



# APPROVED

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

## PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**MEETING DATE-** Friday, May 13, 2011

**PRESENT-** Chief John McArdle, *Vice Chairman*; Ernie Sheltry, *Citizens Representative*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Lisa Withee, *Citizens Representative*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Richard Latham, *Citizens Representative*; and Leigh Komornick, *Town Planner*

**EXCUSED-** Chief Stephen C. Savage, *Chairman*

**ABSENT-** Dan Poliquin, *Selectmen Representative*

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER-** 9:32 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None.

### MINUTES-

Chief McArdle asks for motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting on 3/11/11. M. Dorman motions to accept, seconded by D. Garlington. No discussion - All in favor, none opposed.

### NEW BUSINESS -

Discuss options suggested in the speed study to calm traffic on Main Street.

C. McArdle asks for any comments on the final Traffic Calming Study Report, which was passed out previously for review. D. Garlington asks if the Board of Selectmen will want a recommendation from the Committee on how it's prioritized. M. Dorman states the report was completed for the Board of Selectmen and not the Committee.

D. Garlington believes the Board of Selectmen will want a recommendation from the Committee on prioritizing what should be completed first. M. Dorman suggests asking the Board of Selectmen if they would like the Committee to prioritize and believes they will want to start with a crosswalk outside the Town Hall and also updating the handicap parking in front of the Town Hall. C. McArdle comments that they will come out of the Elders Affairs Committee.

R. Latham asks if the report will be part of tomorrow's discussion at the meeting with Plan NH Charrette Planning Committee. S. Fitzgerald confirms it will be.

M. Dorman asks S. Fitzgerald if the Board of Selectmen will be looking for input from the Committee regarding the Traffic Calming Study other than supporting it. S. Fitzgerald indicates the Board of Selectmen will want a presentation. Comments how modifications have been made by the Committee to it and that it's an excellent study with many suggestions in it that will help the Town chart its plan to move forward and believes the Town will be able to find funding to support it. Further, states that the Board of Selectmen haven't reviewed and accepted the study yet as a final document. States that if the Committee has comments or concerns that he believes the Board of Selectmen would take them under consideration.

D. Garlington asks if the Board of Selectmen will want the Committee to prioritize what intersections to complete first. S. Fitzgerald suggests letting the Board of Selectmen review the report formally first. Believes they will look to the Committee to help support some of the priorities.

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C. McArdle suggests deferring any action until the Board of Selectmen request input from the Committee. S. Fitzgerald agrees, and suggests the possibility of the Committee joining the Board of Selectmen in a formal review of the report along with a presentation from Rockingham Planning Commission.

R. Latham asks if there are any thoughts of what percentage the grants could be on the total costs. S. Fitzgerald states that grants range anywhere between 50/50 to 80/20 and that it all depends on what grants the Town is eligible for to support the project.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

M. Dorman comments about his conversation with Rep. Major today and explains that they are waiting for Governor Lynch's signature on the Haseltine Avenue swap. Passes out a pictometry of Haseltine Avenue for the Committee's review. Believes the Board of Selectmen are looking for comments about possible recommendations for any changes to improve the situation at Haseltine Avenue. M. Dorman explains the pictometry provided and states that he's spoken with the City of Haverhill Engineer about what Plaistow is proposing, as Haverhill might also need to make their own changes.

S. Fitzgerald asks if the Town has spoken with Rockingham Planning Commission or Merrimack Valley Planning Commission regarding Haseltine Avenue. Feels it would be appropriate to contact them and ask them as the Regional Planning Commissions to liaison and ask them for strategies and recommendations.

L. Komornick states she has spoken with the City Engineer. M. Dorman states the Town should speak with a Planner with the City of Haverhill. Comments that in order to shut down the northbound lane the City of Haverhill will have to get involved.

S. Fitzgerald suggests inviting representatives from the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and Rockingham Planning Commission to the next meeting. M. Dorman agrees and will pass on the contact information for them to Sarah to invite to the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

L. Komornick comments about next Friday's walk to school day that Pollard School has taken the initiative to hold. States if anyone is interested in attending to let her know so she can provide a head count to them.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

L. Komornick states that the Town did not get the Safe Routes to School Grant on sidewalks along Greenough Road.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

L. Komornick asks who from the Committee will be attending tomorrow's meeting with the Plan NH Charrette Planning Committee. D. Garlington states that he will probably attend.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

R. Latham comments how he spoke with C. Savage about a possible second entrance to the Market Basket Plaza over near the pond.

M. Dorman states that C. Savage did mention it to him and that if they redevelop that would be the opportunity to request it, which would be similar to the Pentucket Plaza entrance. States that he is pretty certain they will be

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expanding the Market Basket into the old Rite Aid but that it will not require Planning Board of approval to make it happen.

S. Fitzgerald has a couple points of egress and asks what happen to the Wal-Mart/Pentucket Plaza where there's only one entrance. C. McArdle states that they wanted to "t" it up at the Westville Road intersection but the distance from the roadway to the building precluded them from putting in an additional access point.

S. Fitzgerald questions if there was a concern with public safety and having two entrances to the property. C. McArdle states that there is a point of concern but the fact is the building is too close to the roadway to construct a proper entrance.

S. Fitzgerald comments how when looking at access along the Route 125 corridor it would be helpful to speak with NH DOT to see what can be done with several of the plazas.

L. Komornick comments that a portion of land near the Pentucket Plaza is owned by the School District. D. Garlington states how it's an easement for a hydrant.

S. Fitzgerald suggest the Committee look at a map of Route 125 to try to figure out what goals the Town would like to see in regards to access into the several plazas.

D. Garlington comments that years ago he tried to get them to come down Blossom Road but a bridge would have been needed to cross the railroad tracks.

M. Dorman states that for the past 10 years the Town has been trying to connect parcels to keep people off the street, which is currently working very well with new construction.

S. Fitzgerald states that there is no way to connect the Pentucket Plaza as there are wetlands to one side and a railroad track on the other.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

L. Komornick asks about the dashes being installed on Westville Road. M. Dorman states they will be put in when D. Garlington restripes the road. States that he's already spoken with Kevin Russell at NH DOT with regard to it. L. Komornick also questions if another top layer will be put on the road. M. Dorman states it is done and will be striped.

L. Komornick comments on the guardrail on Westville Road and asks if there is a grant the Town can apply for to replace the guardrail. D. Garlington comments the metal portion of the guardrail was reinforced over the winter and explains that he has placed a call into a company to view it, but that it will not be cheap fix. L. Komornick explains her concern that if somebody hits it that it will not hold up.

S. Fitzgerald states that the entire road needs to be worked on and believes with the CMAQ grant it will come to fruition as a component to the project.

R. Latham believes a part of the property near the bridge could have once been donated to straighten that part of the road. M. Dorman is aware of this but states that the owner pulled his project out so it fell through. States the property owner is the key in order to straighten this portion of the road out. S. Fitzgerald explains that his biggest concern is the corner at the bridge on Westville Road.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

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S. Fitzgerald states that the EPA has reaffirmed their decision to bring access to Main Street for the Beede Superfund Site. The Town continues to contest the decision. The access to Main Street will pose dangers and certain negative effects to the Community and states that it's important to the Committee to understand how it will be a very challenging impact to roadways and transportation issues along Route 121A and Route 125.

R. Latham asks if the decision was made on costs alone. S. Fitzgerald states he has been told that money doesn't matter. States that the decision has been made primarily because of the EPA's inability to support the permeability of the bridge because it impacts a very small amount of wetlands. Comments how it's unsettling that the EPA issues a less safe option and admittedly they are supporting an option that is less safe to the residents of Plaistow and surrounding Towns.

L. Komornick comments that the next segment to be worked on Route 125 is the service road issue, which they are still looking at connecting to Old Road. M. Dorman spoke with Rick Torneo who is the new owner of the Senter Brother site. M. Dorman states he is not meeting with him and that he has spoken with Alex Vogt who will be meeting with Rick Torneo.

S. Fitzgerald feels it would be helpful if the Committee could have an update on the Route 125 project and would like to invite Alex Vogt to attend a meeting to provide the Committee with an update and perhaps also invite abutting property owners to given them a chance to hear more details on how the project is developing and what impacts it will have on their properties.

L. Komornick comments that one of the proposed punch-thrus between Power Sports and Precious Plaza will not occur as the owner of Precious Plaza wouldn't give consent to put in a common drive from the service road that would provide a common access to Route 125. Comments how it would be helpful to get the property owners in to give them a better understanding of how important punch-thrus can be and the benefits they have.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

D. Garlington comments that the advance warning signs have been placed on Old County Road for advanced warning of the Recreation Field.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS-**

S. Fitzgerald suggests having a recommendation on the sign at the Town Forrest. M. Dorman suggests just turning the sign. D. Garlington explains that you can't as it is only one-sided.

M. Dorman motions to make a recommendation to make a two-faced sign for the Town Forrest and turn it so it can be seen in both directions. Seconded by L. Komornick.

D. Garlington suggests consulting with the Boy Scouts who put it up. Also states that a better idea would be to place advance warning signs of the Town Forrest in both directions on North Main Street.

D. Garlington motions to place advanced warning signs out on North Main Street in the vicinity of an appropriate location for the Town Forrest entrance. Seconded by C. McArdle. None opposed, all in favor.

## **ADJOURNMENT-**

D. Garlington motions to adjourn, seconded by M. Dorman. None opposed, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE --date and time be determined.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah E. Gibbs, Recording Secretary