



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, February 23rd, 2023
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, February 23rd, 2023.

Present were Traffic Commissioners: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, Stephan Hooke, Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira and James Sweeney.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:01 p.m. Upon motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by James Sweeney, to waive and approve the reading of the January 26th, 2023 Minutes. Motion carried by a hand 6-0 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).

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO CONTINUE TO MARCH MEETING.

2. MENLO STREET/WILSON STREET

Requested by: Councilor Mark D'Agostino

Request/Issue: Councilor D'Agostino has heard from constituents that there is an ongoing issue with excessive speeding.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend installing one 30 MPH sign on Menlo Street (for westbound traffic) near the Bouve Avenue intersection.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

3. BOUVE AVENUE

Requested by: Councilor Mark D'Agostino

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to consider banning and/or limiting heavy vehicles from traveling on Bouve Avenue from Forest Avenue to Menlo Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to continue to monitor the situation. Recent roadwork on Forest Avenue has resulted in road detours and closures, which may have forced traffic to use Bouve Avenue. Once the roadwork finishes, the problem may go away.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan seconded by Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

4. HOWARD STREET BRIDGE (117 MARKET STREET)

Requested by: Faith Pierce

Request/Issue: There use to be a yield sign at this location. You can see where the guardrail is damaged. It's been gone for a few years now and it should be replaced. Even when the sign was there people did not always yield but now it's like playing chicken at this location. Requested is a Yield sign at the south side of Howard Street bridge, on or near the guardrail as you turn onto Spark Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend replacing the YIELD sign on the south side of the bridge as it curves into Spark Street. Recommend installing a new STOP sign on Spark Street (northbound lane) at Howard Street near Pole #24. Recommend installing one DO NOT ENTER sign on the triangular island in the Spark Street/Howard Street intersection for northbound traffic on Spark Street.

Discussion: Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that DPW needs to be notified of the existing damaged guardrail at this location and it should be replaced.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO NOTIFY DPW OF THE EXISTING DAMAGE TO THE GUARDRAIL AT THIS LOCATION.

5. 99 GLADSTONE STREET

Requested by: Katherine Alicea

Request/Issue: Cars speed down my street as if they are on the highway. My husband was hit in front of our house a couple of years back and the car was totaled. They drive so fast, my windows shake. It is very dangerous and we are hoping you can help. Requested is a Speed Limit and/or temporary flashing speed sign.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend installing two 30 MPH signs on Gladstone Street, one sign closer to Crescent Street for northbound traffic and one sign closer to Centre Street for southbound traffic.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

NEW BUSINESS

6. WEST ELM STREET

Requested by: Cassie Sulbaran (557 West Elm Street)

Issue/Request: To revisit this area for the installation of crosswalks. (Traffic Commission members please see attached proposed crosswalk locations from Ms. Sulbaran).

Discussion: Present was resident Cassie Sulbaran. The Traffic Commission viewed the proposed crosswalk locations that Ms. Sulbaran presented to them. She stated that children walking to and from the High School have to cross West Elm Street and it's pitch black at 6 a.m. in the morning and they have to make sure that the cars will let them cross the street as there are no crosswalks. She would like crosswalks installed from the odd side of West Elm going to the even side of West Elm heading towards to the High School as indicated on the printout she submitted to the Traffic Commission. She further stated either crosswalks and/or flashing lights to be installed would be great. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that one thing that needs to be considered is that several years ago this whole street was engineered to be rebuilt under federal grant money. So, they rebuilt West Elm Street all the way to Warren Avenue and the engineers laid out the whole street crosswalks, etc. As part of the engineering of that street

when we received outside funds, whether federal or state, we have to go with the mandates of those regulations and one of them was that we had to prohibit parking on both sides of West Elm Street from Warren Avenue all the way to West Street. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that there are also bike lanes on West Elm Street. It was further explained to Ms. Sulbaran that crosswalk requests would normally be sent out for an Engineering Study at the request of the Traffic Commission. So that an actual traffic engineer can go to the location, study it and make the appropriate recommendations back to the Traffic Commission based upon its' study of the location. Ms. Sulbaran stated that the issue with the parking when school is being released at this location is still occurring even though the Traffic Commission put up signs at this location, the parents are now parking in front of driveways, etc. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that he reached out to the School Police in the past and that he would reach out to them again relative to this issue. Ms. Sulbaran stated that its' out of control, there are at least 50-70 parents at release time on West and West Elm Streets. They are parking right up to the cones that were placed there.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND FOR AN ENGINEERING STUDY.

7. 146 COURT STREET

Requested by: James Sweeney

Request/Issue: Requesting bump out sidewalks

Discussion: James Sweeney stated that this is at the corner of Court/Freight Street. Mr. Sweeney stated that the same car is parked in the same spot. He knows that enforcement has been on this and the guy continues to park there. The only thing that he can think of is that if there is going to continue to be parking there is a bump out. He knows that it's not ideal for plowing and maintenance of the streets, however, it is a safety issue with taking a turn. We are going to build that whole thing up with the Trout Brook development. But for right now it is still a safety issue and people parking there don't seem to care about parking there. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated at the top of Freight Street at Court Street there is a No Parking Here to Corner sign and he has seen it himself that he has written tickets to this one particular car that insist on parking in between the sign and the intersection. He further stated that he plugged in some directed patrols for parking enforcement. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that there have been conversations with the DPW Commissioner relative to bump outs and DPW is reluctant to install them for various reasons. He further stated that as a plan B could we heavily stripe that section when we get into the spring. He further stated that if we designate this location a fire zone the penalty for that increases. He stated that the traffic commission should have a conversation with the DPW Commissioner relative to the bump outs.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

8. MAIN STREET/OAK STREET

Requested by: James Sweeney

Request/Issue: crosswalk request

Discussion: James Sweeney stated that he's had a few people reach out to him and crossing this location from Oak Street on Main Street all the way up to Avon there are about five crosswalks. There are only two thick lines and you really can't see them when you are driving pass. They are not clearly marked. He stated that they are not visible crosswalks. He went out himself and the crosswalks are relatively dull. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that he did state to the line painting company that when they come across crosswalks that only have the parallel lines that he would like them to enhance them.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

9. MONTELLO ST./EAST ASHLAND STREET

Requested by: Councilor Jeffrey Thompson

Request/Issue: Requesting the stop line be moved further north.

Discussion: Councilor Thompson stated this stop line is right in front of his office and he believes we are all aware of the multiple accidents that happen with trucks trying to take the left hand turn from E. Ashland onto North Montello Street. There is a bollard, there use to be three bollards and now zero because it got knocked over. A lot of times you see that these trucks with the oncoming traffic on N. Montello Street and they are trying to make their turn and they swing it a little to short trying to avoid the cars on the opposite lane and they are just cutting it too short taking out the bollards. Potentially if we take that stop line and move it back, that will clear up a lane for any truck to make a wider turn and avoid that bollard. He further stated that his building has been hit once or twice, the main concern is the left hand turn.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

10. LYNN MARIE WAY EASTBOUND @ DAGMAR DRIVE

Requested by: Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to approve the stop sign that was put at this location.

Discussion: Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that Lynn Marie Way was approved by the Planning Board and the developer of this property put up a stop sign. The stop sign is perfect but we haven't legally recorded it. He's asking that we legally publish the stop sign as required.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: MOTION TO APPROVE STOP SIGN AT THIS LOCATION.

11. MILL STREET (149 MILL STREET-DEAD END EXTENSION)

Requested by: Gary Epstein of Timeless Antiques Watch & Jewelry Co.

Request/Issue: Car "Shoot" down the dead end all day long for years. Requesting better signage at this location and/or a Stop sign be added.

Discussion: Resident Gary Epstein was not present. The Traffic Commission discussed this location. James Sweeney stated that he worked at Michael Haikal's office which is right there and his office was facing the dead end street and what he is saying is true. The drivers just follow the street and they have to reverse and go back out. They aren't really looking at the sign and it's changed but it definitely needs better signage because it is a problem. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that this location has been addressed in the past, however, we should go back out there and see if there is more that can be done.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

12. COURT STREET

Requested by: Nancy Schultz

Request/Issue: Speeding cars coming from both ways at the bottom of the hill on Court Street. There are two (s) signs on this street. Requesting more 30MPH signs, one or two of the electronic speed signs, also Deers Crossing sign requested near Animal Control at Kathleen Road.

Discussion: Mr. and Mrs. Schultz were present. Mr. Schultz stated there is a lot of speeding that goes on at this location. We have 18 wheelers and dump trucks coming by. When they come down the Cary Street hill there is only one speed limit sign at the top. Nothing all the way to N. Cary and they get all the way down that hill and they keep on going. Heading right on Court after N. Cary there is

only one speed sign past Kathleen Road on the right. So if we could get one earlier than that, because when they come through those lights and they hit that light directly off they go. At the National Grid building there are woods on both sides and we have seen a deer get hit there. There are no lights there either, there should probably be a street light put there. The street light should go on pole # 45-49, there is one on 49 and there isn't another one until pole 45 heading west towards N. Cary Street. You could put one right at pole # 47 or # 48 because people walk that area in the dark. He also stated that more speed limit signs would help as well. He further stated that cars park in front of his house and that there are No Parking signs there, however, they are facing the street, so they are sort of ignored and when we pull out onto our street people are flying by us. We have to pull out far in order to see pass their cars when they are parked there. He stated that they are on the north side across from Animal Control.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, seconded by Stephan Hooke, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

13. 216 BELAIR STREET

Requested by: Franchez Cruz

Request/Issue: Cars are hitting his property. There is already one guardrail in front of his property. Requesting a solution to this issue due to the amount of accidents that are occurring.

Discussion: Resident Franchez Cruz was not present. The Traffic Commission was shown 5 videos that Mr. Cruz had sent to the Traffic Commission, showing the multiple accidents at this location. The Traffic Commission discussed both Rainbow Circle and Crickett Road and the inability to see onto Belair Street when exiting both of these side streets. There was discussion amongst the Traffic Commission members as to whether or not the solid white fence is located out too far and whether or not it's the cause of the blind spot. Councilor Thompson asked if the fence is dropping down and how far do we think it is from the intersection. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated it looks very close to the street. There appears to be a blind spot at this location which could be the cause of the accidents occurring. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that when you stop at Rainbow Circle you really have to pull out to the left in order to see the oncoming traffic on Belair Street. He further stated that in the videos that were presented two people attempted to pull out of Crickett Road and couldn't see to the left and need to pull out further to be able to see onto Belair Street. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the two cars that were on Crickett Road did come to a complete stop prior to attempting to get out onto Belair Street. Councilor Thompson asked what authority the Traffic Commission would have if the white fence is in fact on City property and Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that the DPW would have the authority to have the homeowner remove the fence from City property.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

14.40 YARMOUTH AVENUE

Requested by: Jeffrey Barnes

Request/Issue: Large Trucks and cars speed on the roads. We have elderly that walk their dogs and small families that are startled when these trucks/sedans pass by. Many close calls have occurred. Requesting stop signs at the end of Sagamore to Yarmouth onto Sagamore, also requesting weight limit signs on both ends of Brewster, Sagamore and Yarmouth Avenue.

Discussion: Mr. Barnes was present. He stated that the reason he is asking for this is because we have a lot of trucks that come down Torrey Street, which he believes Torrey Avenue is a cut through from Torrey Street from Belmont. Instead of going down Torrey they will cut down here and down Yarmouth Avenue. They go up and down the street all night long and they don't stop at the stop sign. You can hear the whining noise from the vehicles all the time. At Sagamore onto Yarmouth, on that corner there is a shrub and people come around that corner and they aren't stopping because there is no stop sign. You put a stop sign at the end of Brewster and people don't pay attention to it they go right through it. We are afraid that one of these times one of these vehicles are going to come into one of the houses. He further stated that they see a lot of trucks with excessive weight, Fed ex, UPS, 18 wheelers and dump trucks that cut through here and go up and around to see if they can get out and beat the traffic at the other end. When you go to the end of Torrey there is a shrub that you can't see pass. He stated that he can't even see around it because it's too high and that it should be cut down. If you pull out far enough you're going to get hit. He stated that he's concerned that elderly or children could get hit by these vehicles. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that we had visited this location a few years ago and that we put stop signs at each end of Brewster and we put a stop sign at Sagamore and Torrey. He believes all the streets coming out to Torrey stop signs were put up. So the intersection that you are talking about is Sagamore and Yarmouth, it's like a L intersection and your issue is the shrub on the corner making it so you can't see trying to get out. Mr. Barnes stated that both houses have hedges that you can't see pass. The gentleman who's on Brewster and Yarmouth and the gentleman on Sagamore and Yarmouth have hedges. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan also stated the other issue is Torrey Street and Torrey Avenue looking to the left and it's terrible because he drives it almost every day. You really have to stick your nose out before you can really see. James Sweeney stated that this location is a major cut through. Mr. Barnes stated that the roads are not built for trucks to be driven down them and that the houses shake when they drive down them. Mr. Sweeney stated that it's a R-1-C zone and it's not really designed for heavy traffic in this manner, it's a neighborhood. Mr. Sweeney also stated that he doesn't know how the

commission feels about speed bumps but Torrey Street really connects all of these streets and that's where you probably get the most speed crossing through there. This seems like a point where you want to slow it down and not make it any fun to zip through this neighborhood.

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

15. 148 AUBURN STREET

Requested by: Clifford Harper

Request/Issue: Part of my house was damaged by someone parking in front of my house. Requesting a No Parking sign in front of residence.

Discussion: Mr. Harper was present. He stated that cars are parking on both the left and right side of his driveway blocking the view to get out of the driveway. His wife showed a few pictures. She stated that cars are constantly parking in front of their residence. Last April there was a major accident on Forest Street and it slammed right into the wall in front of their house. She further stated that her daughter goes to work at night and when she comes out of the house there are cars parked on both sides of the street and her residence making it very difficult to see and that there were a couple of times that she almost got hit. If she comes out her door she has to turn sideways to walk on the sidewalk because the cars are all parked there. The cars that are parked there prevent the vehicles from turning properly. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that there really aren't sidewalks there that they are parking on the dirt. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan asked Mrs. Harper is there a stop sign when you come out of Forest Street and Mrs. Harper stated yes. He further stated that they go right through the stop sign. Mrs. Harper stating that the cars that park there have RI and New Hampshire plates. She stated that she has lived there for 9 years and that the problem begun just before Covid. She stated that they never had problems before that. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that there are no sidewalks there. Mrs. Harper stated that they park so close to her retaining wall that you can't walk straight because of it. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated this issue is similar to Tremont Street that the traffic commission dealt with a few months ago.

Upon duly motion made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

16. 34 NILSSON STREET- GETHSEMANE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Requested by: Mr. Andy Newell

Request/Issue: There are two (2) commercial vehicles that park near the church overnight and during church services on Saturdays, from 9:30-2:00

p.m. One is parking in front of the church and the other is parking on the other side of the church on Laureston Street. Requesting the Traffic Commission take a look at this.

Discussion: Mr. Newell was not present. The Traffic Commission discussed this location. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that he's been by this location and that there is a utility trailer that parks on Nilsson Street just east of Laureston Street and it's not hooked up to anything, it's just parked there.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Motion was made by Stephan Hooke, seconded by James Sweeney to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

Michelle Yaffe

Secretary to the Traffic Commission