

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES



DATE: September 23, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Held Remotely

<https://fccdl.in/JqxZNIjtjS> (meeting audio link)

Chairman Scott Liberty explains the process of the Traffic Commission, announces the Commissioner in attendance, and calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Scott Liberty, Brian Gomes, William Brad Markey, Michael Baker, Manuel Silva, Jacob Gonsalves, Tabitha Harkin

Absent: none

Motioned by Commissioner Silva to accept and approve the minutes from 09/02/2020 Traffic Commission meeting; second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it.

PUBLIC HEARING

PH1.

Buzzard Bay Coalition, 114 Front Street, is requesting two 18' x 8' curb cuts located on Mill Road at the Acushnet Sawmill (Plot 127, Lot 364-366)

Mead Binhammer spoke on behalf of PH1. Mead Binhammer advised they are requesting to install two concrete aprons to provide access to an already publicly accessible parking. Commissioner Silva advised that they have all their building permits and worked with Department of Public Infrastructure and everything has been approved on their end. They are just now seeking approval from the board. Commissioner Gomes also advised he has visited the site and as Silva described the site is ready the request is warranted. Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to close PH1; second by Commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve PH1, second by Commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 8-0

1.PETITION

Councillor Scott Lima requesting, on behalf of the residents in the area of Plymouth Street and Whittier Street, is requesting to change the existing stop signs on Whittier Street at Plymouth Street to Plymouth Street at Whittier Street stopping all eastbound and westbound drivers on Plymouth Street. This request is being made because many drivers tend to utilize Plymouth Street instead of Hawthorn Street as their eastbound and westbound traffic route in an effort to avoid the intersection of Hawthorn Street and Rockdale Avenue where there is a traffic signal.

Chairman Liberty requested to have Councillor Ian Abreu's letter to be read and placed on file. Councillor Ian Abreu wanted to be placed on file to be in favor of P1, P4, HP11 and T2.

Laurie Alfonso then read all names that were in favor of P1 and requested to have it placed on file Maureen Jennings of 230 Plymouth St, Chris Donnelly of 201 Plymouth St., Bruce Oliveira of 119 Plymouth St., Marge Urquhart of 242 Ryan St., Charles & Cheryl Gorfinkle of 225 Ryan St., Amanda DiMatteo of 208 Plymouth St., Rachel Schwartz of 67 Burns St., Lauren Cohen of 242 Plymouth St., and Susan Krumholz of 181 Ryan St.

Councilor Scott Lima spoke on behalf of P1 he had worked with the neighbors and also set up a meeting with the neighbors as well as Chief Cordeiro and Cpt Frank Correia and the neighbors came to a decision to place the petition to switching stop signs. Councilor Lima stated that he delivered about 100 letters within the neighborhood. Nick Wildman of 172 Plymouth Street was recorded in favor. Olivia St Pierre 153 Plymouth Street also wanted to be recorded in favor. Sarah Gonet of 604 Whittier Street was recorded in favor. Commissioner Gomes motioned to approve P1; second by Commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=abstain, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

2.PETITION

Andrew Origlio, of The Mackin Group, is requesting **NO PARKING** signs to be located on the S. Second Street side of 153 Blackmer Street near the dumpster.

Commissioner Silva motioned to table P2, second by Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it.

3.PETITION

Dawn Salerno, Executive Director of Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum located at 396 County Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANIDCAP** signs to be placed on the Madison Street side of said address.

Dawn Salerno spoke on behalf of P3, she stated she only is looking for one designated spot on the south side of Madison Street near the handicap entrance of the business. they are a nonprofit Museum and they receive as many as 6000 people a year and sometimes have events with upwards of 200 people and there is no handicap parking within blocks of the area. They do not have a designated parking lot, and this would allow access and it would be safer if it were on the south side of the street that is there is only two residences on this block of Madison Street. Commissioner Markey asked if the two residences have off street parking or if they rely on the street. Dawn Salerno advised that she believes one of the residences has off street parking around the corner on Seventh Street. Commissioner Gomes stated that most of the people parking in that area during the day is from the workers from the Blair House Nursing Home. Commissioner Silva asked where the space would go Dawn stated that she would request the space near the handicap entrance which is about halfway down Madison Street. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve P3, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 8-0

4.PETITION

Barry Sylvia, 10 Seaview Terrace, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway)

Barry Sylvia stated that the reason for the request is that both him and his wife both have handicap placards and they doctors have told them that they would like them to be the shorter distance from the street or where we could park to our paved sidewalk or porch to immediate access to our house. The shortest distance is right in front of the house and that it is clearly stated that we have a driveway but the issue with the driveway and that if they parked in the driveway they would have a couple of more car lengths that they would have to negotiate and lot of times cars are parked in front of our home, they are sandwiched or pancaked through the cars that are parking there at certain times. The driveway is much further than if we had the ability to park right on the street. Commissioner Silva asked if he uses the garage on the side of the house, Barry stated the large garage door if we had to wrestle the large 14ft door with four panels that is something he wants to have his wife doing. Commissioner Silva that he went by the house and couldn't see the back of his house but the front he has seven or eight steps in front of his house for somebody that has such a hard time would that be a problem going up and down the stairs. Barry Sylvia stated that is what they are currently using and what they fine to be the best. Commissioner Silva stated he did not think the distance between the front of the house and the driveway is that much difference but agrees with the uneven grass area but something that can rectified by putting a walkway from the existing walkway to the driveway. Commissioner Silva states he is very familiar with the area and there's not much obstruction there is not many requests for handicap parking in the city. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve P4, second by Commissioner Gonsalves (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=abstained, Commissioner Gomes=did not vote lost connection during conference call, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=no, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=no, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Failed 4-2

5.PETITION

Pauline Turner, 102 Tremont Street, is requesting an **ALL WAY STOP** to be installed on Arnold Street at the Tremont Street intersection. There are existing Stop Signs on either side of Tremont Street at Arnold Street. (Angular Accident Report: 2020=4, 2019=1, 2018=1, 2017=0)

Tabled Commissioner Silva motioned to table P5, second by Commissioner Markey; the Ayes have it.

6.PETITION

Smoky Moak, 4 Smith Street Ct, is requesting an **ALL WAY STOP** to be installed on Summer Street at the Smith Street intersection. There is an existing Stop Sign on Smith Street at Summer Street. (Angular Accident Report 2020=3, 2019=3, 2018=2, 2017=2)

Smoky Moak spoke on behalf of P6 she stated she lives on Smith Street Court and there have been many accidents on this corner especially from people running the stop sign coming up from County Street and they do not have a clear view of Summer Street when they get to the stop sign due to cars parked all the way to the corner. There have been multiple injuries , property damage both to homes and city property. Commissioner Silva stated that he did observe that the streets in this area most of the east and west street are one ways and Smith Street is a one way westerly and that the one-way streets all have the one stop sign. Commissioner Silva that this intersection is a wide intersection and of course if there are cars up to the corner it impedes but if you come the south there is not obstruction whatsoever if you come from the north a little bit not too bad on the northeast corner but it's not the bad. This is a situation that happens throughout the city all over the neighborhoods where there is control on the one street side. Commissioner Silva also stated the running of the Stop signs are a police enforcement issue. Councilor Ward 4 Derek Baptiste spoke on in favor of P6. Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to approve P6, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=abstained, Commissioner Gomes=no vote taken due to loss connection during meeting,

Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=no, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=no)

Failed 4-2

7.PETITION

Steven Beauregard, New Bedford Development Corporation, is requesting to remove one double meter #220AB and install two **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** spaces on the west side of North Second Street, just north of Union Street.

Steve Beauregard spoke on behalf of the petition, he stated that he is proposing to build a five story 41 unit apartment building and conjunction with the old Moby Dick building where they are putting eight units in there and they have been approved to only have one parking space so they will need two handicap spaces to have the three spaces for funding. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve P7, second by Commissioner Gomes; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote= Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker, Commissioner Harkin, Commissioner Silva, Commissioner Gonsalves, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 8-0

8.PETITION

Steven Beauregard, New Bedford Development Corporation, is requesting to remove a meter in front of 117 Union Street and to install a **NO PARKING LOADING ZONE** sign.

Steve Beauregard spoke on behalf of the petition, he stated again with the same space that there will be 1700 square feet on the first floor and 1500 retail space we would like to have a loading zone to accommodate these units for deliveries. Commissioner Markey motioned to approve P8, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Markey=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 8-0

9.PETITION

Laurie Alfonso, 51 Elm Street, is requesting a **STOP SIGN** to be installed on South Second Street at Griffin Street, stopping northbound traffic on South Second Street. (*Angular Accident Report: 2020=3, 2019=0, 2018=0, 2017=0*)

Laurie Alfonso spoke on behalf of the P9 she stated this request came from the concerns she received by several residents and also Councilors. Since the opening of Griffin Street from the Rt 18 reconstruction vehicles were now able to head west on Griffin Street making the intersection of Griffin Street and S Second Street. Since this opening we have had three accidents within the 12 months which allows us to request a Stop sign there has been a temporary Stop sign placed until this meeting and observing the area this has made a difference at this intersection. Commissioner Silva also stated since the new project came about this intersection is being used frequently and there are no stop signs on either street or has been functioning well. Councilor Derek Baptiste Ward 4 also recorded in favor of the stop sign. Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to approve P9, second by Commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to approve HP1-HP16, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it.

NO PARKING EXCEPT HP OR V PLATES REQUESTS

HP1.

Susanna Araujo, 238 Austin Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, there is no access to driveway).

HP2.

Karen Mendes, 68 Woodlawn Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP3.

Missie Campbell, 175 Grinnell Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP4.

John Martin, 176 Hathaway Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Brook Street side of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP5.

Gabriela Brooks, 78 Nash Road, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP6.

Charles Doyle, 361 Coggeshall Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP7.

Joanne Martin, 218 Whitman Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed on the Ashley Boulevard side of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP8.

Edith Mendonca, 115 Hathaway Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP9.

Manuel Ribeiro, 10 Emma Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP10.

George Safioleas, 285 Ashley Boulevard, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP11.

Theresa Chouinard, 15 Dudley Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, no driveway).

HP12.

Myriam Calderon, 77 Sidney Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner on file, no driveway).

HP13.

Lynn Sharek, 158 Adams Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, no driveway).

HP14.

Karen Rebello, 417 Union Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

HP15.

Tracey Tavares, 170 Park Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, no driveway).

HP16.

Melodie Marshall, 17 Woodlawn Street is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said address (A copy of HP card is on file, letter from property owner, there is no access to driveway).

Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

TABLED ITEMS

T1.

Esperanza Espinola, 260 Hillman Street, is requesting **NO PARKING EXCEPT HANDICAP** signs to be installed in front of said residence (A copy of HP card is on file, property owner, there is a driveway

Esperanza Espinola stated due to health issue and that she has three cars and that she has no place to park to when she comes homes due to so many residences with so many vehicles. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve T1, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

T2.

Jeffrey Tatro, Supervisor of Transportation for New Bedford Public Schools, on behalf of Jacobs School is requesting to install two signs **DO NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY** on either side of the driveway that gives access to the dumpster on the south side of Emma Street. Also, to change the four existing signs **10 MINUTE PARKING MON-FRI 8AM-3PM SCHOOL DAYS to LOADING ZONE NO PARKING MON-FRI 6AM-5PM TOW ZONE** and repaint the existing lines on Emma Street (yellow) that designate the Loading Zone.

Jeffrey Tatro spoke on behalf of T2 he stated that since the new school residents are parking in the 10-minute parking spaces we have early food deliveries and now they are just double parking. Commissioner Gonsalves motioned to approve T2, second by Commissioner Silva; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to approve all rescinded HP signs, second by Commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

RESCINDED HP SIGNS

186 Division Street
98 Aquidneck Street
33 Ellen Street
143 Apponagansett Street
12-14 Kearsarge Street
185 Phillips Ave
29 Ashley Street

111 Florence Street
139 Hathaway Street
32 Malden Street
326-328 Ashley Blvd
88 Chancery Street
27 Clark Street

91 Richmond Street
8 McGurk Street
41 Columbia Street
641 Brock Ave
361 Reed Street
34 Willard Street

LATE FILE

L1.

Florinda Diane Ferreira, 45 Nash Rd, is requesting to close an existing 15' curb cut on Nash Road and to install a 22' x 10' curb cut on the Hope Street side of said address. (Plot 105, Lot 103)

Robert Ferreira spoke on behalf of L1 he will be closing up an existing lot and open another for a parking lot. Commissioner Silva advised that this went through site plan. Planning approved the plan and he went through Department of Public Infrastructure to apply for the curb cut its just going to be a parking lot for the business across the street. Commissioner Silva motioned to approve L1, second by commissioner Baker; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Passed 7-0

L2.

Councillor Derek Baptiste on behalf of the residents in the area of Elm Street and Cottage Street is requesting an **ALL WAY STOP** to be installed on Cottage Street at Elm Street stopping all north and southbound traffic. (Angular Accident Report: 2020=3, 2019=0, 2018=0, 2017=0)

Councillor Derek Baptiste Ward 4 spoke on behalf of L2, he stated the request comes from the amount of accidents at that intersection and also that it being a high area of traffic and having a school zone. Commissioner Silva stated if you look at the intersection in order to put a stop sign on Cottage street due to the crosswalks already there you would have to put them four feet from the crosswalk. The stop sign will be too far away they will not be useful they will be 25-30ft from the intersection. Commissioner Silva suggested to place warning crosswalks signs. Commissioner Gomes stated that they can look at that intersection and come up with some solutions. Commissioner Silva motioned to table L2, second by Commissioner Gonsalves; the Ayes have it. (Roll Call Vote: Chairman Liberty=yes, Commissioner Gomes=yes, Commissioner Baker=yes, Commissioner Harkin=yes, Commissioner Silva=yes, Commissioner Gonsalves=yes, Commissioner Trombly=yes)

Tabled 7-0

Commissioner Silva motioned to adjourn time 7:26 p.m., second by Commissioner Gomes the Ayes have it.