



# APPROVED

**Town of Plaistow - Highway Safety Committee**  
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

## PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE-** Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**PRESENT-** Chief Stephen Savage, *Chairman*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Leigh Komornick, *Town Planner*; Ernie Sheltry, *Citizens Representative*; and Dan Travaglini, *Citizens Representative*

**EXCUSED-** Lisa Withee, *Citizens Representative*

**ABSENT-** Dan Poliquin, *Selectmen Alternate Representative*; Larry Gil, *Selectmen Representative*; Chief John McArdle, *Vice Chairman*

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER-** 2:35 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT-**

No public present.

### **MINUTES-**

Chief Savage would like to accept the minutes of the last meeting and made a motion to accept the minutes.

D. Garlington and D. Travaglini seconded the motion. E. Sheltry sustained. None opposed. All in favor except E. Sheltry who sustained.

### **NEW BUSINESS -**

Chief Savage states the new business of reviewing and discussing the Plaistow Code Book, Chapter 181 – Streets and Sidewalks and Chapter 205 – Vehicles and Traffic and asks M. Dorman to begin the discussion on these Chapters. *(These Chapters are attached to these minutes for reference.)*

M. Dorman states that after reviewing Chapter 181 – Streets and Sidewalks no changes need to be made and begins discussion of Chapter 205 – Vehicles and Traffic.

M. Dorman states he will go through the Chapter beginning with Article I, Parking Regulations 205-1 A, Town Hall Park side of Elm Street and Main Street. States that parking is allowed on Main Street and Elm Street now, and questions if it should be deleted.

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D. Garlington believes there are certain sections of Main Street and Elm Street that parking should not be allowed but the distance may not be the same.

M. Dorman states this is only on Elm Street starting at Park Street and coming around to Park Street again.

D. Garlington believes it relates to the sign that says no parking, which he believes is near the school sign.

M. Dorman states the no parking sign on Elm Street shouldn't still be there.

D. Garlington states there should still be a section on Elm Street adjacent to Main Street that you shouldn't be able to park on.

Chief Savage states it is closer to 1 Elm Street.

M. Dorman confirms if they are referring to the Town Hall side.

D. Garlington confirms yes.

M. Dorman states it is all marked.

D. Garlington states it is not all marked down to the intersection.

Chief Savage suggests deleting the entire section and if you need to come back you can put in new wording and language.

E. Sheltry states that you don't want to give up any parking spaces in that area.

D. Garlington states that there is State law that you can't park so many feet from the intersection.

Chief Savage states they should recommend deleting this section and if in the future there is a need to do something different then ask the Board of Selectmen then.

M. Dorman begins discussion of section 205-1 B, which speaks about the fines for section 205-1 discussed above. States it should be deleted since we are deleting section 205-1 A.

M. Dorman discusses section 205-2, No Parking Areas. He asks if there is still a no parking area from the corner of Westville Road up to Evans Avenue.

D. Garlington asks if there is a 15 minute parking section in between the signs.

M. Dorman agrees and states that it is referenced in the section.

D. Travaglini states that it was a private driveway in the section.

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M. Dorman states no, you have the store and a small doctor's office in the section that is 15 minute parking.

D. Garlington states that there is a 200' section from the store to Evans Avenue.

L. Komornick asked when that happened.

M. Dorman states it was adopted in 1979 after the store went in because there is no parking across the street either by May Ray Avenue. The section is speaking about south of the Norman Ray property line and questions if an address should be included.

D. Garlington believes it should be extended up to Pollard Road as there is no reason anyone needs to park there.

M. Dorman suggests to call it south to Pollard Road and keep the 15 minute parking next to the variety store.

Chief Savage questions if M. Dorman means across the street.

M. Dorman states no, across the street is section 205-2 B and confirms with S. Gibbs if he gave the numbers. States section 205-2 Main Street, is what we are talking about and subsection "A" we are going to leave alone and subsection "B" we are thinking of going all the way to Pollard Road.

L. Komornick asks if it's on the east side and west side.

M. Dorman states west side is 15 minute parking and east side we are looking at no parking because there is no place to park and no shoulder.

Chief Savage states you are going to re-write to extend the no parking zone from May Ray Ave south to Pollard on the east side.

L. Komornick asks why not Forrest Street.

D. Travaglini says it gets pretty wide on the street.

M. Dorman reads section 205-2 Main Street "C".

Chief Savage states it should stay.

D. Garlington believes it is not all posted.

Chief Savage states you might have to post it.

D. Garlington states that the State of NH has to post it, as they adopted the signage. The only reason the sign is still across from the Legion is because we put an advance street warning sign up because of Jesse George Road.

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Chief Savage states that these are the Board of Selectmen ordinances and asks if the Town is responsible to pay for the sign.

M. Dorman states they are all added by the Board of Selectmen.

D. Garlington states there must have been some approval from the State of NH, as they don't allow you to put up signs without their approval.

M. Dorman suggests preparing a memo to the State of NH asking them to comment and post. States that the Board of Selectmen can't make regulations on the State Highway and he will speak with the State of NH about the signage.

M. Dorman reads section 205-3, No Parking Areas "A" "B" and "C".

D. Garlington and Chief Savage state that no changes should be made on these sections.

D. Garlington asks if highway vehicles are defined as emergency vehicles now.

Chief Savage believes it was redefined in the past year and a half and that they are considered emergency vehicles.

D. Garlington states it has to do with the general public being responsive for yielding to an emergency vehicle parked on the side. That part of it would have to do with the yellow lights and it all started because they do not allow any other color than yellow for highway vehicle lights.

M. Dorman reads section 205-3 "D", speaking about parking fines, which are relatively new.

Chief Savage states those are a springboard for the parking tickets that are issued by the police department.

M. Dorman agrees to keep that section.

M. Dorman reads section 205-4, Winter Parking. This section speaks about fines and regulations.

L. Komornick asks if you are allowed to park on Main Street during a snow storm.

Chief Savage states it is only during a snow emergency.

D. Garlington states no, it is during a snow event determined by him. That when he calls the contractors to come in to plow he informs dispatch of when they will begin plowing and asks for assistance in moving cars.

M. Dorman confirms that no changes will be made to this section.

M. Dorman reads section 205-5, Town Hall Parking "A", and states it appears fine.

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Chief Savage states Pollard Road should be changed to Park Road in that section.

M. Dorman discusses section 205-5, Town Hall Parking "B", Says it is fine but should change Pollard Road to Park Road.

M. Dorman discusses section 205-6, Greenough Road. This section is regarding parking on Greenough Road, which he believes both sides of this road should remain no parking.

Chief Savage states it only changes when he gives permission at graduation to park on both sides.

M. Dorman reads section 205-7 "A", Park Avenue and Pollard Park.

D. Garlington states you should be able to delete it.

M. Dorman states it should be deleted because it is a one-way and there is only parking on the left hand side of the road.

M. Dorman reads section 205-8, Farrington Avenue. This section is in regard to no parking on both sides of Farrington Avenue.

Chief Savage asks if it is posted.

D. Garlington states it was a political matter.

Chief Savage suggests it be deleted, as it is a small street with only four houses.

M. Dorman reads section 205-9, Blossom Road.

Chief Savage suggests keeping it for now because you don't know what the real situation is.

M. Dorman discusses section 205-9.1, TRHS. This section speaks about parking spaces and fines at TRHS and believes it should stay.

Chief Savage states it should remain.

M. Dorman reads section 205-9.2, Cottonwood Road. States it should stay.

M. Dorman reads section 205-9.3, Plaistow Old Home Day.

D. Garlington interrupts to discuss Cottonwood Road again and states that some portions of the year you should be allowed to park on the road from the Highway Department point of view.

M. Dorman brings up section 205-9.3, Plaistow Old Home Day again. Says it is all new and relevant and should stay.

Chief Savage agrees to keep this section the same.

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M. Dorman discusses Article II Speed Limits and starts with section 205-10, Westville Road and Greenough Road sections "A-C". Says that the speed limits are still 30 mph on these roads.

D. Garlington suggests putting them the same as the rest of the Town roads.

Chief Savage suggests that the speed limit be reduced on those two roads down to 25 mph to be consistent with the remaining Town Roads.

D. Garlington believes Pollard Road is 30 mph.

M. Dorman confirms Pollard is 30 mph as well as Harriman Road he believes.

D. Garlington states that some of the roads are not posted, and shouldn't be posted.

E. Sheltry states there is a lot of speeding on Pollard Road.

Chief Savage asks what it says on Pollard Road.

M. Dorman states they have Walton Road, Meadowview Drive, Oakridge Road, Auburn Street, Barker Street, Brentwood Street, Middle Road, Upper Road, Cifre Lane, Forrest Street, Center Circle, and Old County Road all at 25 mph.

D. Travaglini states it is hard to do 25 mph down Old County Road.

Chief Savage states that 25 mph is good because you can fine somebody at 35 mph. That if you post the speed limit at 30 mph you then raise where you can fine somebody to 40 mph – 45 mph.

M. Dorman states more 25 mph roads are Duston Avenue, Wentworth Avenue, Crane Crossing Road, Greenfield Drive, Ridgewood Road, and Timberlane Road.

M. Dorman moves to Section III Fire Lanes.

Chief Savage asks what the Committee is doing about Greenough Road and Westville Road.

D. Garlington makes a motion for the Committee to prepare a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending reducing the speed limit on Pollard Road, Westville Road, and Greenough Road to 25 mph.

D. Travaglini seconds the motion.

Chief discussed that you could ask them to adopt a blanket ordinance that all Town roads are 25 mph, but then you have to post them. States it would be smarter to go by the specific street.

Chief states that there is no further discussion. All are in favor.

M. Dorman states the next Article III Fire Lanes, which just gives the fire department authority to establish fire lanes and a penalty for parking in a fire lane.

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M. Dorman states that Article IV is Through Trucking. This section prohibits through trucking on Hale Spring Road, Old County Road, Wentworth Avenue, Haynes Boulevard, Duston Avenue, Stanwood Avenue, Jesse George Road, and Walton Road.

Chief Savage believes that no changes should be made.

D. Garlington states that you need to think about defining what a truck is.

M. Dorman states it was added in 1996 the GVW of 12,000. "The definition does not cover recreational vehicles and school buses, which are allowed on restricted roads...." Suggest changing the word, "cover" to "include".

Everyone agreed to change the word to, "include".

Chief Savage states to delete Haynes Boulevard as it makes more sense for trucks to go into the plaza that way.

L. Komornick says they directed the trucks to go that way into the plaza as part of the site plan.

D. Garlington states it is not a through street as the Town doesn't own the entire street.

Chief Savage states that the no through doesn't apply in that case and suggests to delete it.

M. Dorman states Rose Avenue is on the list, then the definition of trucks, Kelly Road and Corliss Hill Road. States that every street is GVW of 12,000 other than Corliss Hill Road which is GVW of 13,000.

D. Garlington suggests leaving Corliss Hill Road at GVW of 13,000.

Chief Savage agrees to leave Corliss Hill Road at GVW of 13,000.

M. Dorman begins discussion on Article V, Turning Movements adopted in 1980. He talks about section 205-35, Left Turns prohibited onto Route 125 from Haseltine Street. Feels it should be deleted because there is a traffic light now.

Chief Savage agrees to delete it.

Chief Savage states there is a no left turn sign at Jesse George Road and Danville Road and it was brought by a Board of Selectman.

M. Dorman states it will be eliminated but it is not included in this section at this time.

D. Garlington states if you have to by statute of the State Highway Regulation you would have to add no left turns at Gardner Road and Chandler Avenue at Route 125. That they are regulated by the State and are marked.

Chief Savage suggests following the Article and get rid of the section.

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D. Garlington makes a motion to get rid of the no left turn at Haseltine Avenue and Route 125.

L. Komornick seconds the motion. No discussion. All in favor.

M. Dorman discusses Article VI Weight Limits.

D. Garlington states anything the Town maintains is a Class V road.

M. Dorman said the exceptions are utility company vehicles, vehicles whose business is delivery of goods, and people have business there, for example somebody who has to have a septic tank pumped or have gravel delivered.

D. Garlington asks if anyone remembers a weight limit to Harriman Road. Feels this has to do with Harriman Road and that the Board of Selectmen needed to do a blanket so it was not specific to one particular road.

Chief Savage suggests the section stays in.

M. Dorman reads Article VII section 205-38, Fee waived for prisoners of war pursuant to RSA 261:157-a. States it should remain.

Chief Savage agrees to leave it in.

M. Dorman reads the last section, Article VIII Stop Intersections. He states they are all listed.

Chief Savage asks D. Garlington if the list is current.

D. Garlington states he is pretty sure unless Red Oak Road isn't on the list. His suggestion is that from his letters to the Planning Board if they are accepting them as a certain speed limit that the stop signs are being installed. So if they are accepted that way they should be automatically added to the list.

M. Dorman states the list is not alphabetical.

L. Komornick states that the internal stop signs at Shaw's are not listed.

Chief Savage states those are private ways. The list is for public ways for enforcement purposes such as driving offenses. We would have to list those stop signs and maintain them in those parking lots.

M. Dorman asks D. Garlington to update the list.

Chief Savage confirms D. Garlington should review and update the list.

M. Dorman states that there are a lot of streets missing from the past 5 -6 years.

M. Dorman states that these are all the Articles.

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D. Garlington states he will update the list with S. Gibbs.

Chief Savage states the recommendations will be in the minutes, he will send the memo to the Board of Selectmen, and Dee will retype the Chapter with the changes that will go with the memo.

## **OLD BUSINESS -**

### Continue Discussion of Citizen's Petition for Main Street to become a Town Road.

L. Komornick states that it started with Peter Bealo starting a petition.

Chief Savage states that since it made the agenda, the Deliberative Session has occurred and asked if anyone thinks it will go anywhere.

L. Komornick believes they still might study it.

E. Sheltry asks if it would delay Wal-Mart.

L. Komornick said Wal-Mart would do the study. States that Peter's motivation was that it was the way he thought he could control curb cuts and speed limits.

D. Garlington states if his intent is to control trucking then that is not the way to control it. You should work with the NH State Police Trucking Unit where they can stop trucks for inspection on Main Street and after a while trucks might stop using Main Street, knowing they are around.

D. Travaglini asks if the Committee will be asked to provide input on Wal-Mart.

Chief Savage believes they will ask him and the Fire Chief for input but not sure if they will ask the Committee. He wouldn't be surprised since it's a hot topic that they might want the Committee to look at it.

L. Komornick states that there is a Warrant Article about rezoning for this. That if it does not pass Wal-Mart would have to get a variance.

D. Garlington asks if they don't get it rezoned would they have to get a variance.

L. Komornick states they would have to have an access on Main Street.

M. Dorman asks why there couldn't be another fifth leg that ties into the Wal-Mart site on Route 125.

Chief Savage asks L. Komornick that if they have a 50' right of way coming on to Main Street currently, and there are 3 more houses they are looking to buy, could they buy those houses as planned and ask to move their right a way across the residential properties.

M. Dorman said the set backs are still an issue because they are zoned residential.

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E. Sheltry asked if Wal-Mart has alternative plans.

D. Garlington and M. Dorman are sure they do.

L. Komornick states they are already buying Sanborn Candies.

Chief Savage said they have a 20 year lease deal.

E. Sheltry states Wal-Mart is putting the strong language up front to see how it goes.

## **OLD BUSINESS -**

Letter to Doug DePorter, DOT, District #6 Engineer, regarding no left turn signs on Route 125 at key locations.

Chief Savage states there is only one key location and he met with Doug DePorter on February 10, 2009. Says they are going to post a no u-turn sign at Westville Road and Route 125 going northbound.

M. Dorman states a sign should be at the end of the median after Chandler Avenue heading southbound.

Chief Savage will talk with Doug DePorter about that location and posting a no u-turn sign. States he spoke to him about putting a median up all the way and that politically they do not want to touch it at this time. States he has no crash data on this area. If another mall gets developed there will be an opportunity to close it up.

L. Komornick asks if he doesn't get calls for that area.

Chief Savage states he can't recall if there was ever a crash in that area. States it might be a different recorded crash, it might be that somebody took a left and the crashed occurred at a different location. There would be a lot of data that doesn't relate to somebody taking a u-turn. An example would be if somebody was just going southbound and took a turn into Red's Shoe Barn and was in an accident. The problem is the research, you would have to read each report.

Chief Savage states he will contact Doug DePorter and Bill Lambert of NH DOT. He feels they would be receptive to it.

Chief Savage asks if there is any other business.

S. Fitzgerald apologizes for being late and that this is his first time attending the meetings and that traffic safety and highway safety concerns are still widely unfamiliar to him. Not sure where Plaistow rates in terms with the States neediest or most dangerous intersections and would like to see data on that if available. He would like to become more familiar with the work of the Committee and suggests the next meeting be held at his office.

Chief Savage states for a long time the Committee was part of the planning process, viewing site plans, and following a check list. At one point, it started to morph into more and got into areas it shouldn't have. The Committee has been reinstated a few months ago and no longer

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views any site plans. Says that the Board of Selectmen can recommend that the Committee view them but otherwise the Committee doesn't view them anymore.

S. Fitzgerald states Wal-Mart is the biggest topic in Town right now. He is unclear of what the Town's expectations are in terms of managing commercial development of projects this size. Discussed having a Land Use Committee to determine how to manage big economical development projects such as Wal-Mart, so we can best represent the Town and best mitigate any potential impacts. Said today alone he fielded phone calls of opposition to Wal-Mart. Feels the land use management of the Town is a big issue the elected boards have to grapple with.

Chief Savage states he must understand the history of the Committee and the re-establishment of the new Charter. If the Board of Selectmen wants the Committee to look at Wal-Mart they have to be careful when they pick and choose when to use Committee to view site plans.

S. Fitzgerald believes the function of the Committee is to discover certain things and employ the best practice through the State through resources such as LGC and other best practices within land use and commercially zoned property abutting. States we would do that but needs some sense of familiarity with the history of the Committee.

Chief Savage states that each member brings a different flavor, and each member is offering a general opinion and that the Committee is more of an advisory Committee. Says the Town should farm out the engineering piece that the Committee doesn't bring to the table.

S. Fitzgerald states that having a Committee like this helps evolve the discussion and that we will do the highest level of due diligence.

Chief Savage said the question came up in the Committee if we will be looking at Wal-Mart. At some point will the Board of Selectmen want the Committee to look at it?

S. Fitzgerald states right now it is up before the board and in different Warrant Articles. We need to evolve the conversation around economical development and not just around Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart was in play long before he started and is not quite sure how Wal-Mart was managed. Questions if we could we of coordinated the impact of what an economical development project like the size of Wal-Mart would have on the Town. Says that might have been a good starting point for a broader discussion of utility of this Committee and perhaps other Committees like a Land Use Committee.

D. Travaglini states reason he joined the Committee was to provide citizen input. Seeing a huge project like this he hopes the Board of Selectmen will ask for the Committee's input when looking at the entire decision.

S. Fitzgerald states there is a lot to gain with independent minds.

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## **ADJOURNMENT-**

Motion to adjourn by D. Travaglini.

D. Garlington seconded the motion. None opposed. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

S. Fitzgerald requested that the next meeting be at the Town Hall in his office.

**NEXT MEETING DATE – 2:00 p.m. on a Tuesday to be determined.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah E. Gibbs  
Recording Secretary