



Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire

HIGHWAY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE – Friday, May 21, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 9:05 a.m.

PRESENT- Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Dee Voss, *Admin. Assistant Planning Department*; Sam Cafiso *Alternate Citizen's Representative*; Jason Mazza *Interim Police Chief*; Chris Knutsen, *Fire Chief*; Arthur Wiggin, *Citizen's Representative*; Peter Blanchette, *Code Enforcement Officer*; Greg Taillon, *Board of Selectmen Representative* and Beth Hossack, *Recording Secretary*.

EXCUSED – Dick Latham, *Citizen's Representative*; Douglas Blay, *Pollard School Principal*

ABSENT – N/A

MINUTES - D. Garlington called for a motion to approve the minutes of 12/13/19.

Motion made by D. Voss. Seconded by G. Taillon. No comments or discussion.

Vote 6/0/1 (abstain C. Knutsen)

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEW BUSINESS – Reorganization – Select Chair and Vice Chair

Motion made by G. Taillon for Peter Blanchette to be elected Chair. Seconded by D. Garlington.

Vote: 7/0/0.

Motion passes.

Motion made by D. Garlington for Dee Voss to be elected Vice Chair. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Vote: 7/0/0.

Review Street Light Policy

D. Voss states the Town owns the streetlight fixtures. The Town is paying for the fixtures when they need to be replaced. Until will continue to provide maintenance when needed while Affinity will provide any new lights as needed. It has been recommended that the Town keep a few fixtures on hand to be used as replacements. The Energy Committee developed a Street Light Policy which recently went to the Board of Selectmen. The intent of the policy was to have a more formal review process put in place before a light is relocated or a new one installed. The cost to replace a fixture is \$153.00 for the fixture and about \$150.00 - \$160.00 to have it installed. There is no need to have a lot of stock on hand however we should have some. D. Voss states the Planning Board will receive a copy of the Street Light Policy as well to incorporate into their regulations for new subdivisions.

D. Voss points out an issue in the policy. As it is written now the Highway Safety Advisory Committee must respond to a request within thirty-five (35) days even though they meet quarterly. The Energy Committee must respond to a request within ninety (90) days, and they meet monthly.

Motion by D. Garlington to ask the Board of Selectmen to adopt the Plaistow Street Light Policy as recommended by the Highway Safety Advisory Committee. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Discussion: S. Cafiso states the 35-day review period for the Highway Safety Advisory Committee should be increased. Consensus of the HSAC was that if a request for a change/addition of a streetlight came in that a special meeting of the committee could be called to address the request and make a recommendation.

Vote: 7/0/0.

Motion passes.

D. Garlington states Lisa Withee can no longer be a member of the committee. She sent a resignation via email. He asks Beth to forward the information to the Board of Selectmen.

S. Cafiso states he is interested in becoming a full member not just an alternate.

Motion by G. Taillon to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Sam Cafiso be appointed as a member of the Highway Safety Advisory Committee. Seconded by D. Voss.

Vote: 7/0/0

Motion passes.

The “No-Thru Trucking” and “narrow Bridge” signs on Westville Road were discussed. The bridge is no longer narrow, and the sign should come down. The “no-Thru Trucking was temporary during the bridge construction and can come down as well.

Motion by D. Voss to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to take down the “No-thru Trucking” sign on Westville Road. Seconded by G. Taillon.

Vote: 7/0/0.

Motion passes.

S. Cafiso states he has a list of concerns he has received from residents. Most of them concern enforcement. The list follows:

- The radar sign is set for 5mph lower than the posted speed limit on Main Street.
- A portion of the road is washed out at the corner of Old County Road and Kingston Road.
- There have been reports of speeding on North Ave, Sweet Hill Road, Culver St., and Old Road.
- Some large vehicles are making a 3-point turn onto Haseltine from Route 125. It is a State Road.
- A resident from Evans Ave thanks the Highway Department for fixing the Stop Sign.
- Several vehicles are making dangerous U-turns in front of Town Hall.
- Reports of noisy and speeding vehicles have been reported on Duston Ave.
- Several complaints of noise have been received.

D. Garlington discusses the process of placing signs on Streets. It requires someone going up ten (10) feet to bang in a sign. It is very dangerous. He bought a driver to put the holes in the ground for signage however it was not big enough.

It is mentioned that the stop sign at the corner of Wentworth Ave and LaPerle is noticeably shorter than other signs. D. Garlington will look at it.

G. Taillon states the biggest problem seems to be speeding vehicles.

Interim Chief Mazza states, the department enforces as much as they can. We have five (5) digital signs in Town. Two (2) are permanent while the other three (3) are moved around. Placement is based on complaints as much as possible. Residents with concerns should call dispatch to report issues.

It is noted the State is working on a traffic calming study on Main Street. They have done a lot of outreach including a survey.

D. Voss states she is the liaison with the State for the Traffic Calming efforts and the Highway Safety Advisory Committee. The State would like to turn Main Street over to the Town. That would create more maintenance for us. She will share information from the State regarding the traffic calming study with the committee.

Chief Knutsen recommends putting the information on the website.

Chief Knutsen states North Ave, Main Street and Chandler Ave is a dangerous intersection.

D. Voss states a full set of lights was recommended at that intersection in the past and it was voted down by the Board of Selectmen. She also mentions that North Ave is owned by the State.

D. Garlington recommends collecting information regarding accidents in that area. Then the Board of Selectmen can make a recommendation to the State to work on it.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion by G. Taillon to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by P. Blanchett.

Vote: 7/0/0.

Motion passes. The Meeting adjourned at 9:52 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack
Recording Secretary