



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, April 25th, 2024
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic held its monthly meeting at the Arnone School Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25th, 2024.

Present were Traffic Commission Members: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, Director Stephan Hooke, Councilor John Lally, James Sweeney, Geoffrey Keenan-DPW, Jamal Andrade, Traffic Maintenance Man and Michelle Yaffe, Secretary to the Traffic Commission.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:00 p.m. Upon motion made by Councilor Lally, seconded by Director Stepan Hooke, to waive and approve the reading of the March 25th, 2024 and April 3rd, 2024 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MENLO & TRIBOU ST @ FIRST STREET

Requested by: Councilor Philip Griffin

Request/Issue: Requesting stop signs at this location.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install a STOP sign and sign post with red reflective striping on First Street (southbound) at Tribou Street.

B. Add a STOP bar and STOP to pavement line painting for this new STOP sign in "A".

C. Install a STOP sign and sign post with red reflective striping on Stevens Avenue (northbound) at Tribou Street.

D. Add a STOP bar and STOP to pavement line painting for this new STOP sign in "C".

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. TRIBOU STREET AT NASON STREET

Requested by: Councilor Philip Griffin

Request/Issue: Requesting stop signs at this location.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Newer-looking STOP signs and sign posts already exist on Nason Street at Tribou Street (northbound and southbound approaches). Verify that these signs were properly approved.

B. Repaint the existing and faded STOP bars and STOPS on Nason Street at the two STOP signs mentioned above in "A".

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. HERROD AVENUE

Requested by: Kenneth Wesley Robinson

Request/Issue: Public safety concern as there is a blind spot and there is constant traffic & children that cross to go to school. Requesting No Parking signs at the corners of Herrod Avenue & North Main Street.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Subcommittee spoke with the owner of the auto garage on N. Main Street at the corner of Herrod Avenue and explained the parking issue there. Owner was cooperative and agreed to keep an eye on it and self-police the situation. This will be a first step in addressing the issue.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. N. QUINCY ST./COURT ST./QUINCY STREET

Requested by: Jackie Mitchell

Request/Issue: There have been a number of accidents at this intersection. I would like to request the following: Install No Turn on Red Sign, install solar speed radar, repaint the crosswalks as this is busy intersection located near the Baker School & student bus stops.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Add the ladder design to the existing crosswalks at this intersection during line painting season.

B. Request from BPD Records Division for an intersection crash history.

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

VOTED: TO POSTPONE TO THE MAY MEETING.

5. LORING STREET AND LORING STREET EXT.

Requested by: Michelle Mortimer

Request/Issue: My neighborhood has now expanded with new houses and residents. There are more children in the neighborhood and there are cars speeding down the street all the time. As a mother I am extremely concerned. We do not live on a main street. Requesting Slow down children playing sign or a stop sign.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install a new STOP sign and sign post with red reflective striping on Allerton Street (southbound) at Loring Street.

B. Add a STOP bar during pavement line painting for the above new STOP sign in "A".

C. Install a new STOP sign and sign post with red reflective striping on Loring Street (eastbound) at Allerton Street.

D. Add a STOP bar during pavement line painting for the above new STOP sign in "C".

Discussion: Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that for the record our decision was based upon a problem at the intersection with a fence and it being a blind intersection.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. 70 AND 66 HOBSON STREET

Requested by: Michelle Dias and Ellie Gomes

Request/Issue: The street is very dangerous and we frequently have cars speeding through and coming up on my lawn at 70. We are requesting that the guardrail that was just placed at this location be extended out to the 70 Hobson Street driveway and also would like a big stop sign to be placed on the guardrail and more reflective on both sides of the guardrail. We also are very concerned with the path that children need to walk to the East Jr High. We would also like a guardrail or preferably a sidewalk be added in front of 70 Hobson Street for the children to be a little safer when walking.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Install a double-decker guardrail with additional posts in front of the entire length of 66 Hobson Street with additional posts in front of the entire length of 66 Hobson Street and with additional posts in front of the existing length at 66 Hobson Street.

B. Install a STOP sign to this same guardrail in "A" that will be in the Provost Street motorists' line of sight.

C. Install a single panel guardrail in front of 70 Hobson Street on the side closest to the driveway near #66.

D. Add additional street lighting to Pole #6, located at the corner of Hobson and Provost Streets.

E. Add red reflective striping to the STOP sign on Provost Street at Hobson Street.

F. Repaint the already existing STOP bar and STOP during pavement line painting.

VOTED: TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION "A" AS STATED ABOVE.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Lally, seconded by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

VOTED: TO ACCEPT SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED.

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

NEW BUSINESS

7. CLINTON STREET

Requested by: Brian Walsh

Request/Issue: Unique Auto at 189 Clinton Street routinely parks 4+ vehicles on the east side of Clinton Street across from their shop, including on the sidewalk, creating unsafe driving conditions. Requesting No Parking Signs. The request is to designate Clinton Street from the Enterprise Club to the Gilmore School no parking.

Discussion: Councilor Susan Nicastro was present relative to this item and stated that this is a continuing problem for a few years. The people that run the auto repair place, they kind of act like they own the street and Councilor Asack has been stuck on the street for an hour on a Friday night. Lately they have been parking half on the curb so at least one car can get by but when they actually park all on the road you can't travel anymore at all. She further stated that she has had calls about it and there have been SeeClickFix's about it. If we made it no parking it would just be a matter of enforcement. Councilor Lally stated that he has seen them piled up on the sidewalk as well. Councilor Nicastro stated that anyone that is going to the school parks in the parking lot and anyone that is going to Buckley playground they park in the parking lot. Therefore, it's not the families and kids, it's this business.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

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

8. 39 DIX ROAD

Requested by: Gary White

Request/Issue: I am requesting a guardrail on the corner of my property (N. Cary St. and 39 Dix Road). Between the snowplows and all the vehicles that come on my property from the accidents and misjudging the corner. I am disabled and can't fix it anymore.

Discussion: Gary White was present and stated that this has been a long situation. When you are coming up Dix Road I've had the lawn dug up and a lot of years ago I asked the city what could be done. So they ended up putting rocks there and it deterred them for a very little time but then it kept happening again. I've had to keep fixing my lawn. They were getting too close to my house. The city also put a stop sign up but that lasted a week and that was down from the accidents. Then the city replaced the little rocks with bigger rocks and it worked out for quite some time. I was younger and I could fix them and move them but

now they are getting more speed and I have had damage to my house as well. There was also a dog that was hit here as well. It cost me \$400 dollar for a tow truck to pick up the rocks and move them back. It just keeps getting worse and worse, it's once a week. He stated that his insurance company told him that a guardrail should be approved. James Sweeney asked if the other side is getting the same activity of which Ms. White said no because there is a telephone there. Mr. White stated that he's also had his fence wiped out. They are going 50/60MPH up the road. We don't use the room on that side of the house as a bedroom anymore because we've had so many accidents at this location. Councilor Lally stated that it handles a lot of traffic for the Ashfield neighborhood and the school. Retired Fire Chief Galligan asked if there was a stop sign on Dix Road and Mr. White stated yes right by the rocks.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

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

9. 117 AMES ROAD

Requested by: Richard Caruso

Request/Issue: Both of my kids have autism. My son is nonverbal and has no threat to danger. If he was to run out of the house, he will run down the street and keep going. For his safety I am asking for an Autistic Child Sign.

Present were Rosa Alicea and Richard Caruso and they stated that their son is non verbal and when he comes out of the house he's at risk to run off, the sign would be for his safety. DPW Commissioner Hill stated that we can approve the sign and go out on subcommittee to see where the placement of said sign would be.

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE AUTISTIC CHILD SIGN AND TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Lally, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

10. 1124 MAIN STREET

Requested by: Manuel Monteiro

Request/Issue: We have on street parking for our business at 1124 Main Street. We would also like a loading zone at our storefront.

Discussion: Present were Manuel Monteiro and Paul Clancy. Mr. Clancy stated that Manuel owns M & M Seafood and that his delivery trucks can't make deliveries and that they have had to turn around and not make their delivery

because there is no where for them to park to make the delivery. The issue is that there is one hour parking in front of the whole store and I think that the last time Mr. Monteiro was here that he had asked for it to be reduced by half an hour and that would hopefully improve the parking down there. He is really looking for a loading zone to be put in front of his store so that he can have his deliveries made. Mr. Sweeney asked if there was any access from East Market Street or if that was too narrow of which Mr. Clancy stated he believes it's a no parking zone. Mr. Clancy stated that the one hour parking isn't getting enforced and it turns into 2 or 3 hour parking here. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that if a loading zone is placed on Main Street that would be a no parking loading zone so now you would lose another parking space on Main Street, would it work if you looked at Perkins Avenue with the restricted parking with the lines slash lines on, I believe there is one parking spot between the slash line and the back driveway. That could be a loading zone on Perkins Avenue. He stated he was suggesting that could be an option on Perkins Avenue rather than on Main Street. DPW Commissioner Hill asked if we had the authority to put a loading zone on a public way? Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated yes and Traffic Commissioner Porcaro stated it's essentially a specialized parking space. DPW Commissioner Hill asked what kind of trucks are making the deliveries and it was stated that they are tractor trailers.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

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

11. 370 HOWARD STREET

Requested by: Cynthia Mitchell, Self-Help, Head Start

Request/Issue: We are fortunate to a BAT bus stop across the street from our school, which families and staff use daily. With that, we do not have a crosswalk to support the safe crossing of our young children, families & staff. At this time, I would like to request a crosswalk at this location.

Discussion: Present was Cynthia Mitchell from Self-Help and she stated that we are a preschool program here in Brockton and we service over 400 of our children in the city and use the BAT bus daily. There is a pole right across from us where the bus stops but there's no crosswalk. We do have a sidewalk outside of the property lot and there isn't one on the opposite side unfortunately but the bus does stop and our families are crossing. It's a busy road and we'd like to petition for a crosswalk. DPW Commissioner Hill asked if people actually cross there of which Ms. Mitchell replied yes they do. Retired Fire Chief asked if this was near Howard Avenue and was stated that yes it was. Councilor Lally asked how many people in your observation get off the bus and then cross the street? So people going to your location, people just going to the sidewalk? Ms. Mitchell stated staff daily to go to our school and leave our school to get to the bus. We have at least two families every day that are walking with children aged three to

five years old. Councilor Lally stated he was wondering if there were enough people that would warrant us asking BAT to flip the stop to the other side of the street. He further stated that it's probably quicker especially with some of the rules about crosswalk and where they can go, ADA you have to have somewhere on both sides but if there is just a way to flip the stop . We'd have to see what their numbers are, if we'd be inconveniencing them or not. But if there's a way to flip the stop without inconveniencing anybody that way they exit onto the sidewalk. Ms. Mitchell stated that she would appreciate any resolution that would support the safety of both the staff and the families. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated the bus is going north towards Holbrook of which Ms. Mitchell stated yes.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

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

12. 18 LINNEA AVENUE

Requested by: Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira on behalf of Maria Correia
Request/Issue: Requesting the placement of a handicap sign at 18 Linnea Avenue as Maria Correia needs help when she needs to be transported.

Discussion: Present was Ana DePina, daughter of Maria Correia and she stated that her mother had her leg amputated and we recently got her into a day center. We are finally building a ramp for her but when the van comes in the morning to pick her up it's a struggle because it's hard to park. I have to go with the wheelchair and it's hard for the van to open up the door to get her in. I am advocating for a handicap space in front of the house. We did get her approved for a handicap placard. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that parking is a real problem on Linnea Avenue as there's no parking on the north side of the street. Councilor Lally asked if she had a driveway and Ms. DePina stated that she does have a driveway. Ms. DePina stated they are building a ramp right now and she wants to be able to get her down the ramp and right into the van because it will make it easier. Councilor Lally asked if the van pulls into the driveway and Ms. DePina stated that it's hard when cars are parked there.

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE HANDICAP SIGN AND TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE SIGN.

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

13. ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES

Requested by: Councilor Lally and Councilor-at-Large Teixeira

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to discuss Enforcement Practices and Policies and their bearing on the actions of the Traffic Commission.

Discussion: Councilor Lally moved to postpone this item to the May Meeting as Councilor-at-Large Teixeira is not present at this meeting.

VOTED: TO POSTPONE TO THE MAY MEETING.

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

14. 757 N. CARY STREET

Requested by: Councilor Lally on behalf of resident Linmoy Gabriel

Request/Issue: A review of the current guardrail at this location.

Discussion: Councilor Lally stated as you can see in picture one, the commission had approved signage at the top of Toby Road and that is intact and functioning as intended. In the foreground you can see that the guardrail has been absolutely demolished. The resident has expressed some concern both with the ease of dismantlement of the guardrail and the frequency in which it is hit. People not paying attention to the corner are going to fast. In this particular case it was late, foggy and the person just kept going and they actually did hit the back of her car, which as the members of the commission are aware is at the end of a very long driveway. The resident requested that we review the existing guardrail, possible increase the size and fortification of the guardrail. Councilor Lally further stated that there's really not much else to do with this corner signage wise other than fortify the guardrail or change the physical layout of the corner. Therefore, I am asking that the commission send this to subcommittee and I will inform Ms. Gabriel when we will be out there. Lastly, Councilor Lally stated that this is currently one of three guardrails damaged and waiting for replacement on North Cary Street. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that these guardrails on a 90 degree are never designed to stop a car, they are to stop the cars from going through the house. If we put another guardrail up there with an additional post I think that we would add to the strength of it. Retired Fire Chief Galligan further stated that we may want to look at putting behind the guardrail one of those yellow signs that's about four feet long and about two feet high with a big arrow so that when you are coming south on N. Cary Street from North Quincy Street this side will be right in front of you and it would be reflective. James Sweeney asked if there is a standard of how strong a guardrail is suppose to be. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that a guardrail is designed to be rubbed up against or to hit it on an angle so to speak, like if you are going down a highway and you are going in the same direction as a guardrail is going, if you rub up against the

guardrail, it will catch it. Mr. Sweeney stated that if you hit a guardrail directly square on, it's suppose to crumple, it's not supposed to pierce the vehicle. Councilor Lally stated that he thinks that fortifying it, increasing the strength of the guardrail helps but like the Chief stated that are not designed to be a divert. Therefore, some additional signage, a chevron, a single sign that indicated that there is a turn as reflected we can make it so people can pick it up even in any given weather, I think this would go a long way.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

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

15. PLAIN STREET AT OTTO STREET

Requested by: Councilor Susan Nicastrò

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to consider a blinking light on Plain Street at the intersection with Otto Street.

Discussion: Councilor Nicastrò was present and stated that Summer Street is a cut across the city street because you can get from the south side to the east side relatively quickly and avoid a lot of traffic lights. So when you're coming back to the south side, the road forks and you have to go up Otto Street and then turn left or right onto Plain Street where it's a straight shot coming from East Bridgewater and also it's elevated a bit because it's a bridge. The house on your left has bushes that have matured and have gotten high so you literally can't see a car coming from the left and they come fast and coming from the right they come around the corner and they are coming fast as well. Councilor Nicastrò stated that she gets calls about this all the time. She further stated anything that you could do to look at this to slow the traffic down, maybe this is a good place for a light. Mr. Sweeney asked if there is a crosswalk there of which Councilor Nicastrò stated that she believes so because it's on the way to the school. Councilor Nicastrò also stated that people use this location to get to the commuter rail as well. Mr. Sweeney also spoke about a elevated crosswalk at this location of which Councilor Lally stated that you would have a lot of adverse reactions from that and that these are largely implemented in more dense walking areas. There was mention that this location is a very high speed location putting hitting 50 MPH.

VOTED: TO SEND TO SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW.

Upon duly motion made by Director Stephan Hooke, seconded by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, the motion carried by a hand vote; 6 in the affirmative.

Motion was made by DPW Commissioner Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

Michelle Yaffe

Secretary to the Traffic Commission

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 2024 AND ALL REQUESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MAY 17TH, 2024.