and that its' extremely dangerous. Councilor Asack stated that she agrees there is a lot of walkers at this location and that she would agree for the need of a crosswalk at this location.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

9. HOLBROOK AVENUE

Requested by: Councilor Asack on behalf of Leighton Beaumont (19 Holbrook Avenue)

Issue/Request: Requests that the Traffic Commission review traffic and speeding on Holbrook Avenue.

Discussion: Present was resident Leighton Beaumont. She stated that individuals use Holbrook Avenue like a highway. There are kids on the street and they are constantly speeding on the street. It's very dangerous and they use it as a cut through. The speeding on this street is as fast as if they are driving on a highway. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro asked when this occurs and Mr. Beaumont stated all day, it's out of control. Mr. Beaumont feels that someone is going to get hurt on this street because of the speeding. Councilor Asack stated that the Traffic Commission has been out to this location before, up on Rutland Street and that they use Holbrook Avenue as a cut through. Councilor Asack would like to ask for more traffic enforcement at this location, specifically on Holbrook Avenue. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked Mr. Beaumont if the cars that are speeding if they are coming from both directions and Mr. Beaumont stated that they are coming from both directions speeding really fast.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE AND TO HAVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AT THIS LOCATION.

10. SIDE STREETS OFF ON NORTH MAIN STREET

Requested by: Councilor Asack on behalf of Scott Dwyer of the Montello Business Association.

Issue/Request: Requests that the Traffic Commission review the parking on the side streets off of North Main Street as commercial vehicles are parking on residential public streets. This makes it difficult for public safety vehicles to pass in the event of an emergency, as well as other traffic matters and/or concerns that the Montello Business Association members may have.

Discussion: Members of the Montello Business Association, Council President Jack Lally and Captain Hallisey were all present. Councilor President Lally stated that this has been an issue that has existed on these side streets for a while and it gets to the point where you really are just squeezing into one line just to get down the road. If you need an emergency vehicle to go down one of these side streets, you are in trouble. The problem is some of these side streets do not have any parking restrictions. He stated that the issue overlaps both his and Councilor Asacks area. Members of the Montello Business Association had a lengthy discussion with the Traffic Commission members relative to the parking of box

trucks in the area on the side streets. They stated the trucks were even parking in front of St. Edith's church, making it difficult for the church to have its' services. They were parking on Lansdown Street, Upland Street and Main Street. They have a truck over at the Howard School as well. The trucks stay there all night, there's going to be issues come snowplowing season. The police have been involved and they have put a dozen parking tickets on the trucks. Captain Hallisey stated that the police department has one of the traffic officers, Chris Perez involved with this issue and Officer Perez has spoken to some of the homeowners about the trucks being parked there and he's presently trying to track down some of the other owners of the trucks but hasn't gotten in touch with the owner. It's going to be a process, they have been given parking tickets three nights in a row. It's a large amount of money to start going out and towing the trucks, it's going to take some time to work on this issue and get in touch with all the owners. Captain Hallisey presented the Traffic Commission with a report that was done by Officer Perez and he stated that Officer Perez does an excellent job. The Montello Business Association did note that Officer Perez did reach out to them and they gave him some leads on this issue. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro asked the Montello Business Association members, if we could take care of these six trucks would this solve the issue and the Montello Business Association members stated no because it may get rid of those six, however, more would just come into the area and do the same thing. The Traffic Commission members and the Montello Business Association spoke briefly about the semi-trailer ordinance (regulation) that's in front of the Traffic Commission at this time and whether or not it would be relative to this issue and it was stated that it would be a different issue because the issue presented is relative to box trucks and the ordinance/regulation is relative to semi-trailers. Councilor Asack stated that the City does have certain ordinances relative to commercial vehicles being parked on residential streets overnight. Traffic Commission Captain Porcaro stated that its' the overnight of heavy commercial vehicle ordinance between the hours of 12 midnight and 7 a.m. He also stated that it appears that the police department is already making headway with the ticketing and enforcement of the vehicles as well as Officer Perez investigating this issue. He stated that the city already has an ordinance in place with the heavy commercial vehicles parking overnight. He would recommend continuing this item to the next meeting and come back and see how we have made out on this issue within the next five (5) weeks and see if this issue has gone away, if not then we have a bigger issue then we thought we did that we need to deal with relative to signage and new regulations. The Montello Business Association stated that this issue is spoken about at their meetings and all are welcome to those meetings as well to discuss this issue. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked when the trucks are parked there and there was discussion as to whether or not they were there during the day or at night. The Montello Business Association stated that they are there more at nights and on the weekends, however, they are there during the day as well. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that if they go down there and look and it appears that a fire truck or emergency vehicles couldn't get down a road because of the parking of the trucks, even if it's not

overnight, in accordance with the city's ordinance it would still be considered a hazard, we could tow the vehicle.

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

VOTED: TO CONTINUE THE DECEMBER MEETING.

11. LINWOOD STREET

Requested by: Kathleen Cranshaw (391 Linwood Street)

Issue/Request: New signs in and around her home such as blind driveway, etc. Also truck/commercial vehicle signs in the location of Linwood Street near W. Chestnut Street (300 block of Linwood Street).

Discussion: Present was resident Kathleen Cranshaw. She lives on the West Bridgewater/Brockton line and it's like a speedway, like a highway. As soon as they hit Bridgewater it's a straight away and as soon as they hit her corner it's awful. There are 30 MPH signs coming from West Bridgewater to Brockton but heading her way there are no signs and there are huge trucks that go down the street well over the 30 MPH. She took pictures of a huge truck that had logs on it and they are just going down her street that isn't that wide. She doesn't understand why they don't go down Manley Street, Walnut Street or West Chestnut Street because that's where they are dumping the logs. They are coming off West Chestnut going by her street flying more than 30 MPH. There are also semi-trucks that go by her home. They shouldn't be going down Linwood Street. There is only a weight limit sign on her street no speed signs. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro asked if the weight sign is still there and Ms. Cranshaw stated yes, it was gone and they have put it back up again. He asked if it was the city that put the sign back up and Ms. Cranshaw stated that she had no idea who put the sign back up. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked if the weight limit sign was for Brockton and Ms. Cranshaw stated yes. It's on Linwood Street. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that he wonders if West Bridgewater put the sign back up. Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated that he asked Ms. Yaffe to look into this after he spoke to Ms. Cranshaw to see if the traffic commission had a regulation authorizing the sign and there was no record of the weight limit sign being placed there by Brockton. He also stated that he would reach out to West Bridgewater to see if they placed the sign back up at this location.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

12. WEST ELM STREET

Requested by: Cassie Sulbaran (557 West Elm Street)

Issue/Request: There is a lot of speeding on West Elm Street since it was paved a few years ago. Individuals that are dropping off and picking up children at West Middle School park illegally on West Elm Street and sometimes in our driveway. Requesting a stop light, speed bump and/or speed cameras in order to make this location safer.

Discussion: Present was Cassie Sulbaran. She presented a handout to the Traffic Commission in which she discussed the lack of stop lights and crosswalks on West Elm Street especially up at the location closest to West Middle School. She also stated to the Traffic Commission that when parents are picking up children in the afternoon at West Middle School between 2:30 pm and 3:00 p.m. the parents park illegally on both sides of West Elm Street, which is dangerous because emergency vehicles have a hard time getting through all of the traffic. She also stated that there are no crosswalks at this location and students are crossing the street at 6 am through 8:15ish and there are no crosswalks on the side streets either. She stated that there is drag racing at all hours of the day/night, especially in the summer. She herself has been rear ended on West Elm Street three (3) times. In 2017 Mass DOT did a crash study of the top 100 crash locations and the West Elm Street intersection was top four (4) on the list for the state not just Brockton. She's not sure what the solution would be but something would be great.

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

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

Motion was made by Director Stephan Hooke seconded by Councilor Asack to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

Michelle Yaffe

Secretary to the Traffic Commission

**** THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2022. DEADLINE TO ADD ITEMS TO THE MEETING AGENDA IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2022****